



COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Country: Kazakhstan

Planning Year: 2004

Executive Committee Summary

Country Operations Plan 2004 : KAZAKHSTAN

Context

Since the declaration of its independence in 1991, Kazakhstan has achieved a reputation as one of the most prosperous and stable countries in Central Asia. Nevertheless, the institution of asylum is an emerging concept in Kazakhstan. Though the Government of Kazakhstan (GoK) is signatory to 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, it has not yet established implementation mechanisms to process or grant asylum.

In 2004 UNHCR will encourage the development of effective asylum and refugee protection mechanisms. Technical assistance and expertise will be provided to the Government of Kazakhstan and relevant NGOs. In particular, UNHCR hopes to work with its partners to address topics including asylum application procedures, negotiating solutions for urban refugees, providing voluntary repatriation for Afghan and Tajik refugees, upholding the principle of non-refoulement and resettling extremely vulnerable refugees. UNHCR is undertaking additional efforts to find a solution for the situation of Chechens and provide minimum protection. UNHCR hopes to support the GoK's initiatives to legislate provisions for asylum in accordance with international standards.

UNHCR will continue to provide limited assistance to vulnerable refugees. Assistance in 2004 will be designed to promote refugees' self-sustainability through income-generation projects and vocational training. Assessment and monitoring of asylum-seekers will be conducted regularly through field missions. UNHCR Kazakhstan will maintain its well-established contacts with international and national organisations address refugee needs through partnership.

Beneficiary population

The total number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kazakhstan is estimated to be some 19,000 persons, including nearly 14,000 Chechens, 2,000 Tajiks, 2,250 Afghans, 1,150 Palestinians, and a small group of persons of various other nationalities including Chinese Uighurs. There are some 83,200 ethnic Kazakh "returnees" who are, in principle, of concern to UNHCR in view of their *de jure* or *de facto* statelessness status.

Partnerships

2004 voluntary repatriation programme of Tajik refugees will be conducted in close co-ordination with LO Dushanbe. Voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees will be conducted in cooperation with LO Tashkent, LO Mazar-I-Sharif and OCM Kabul.

The implementation of UNHCR programmes in 2004 will be ensured through partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan as well as the relevant UN agencies. Programme will be implemented in partnership with a number of NGOs, including the Red Crescent of the Republic of Kazakhstan (**KRC**), "Vainakh" Association

(**VAINAKH**), International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (**BHR**), Kazakhstan Refugee Legal Support (**KRELS**), the Children’s Fund of Kazakhstan (**CFK**) and Centre for Conflict Management (**CCM**). Expertise of the implementing partners has reached a significant level, however technical capacity to conduct programmes on their own still remains weak mainly in view of absence of adequate funding. As for the Government of Kazakhstan, both technical capacity and expertise remains on a low level for two main reasons: 1) absence of financial resources and 2) high turn over rate among personnel.

As set out in CCA and the UNDAF and within the framework of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Development and Implementation of Kazakhstan’s Migration Policy, UNHCR and IOM will contribute to the development of effective asylum frameworks in line with international standards.

Selected Programme Goals and Objectives

Theme #1:	
Main Goal(s):	Ensured protection and well-being of refugees in Kazakhstan
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kazakhstan's international obligations vis-à-vis refugees are understood and honoured not only at the political but also at the practical executive level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round-tables and seminars on international standards of refugee law are conducted for government officials (prosecutors, judges, law-enforcement officials, MPs, etc.) in Astana and Almaty. Seminars/training/meetings for NGO partners on refugee matters are conducted. Technical assistance is provided to governmental structures dealing with refugee matters. RSD commissions are created in the regions of Kazakhstan and on-the-job training is conducted for the members of these commissions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National refugee legislation is adopted and properly applied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical expertise is provided to the Government of Kazakhstan throughout the process of drafting and adoption of the national refugee legislation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health condition of the refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In co-operation with KRC, make primary health care services and medications are available in Almaty, Karaganda, Shymkent, Taraz, Kostanai and Uralsk.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured self-sufficiency for the refugee families in regions other than Almaty (female heads of household are given priority consideration) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 most successful income-generation projects initiated by refugees are supported.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugees basic needs regarding clothing and possession of household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clothing/household items/blankets are distributed to the most needy

items are adequately covered	refugees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of refugee children attend schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary school supplies and clothing are purchased and distributed to the most needy refugee children throughout Kazakhstan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved psychological health of refugee women and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation/Educational Centres are established and functioning in four regions of Kazakhstan mostly populated by the refugees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of refugees in the country is well tolerated by local population, xenophobic attitude towards refugees is changed into positive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV/radio programmes on refugee issues are created and transmitted on local TV/radio channels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee protection is ensured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular protection situation monitoring field missions are undertaken by UNHCR Almaty together with IPs. • Regular meetings are organised with relevant government and local authorities. • UNV staff should be deployed in order to reinforce the refugee assistance structure in both aspects of Protection and Programme. • Refugees throughout Kazakhstan have access to qualified legal assistance.

Beneficiary Population #1:	04/AB/KAZ/RP/370 – Repatriation of Tajik refugees from Kazakhstan.
Main Goal(s):	Ensured durable solution for Tajik refugees in Kazakhstan.
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 Tajik refugees are repatriated in safety and dignity to Tajikistan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary repatriation is conducted without any hindrance. • Tickets are purchased and repatriation cash grants distributed. • The protection of the repatriating refugees is actually ensured throughout the repatriation process.