

Tajikistan

December 2021

UNHCR supports the Government in developing border management safeguards, **strengthening the national asylum system** and helps refugees to achieve full self-reliance.

UNHCR leads efforts to strengthen Government and inter-agency **emergency response** capacities to react to the imminent risk of refugee influx from Afghanistan.

Following the adoption of the **Amnesty Law** in December 2019, UNHCR assists the Government in the legalization of persons at risk of stateless illegally residing in Tajikistan.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF DECEMBER 2021)

A total of **19,883** persons of concern, including:

Refugees by country of origin



Asylum Seekers – 3,046

Refugee-like – 2,691

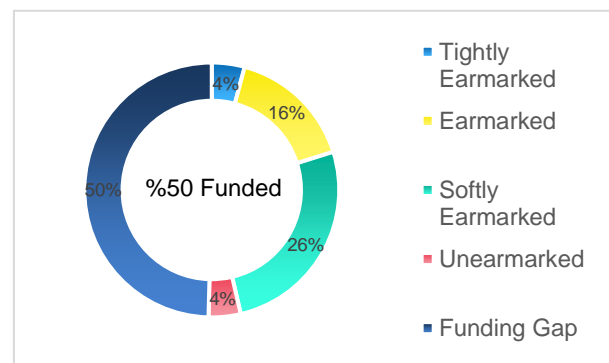
Stateless persons – 6,110 *

FUNDING (AS OF DECEMBER 2021)

USD 12,026,002

requested for the Tajikistan situation

USD 6,049,177 funded



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

Staff:

7 National Staff

5 International Staff

7 Affiliated Workforce

Offices:

1 Country Office in Dushanbe



Working with Partners

- UNHCR is an active member of the United Nations Country Team, Development Coordination Council, Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team, and other inter-agency coordination forums. UNHCR co-chairs Refugee Coordination Model for refugee emergency preparedness and response along with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, involving humanitarian and development partners, international financial institutions and donor community.

Main Activities

Strengthening the National Asylum System

- The Republic of Tajikistan ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and developed national asylum legislation and procedures. UNHCR is engaged in advocacy, technical support, and capacity-building activities with Government stakeholders to strengthen the quality of asylum procedures and the overall protection environment through work plans developed with the Executive Apparatus of the President and the Office of the Ombudsman.
- Through a Work Plan with the Department of Citizenship and Work with Refugees of the Passport Registration Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, encompassing enhanced coordination, capacity building, and technical support, UNHCR strengthens the protection of refugees and asylum seekers.
- UNHCR supports COVID-19 prevention, treatment, and socio-economic recovery plans and measures of authorities and the UN through technical assistance; and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees to access healthcare and livelihood for those who lost their income and access to education for refugee children.
- In the situation with shrinking protection space in Tajikistan with reference to suspension of registration at place of residence, denial to register asylum applications, suspension of the state RSD, UNHCR continues its advocacy with the Government to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan enjoy international protection and access to territory of Tajikistan for asylum, in accordance with country's international obligations.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR, the Government, UN and NGO partners work closely to promote refugees' economic inclusion through skills training, job placement and small-scale business initiatives and the realization of basic socio-economic rights with unhindered access to education, health, and social protection. UNHCR and its partners provide legal and limited material assistance to persons of concern at heightened risk.
- UNHCR supports community-based development initiatives that benefit both refugees and local populations - promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence and facilitating the economic integration of refugees. To achieve this, UNHCR continues its partnerships with the private sector, including the Hilton, Serena, and Hyatt Regency Hotels in Dushanbe as well as Auchan Hypermarket and Coca – Cola Tajikistan.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR learns the intentions of refugees for the future to seek the most appropriate durable solutions for them. For those refugees willing to return to their home country, UNHCR provides necessary assistance and information so they can make informed decisions on voluntary repatriation when situation is conducive for return. Refugees opting to stay in Tajikistan are being assisted in obtaining professional training and job placement that will enhance their self-reliance capabilities and local integration prospects. Resettlement opportunities remain unavailable.

Addressing Statelessness

- Since 2014, UNHCR - in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan and civil society partners - has been carrying out a project to address statelessness in

Tajikistan. Since then, 53,797 persons with undetermined nationality have been registered in target regions of Sughd, Khatlon, Rasht, GBAO, as well as Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS). Of the total number, 48,555 persons have had their nationality confirmed.

- Fulfilling one of its four pledges made during the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in Geneva of October 2019, the Government of Tajikistan in December 2019 adopted an Amnesty Law to legalize stateless persons and foreign nationals illegally residing in the country. UNHCR supports the Passport Registration Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing the Amnesty Law through technical support, capacity building and the identification of potential beneficiaries.
- In 2021, the statelessness reduction activities are mainly focused on a resolution of the cases falling under the scope of the Amnesty Law, including expansion in Rasht Valley and GBAO region. UNHCR received authorisation from the Government and additional funding from PRM to continue with identification and reduction activities in the new regions.
- UNHCR has supported the Agency on Statistics to conduct the 2020 National Population and Housing Census to map the extent of statelessness in the country. Results of the Census are expected to become available in 2022.
- To prevent statelessness at birth, UNHCR is advocating for changes in the Civil Registration Law to ensure universal birth registration for every child born in Tajikistan regardless of the parent's legal status and availability of documents.

Emergency Preparedness

- Due to the on-going instability in Afghanistan that affects the security and socio-economic situation of the population across the country, the likelihood of increased arrivals from Afghanistan is not ruled out. The refugee emergency preparedness and response process in Tajikistan continued through regular inter-agency coordination activities with the government with the focus on assisting the government in creating the necessary conditions for the reception and accommodation of refugees in case an influx occurs.
- In close coordination with the Committee for Emergency Situations, WASH led by UNICEF and Shelter led by UNHCR continued the construction works on the designated site in Jaloliddin Balkhi district of Khatlon region to serve as a temporary settlement area for refugees.
- Setting up of reception facilities at border crossing points for emergency shelter, provision of essential assistance, screening and preliminary registration purposes is under government's consideration for implementation.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR appreciates the partnership and financial contributions of both unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds from donors, as well as for those who have contributed regionally and directly to UNHCR in Tajikistan:

Germany | France | Austria | United States of America | Spain | Norway | Denmark | Canada | Japan | Australia | Czechia | Iceland | Ireland | Jersey | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Netherlands | New Zealand | Poland | Slovakia | Slovenia | Sweden | United Kingdom | Switzerland | Belgium | Israel | Italy | Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Costa Rica | Cyprus | Estonia | Finland | Holy See | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Morocco | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | South Africa | Thailand | Turkey | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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