



HIGHLIGHTS

Over 18,000

stateless persons granted
Turkmenistan citizenship during
2005-2015

16 Refugees

granted Turkmenistan citizenship in
2014-2015

Identification & Travel documents

for refugees and stateless persons
compliant with ICAO standards issued
by the Government

Population of concern

A total of **7,137** persons of concern

Funding

USD 654,735 requested

By country of origin

USD 94,090 requested

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	18
Azerbaijan	7
Russian Federation	1
Stateless/Undetermined nationality	7,111*
Total	7,137

* Approximate figure, not confirmed by government agencies.
The number represents stateless and persons with undetermined nationality.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

4 national staff
0 international staff

Offices:

1 office located in Ashgabat



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works with government agencies and civil society in providing protection and support to persons of concern. Key operational partners include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Migration Service, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Guards Service, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Healthcare, the Parliament and national NGOs. UNHCR also closely cooperates with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, OSCE, IOM, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and diplomatic missions.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Statelessness

- In the period of 2011-December 2015 the Government of Turkmenistan granted citizenship to over 5,000 stateless persons, including 16 UNHCR Mandate refugees.
- In June 2014, Turkmenistan shared with UNHCR, other UN agencies and diplomatic missions, samples of ID and Travel documents for refugees and stateless persons compliant with ICAO standards. Further, in accordance with the amendments to the 2012 Law on Migration, enacted as of June 2014, the ID and Travel documents are issued to refugees free of charge; and to stateless persons for a minimum fee.
- On 22 June 2013, the Turkmenistan Parliament adopted the new Law on Citizenship, which entered into force on 3 July 2013. The Law incorporated most of the UNHCR-suggested recommendations for amendments, bringing it to closer compliance with international standards for the prevention of statelessness.
- In August 2005 as a result of the joint UNHCR/Government registration exercise of *prima facie* refugees from Tajikistan and Afghanistan, the Government granted citizenship and residence permit to some 16,000 refugees and stateless persons.
- Turkmenistan is a party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (December 2011) and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (August 2012). Turkmenistan is the first country in Central Asia to accede to both Statelessness Conventions.

Asylum system, refugee protection

- In April and September 2015, national workshops on Protection-Sensitive Entry Systems and Referral Mechanisms were held in Ashgabat. The Workshops aimed at promoting the protection-sensitive entry and border systems, and offered a forum to discuss the challenges of balancing effective border management with national security concerns.
- On 23-24 June 2014, Turkmenistan hosted and co-organized jointly with UNHCR and IOM the 'International Conference on Migration and Statelessness: Identifying challenges and way forward'. The Conference focused on identifying best practices for addressing situations of statelessness and for improving migration management in Central Asia and globally.
- On 27 April 2011, Turkmenistan was elected as a member of the UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom), becoming the first country in Central Asia to be an ExCom member.

Emergency preparedness and response

- UNHCR jointly with partners is engaged in developing a Contingency Plan focusing on possible refugee influx from Afghanistan.
- In October 2015 UNHCR in cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent Society organized a two-day workshop for officials of the National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan. The workshop aimed to strengthen capacity of the NGO partner in shelter and camp management in situations of mass influx of refugees, including international standards on camp site selection, sanitation, water supply, communal services, type of shelter and other.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, as well as donors who have directly contributed to the operation in Turkmenistan in 2015.

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