

# UKRAINE

## IN SHORT



### Main Objectives

- Build a functioning asylum system that meets international standards.
- Build up the capacity of government institutions and NGOs to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced populations.
- Ensure that Formerly Deported Peoples (FDPs) who have voluntarily returned to Ukraine and their eligible descendants acquire Ukrainian citizenship.

Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Recognised Refugees	3,900	4,500
Asylum-Seekers	3,200	4,500
FDPs	65,000	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,100</b>	<b>24,000</b>
<b>Total Requirements USD 4,311,964</b>		





## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

Of the 258, 000 Crimean Tatars who have returned to Crimea since 1989 from various places of deportation in the former Soviet Union, the vast majority have already obtained Ukrainian citizenship. About 25,000 had been found to be *de jure* stateless, but by June 1999 this group too had been granted Ukrainian citizenship. By October 1999, of some 62,000 Uzbek citizens, 44,000 had submitted applications for renunciation of Uzbek citizenship in favour of Ukraine citizenship. 21,000 Crimean Tatars are citizens of CIS countries where no agreements for simplified renunciation procedures exist; 10,000 of them are Russian citizens, while the others are citizens of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

The draft revision of the Refugee Law was presented to the Parliament in July 1999 and it could well be approved in 2000. The procedures for the determination of refugee status have been introduced in all 27 regions of the country. Appeals to courts, both in Kiev and at regional level, have overturned earlier adverse decisions. Accession to the 1951 Convention is expected to follow the introduction of the revised Refugee Law. The efforts of the international community, led by UNHCR, to resolve the statelessness of FDPs, have yielded gratifying results. The non-governmental sector in the country has made good progress in understanding and addressing the plight of refugees, asylum-seekers and FDPs. It has also provided valuable support to UNHCR in delivering assistance.

### Constraints

As Ukraine has not yet acceded to the 1951 Convention, UNHCR must keep a close watch on its adherence to international standards, while national laws are still being developed. For instance, asylum is only granted for three months at a time, which limits opportunities to secure accommodation and legal employment. Although the implementation of procedures for the determination of refugee status have improved in recent months thanks to the training undertaken jointly with the Swedish and German Immigration Services, shortcomings remain evident. In western Ukraine, where many illegal immigrants are detained by border police, very few asylum-seekers have presented an application for asylum, while it is estimated that among illegal migrants there are also several refugees attempting to reach

Western Europe. The widely encountered reaction whereby foreigners are regarded as illegal migrants is an obstacle to refugee protection. More public awareness campaigns are required, as well as the involvement of lawyers, the judiciary, policy and decision-makers in all aspects of asylum and statelessness.



## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

To induce the authorities to respond more effectively to the challenges of an increasing number of asylum-seekers, UNHCR will continue to work with the national administration, particularly in the relevant inter-departmental working group, to incorporate international standards into the draft revision of the Refugee Law and other legislation of relevance to persons of concern to UNHCR. With the commencement of status determination procedures throughout Ukraine, additional training will be provided on topics such as interview techniques, country-of-origin information and on Ukraine's obligations under domestic and international law. UNHCR's advocacy of accession to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol plays a pivotal role in the promulgation of relevant laws that reflect international norms and standards.

UNHCR's activities in Crimea in favour of the FDPs have the full support of the Government, the FDP communities, and in particular of the OSCE-High Commissioner for National Minorities, with whom UNHCR has enjoyed a close working relationship. Many thousands of persons have already acquired Ukrainian citizenship and the reduction of statelessness will remain a central theme in UNHCR's programme. The target for 2000 is that 50,000 FDPs will obtain Ukrainian citizenship.

### Assistance

The number of refugees and asylum-seekers is expected to continue to grow, though more slowly than in previous years, and UNHCR will continue to provide material and cash assistance to the most needy refugees and asylum-seekers, including food items at reception centres. In collaboration with national NGOs, health care (through local hospitals) and legal and social counselling will be extended through the creation of more facilities in the regions. The children of refugees and asylum-seekers will be afforded the





