

Azerbaijan

September 2021

Since 1992, UNHCR has been supporting the Government of Azerbaijan to find durable solutions for refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons in the country.

Most refugees do not have a clear legal status, but since 2020 they have legal access to the labour market and their data have been integrated into the state electronic system.

The adoption of complementary protection mechanism and acceptable recognition rates would increase the protection space for those in need of international protection.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (as of end 2020)*

Refugees	1,582
Asylum-seekers	48
Internally displaced persons	653,921
Stateless persons	3,585
Conflict-affected persons**	80,000

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Afghanistan	1,087	Afghanistan	24
Russia	350	Russia	24
Iran	43		

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

**Data source: Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry letter to the UN Secretary General dated 29 January 2021

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR's efforts aim at maintaining protection space for persons of concern in line with international law and standards amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inclusion: Following advocacy with authorities, persons of concern who received vaccination were able to obtain COVID-19 passports, necessary to access some public gatherings.

Aid distribution: Governmental structures, civil society organizations, private sector companies, and individuals donated food to the vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers.

Health: UNHCR continued to provide free secondary health care services to registered refugees and asylum-seekers through contracted service providers.

HIGHLIGHTS

Increase in persons of concern

As of 1 September 2021, Azerbaijan hosted **1,686** refugees, **123** asylum-seekers, **3,585** stateless persons, **653,921** internally displaced persons. In addition, some 75% (60,000) of the conflict-affected persons were found in need of humanitarian assistance.

Emergency cash for the refugees

During 2020 - 2021, some **400** refugee and asylum-seeker households were supported with emergency cash.

Aid to conflict-affected persons

From December 2020 - July 2021, core relief items were distributed to over **35,000** most vulnerable conflict-affected persons. Cash assistance covered **573** households in two villages of Tartar district.

Over 200 stateless persons

received free legal assistance and **over 100** vulnerable families were assisted in paying legal fees since 2015.



Core relief items distribution to the conflict-affected persons of Tartar district in western Azerbaijan

Click [here](#) to read the press release acclaiming donors' support to UNHCR's programs for the conflict-affected persons in Azerbaijan

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocates with authorities and stakeholders to ensure compliance of refugee legislation with international standards, adoption of complementary forms of protection and universal access to Refugee Status Determination procedures.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR provides legal counselling and representation to applicants in need of international protection. Refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate but not by the Government are tolerated and generally protected from refoulement, but do not enjoy formal legal status.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors access to asylum and works to strengthen the quality of the Government asylum process by providing guidance on international protection standards and trainings.
- **Solutions:** Despite lack of legal status, since 2020, refugees and asylum-seekers have enjoyed legal access to the labour market and coverage by the Law on Mandatory Health Insurance. As a result of UNHCR's advocacy, data on persons of concern was integrated into the electronic information system, allowing them access to state services.
- **Integration:** Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to free primary and secondary education and primary health care. Some refugee students benefit from the DAFI Scholarship Programme, and most receive tuition support and ad hoc cash by UNHCR.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR assists the Government in designing and implementing a comprehensive framework for IDP and refugee returns in line with international standards. UNHCR provides policy advice and expertise to the Government on various issues, including housing, land and property (HLP).
- **Non-Food Items:** UNHCR distributes core relief items (or cash if feasible) to the most vulnerable conflict-affected persons in need of humanitarian assistance.

- **Communication with Communities:** UNHCR raises awareness among persons of concern and host communities relevant legislation and procedures, as well as their access to rights and services using a community-based approach.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with other international agencies and central authorities to ensure compliance of refugee law with international standards and inclusion and integration of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR is expected to exercise its supervisory role concerning returns as per the 9 November 2020 tripartite statement signed between Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. UNHCR will be primarily involved in analysis, legal/policy/advice, including advocating for the voluntariness of returns and that these are taking place in safety and dignity.

Statelessness

- Azerbaijan acceded to the UN Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness without reservations.
- Within the #IBELONG campaign, the State Migration Service launched the 2016 nationality determination campaign to identify and document stateless people.
- One of the pledges at the High-level Segment on Statelessness is to ensure naturalization of registered stateless persons by the end of 2022.

UNHCR Presence in Azerbaijan

Staff:

19 National Staff
 5 International Staff
 4 Affiliated workforce

Offices:

1 Country Office in Baku
 1 Reception Centre in Baku

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements:

USD 10 M

Funding gap
 46%
 4.5 M



Funded
 54%
 5.5 M

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