

UNHCR Representation to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**

Promoting fair and **effective asylum procedures**, and refugees' access to **rights, services**, and **local integration**

Advocating for **immediate birth registration**, and supporting Governments to **end statelessness**



Like the rest of her family, Zukhra Mukanova's youngest daughter is stateless. Without a nationality, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights, including education. Photo: UNHCR / Frederic NOY

Key Figures (as of 30 June 2022)



15,165

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

in Kazakhstan (1,000), Kyrgyzstan (1,119), Turkmenistan (15) and Uzbekistan (11)*.



44,332

known Stateless people

in Kazakhstan (7,558), Kyrgyzstan (482), Turkmenistan (4,463) and Uzbekistan (31,829).

* In November 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan reported via mass media that 13,020 Afghan citizens had arrived in the country on short-term visas, of whom around 2,000 have valid visas as of July 2022. Given the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, they may be in need of international protection.



In 2022, UNHCR requires \$8.8 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, including in response to the Afghanistan emergency. As of 08 December 2022, the operations are 56% funded.

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Protecting and Securing Solutions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Most refugees in Central Asia have been living there for years – some even for decades – are fluent in local languages and have family ties with nationals of host countries. UNHCR supports long-lasting solutions that empower refugees to rebuild their lives.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan are State Parties to the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and its [1967 Protocol](#).

UNHCR works with the countries to strengthen local ownership of and investment in quality asylum systems, fulfilling international obligations as well as pledges made to the [Global Compact on Refugees](#). UNHCR supports Uzbekistan with implementation of 2018 Universal Periodic Review recommendations, including accession to the Convention and Protocol.

Where cross-border movements include refugees, victims of trafficking, and migrants, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration collaborate on the [Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration](#).

Working with Partners

Government partners include Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Labour, Internal Affairs, Emergency Situations, and Justice; Migration and Registration Services; Committees on Statistics and National Security; Border Guards; and Ombudspersons.

UNHCR partners with academia and the judiciary, building technical capacity of those involved in the asylum system, and implements most of its projects through civil society partners that assist and guide people seeking protection.

As a member of the UN Country Team and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, UNHCR engages with UN and development partners, international financial institutions and others to ensure refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people are not left behind in States' achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

With thanks to our donors

UNHCR is grateful for contributions directly to operations in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as donors of unearmarked and flexible funding, including from: Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | USA

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Reducing and Preventing Statelessness

Most stateless persons in Central Asia are ex-citizens of the former Soviet Union who have not yet acquired or confirmed citizenship of the independent States. Without a nationality, they often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

Through community outreach, legal counselling, and assistance to confirm or acquire nationality, UNHCR and partners support Governments in identifying and protecting people without a nationality, and preventing and reducing statelessness in line with the global [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#).

UNHCR promotes alignment of national citizenship and other legislation with international standards, and advocates for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to join Turkmenistan as State Parties to the [1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions](#).

Responding to Emergencies

UNHCR supports government, UN and other humanitarian partners to plan and prepare responses to forced internal displacement and refugee emergencies. The [Regional Humanitarian Logistics Hub](#) in Uzbekistan enables UNHCR to be more agile and effective in its response, while reducing costs and minimizing risks.

The [2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) seeks to support host governments to meet the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, including refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as host communities, and potential new arrivals in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

With partners and authorities across the region, UNHCR advocates for safe and efficient access to asylum and non-refoulement.