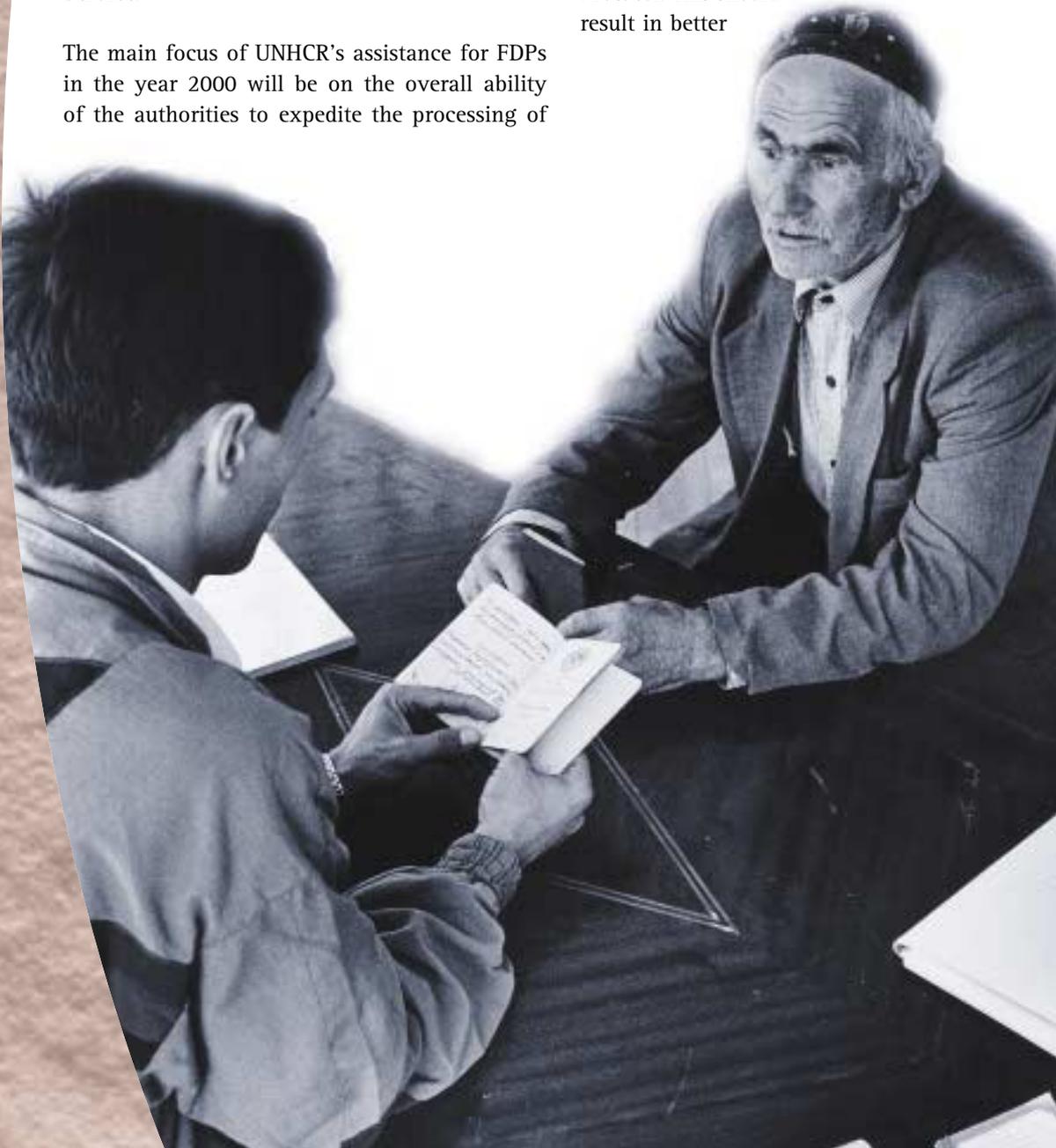
opportunity to learn their mother tongue to help them keep their cultural identity, and efforts will continue to make sure that all have access to education at local schools. UNHCR will continue to assist the voluntary repatriation of those refugees who are able and willing to return to their country of origin. On the other hand, refugees who are willing to integrate in Ukraine will be assisted to become economically self-supporting through income-generating activities, vocational training and a newly-established credit scheme. UNHCR will encourage community development through support for social and cultural activities, organised by the refugee community and a national NGO. Two seminars will be organised in cooperation with bilateral donors, for the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration and the Migration Service.

The main focus of UNHCR's assistance for FDPs in the year 2000 will be on the overall ability of the authorities to expedite the processing of

citizenship applications, where there is a sizeable backlog. With the help of NGOs, UNHCR will inform FDPs about their legal rights and how to secure them. Material assistance for the rehabilitation of accommodation will be scaled down during 2000. However, support for income-generating projects will be increased, with greater participation by NGOs. An information campaign promoting tolerance in Crimea will focus on the reintegration of FDPs, while an education campaign will sensitise a nation-wide audience to related legal and socio-economic issues.

#### **Desired Impact**

UNHCR's campaign on refugee law and protection should result in the Government's accession during 2000 to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. This should result in better



observance of procedures and principles of refugee status determination throughout the country and therefore better protection of asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR's sustained training efforts and resource-building during the past few years should, in the year 2000, allow national NGOs to undertake, on behalf of UNHCR, much of the provision of assistance and guidance. UNHCR's planning is based on some 50,000 FDPs acquiring Ukraine citizenship in 2000, facilitating their integration and reducing tension between resident and repatriating communities.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management Structure

The 2000 programme will be supported by five international and 14 national staff, as well as one Junior Professional Officer.

### Coordination

UNHCR is an integral part of the UN coordination structure in Ukraine, which is overseen by the UN Resident Coordinator. On all issues concerning FDPs, UNHCR and OSCE align their policies. UNHCR keeps in close regular contact with the judiciary and Parliament on issues of refugee law and citizenship.

### Offices

Kiev  
Simferopol

### Partners

#### Government Agencies

Department of Migration in Crimea  
Department of Migration in Odessa  
Kiev City Department for Migration  
Migration Service in Zakarpatye  
Oil Refinery Hospital  
State Committee for Nationalities and Migration

#### NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
Charitable Foundation "Assistance"  
Charitable Foundation "Edelweiss"  
Charitable Foundation "Symphony"  
Counterpart Creation Centre (umbrella for 15 NGOs)  
Crimean Tatar Lawyers League "Initsium"  
Danish Refugee Council  
Ukrainian Legal Foundation/  
Ukrainian Centre for Human Rights

### Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	469,894
Community Services	435,000
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	630,000
Education	175,000
Health/Nutrition	150,000
Income Generation	150,000
Legal Assistance	1,200,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	310,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	220,000
Transport/Logistics	30,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>3,769,894</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>	<b>542,070</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,311,964</b>