

Annual Results Report

2022

Kazakhstan Multi Country

Acknowledgements

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Central Asia continued to undergo a complex transformation, marked by political changes, local and regional crises, and economic challenges.

Public protests in Kazakhstan in early 2022 were the catalyst for political reforms led by the President, who was re-elected in November. In a positive development, responsibility for refugees and asylum-seekers was transferred to the same ministry responsible for social welfare of citizens. The Kyrgyz Republic initiated a legal inventory process to revise, align or terminate 356 laws, including those that may impact forcibly displaced and stateless people. In September, an escalation of violence on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border internally displaced 142,071 people, damaged some 600 homes, public buildings and infrastructure, and took the lives of 219 people.

Uzbekistan passed a decree requiring NGOs that receive foreign funding to obtain government clearance before implementing activities. In July, protests broke out in Nukus, the capital of the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan following initiation of subsequently revoked amendments to the Constitution. For Afghan nationals, access to Uzbekistan remained limited to only those holding diplomatic, business or education visas.

As only very few international flights to Turkmenistan were restored, reports of informal restrictions on basic freedoms of women increased. The invasion of Ukraine negatively impacted the overall socio-economic situation in all countries and increased pressure on the protection environment.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2025, all UNHCR beneficiaries are able to actively participate in the social and economic life of host countries

By 2025, refugees and asylum-seekers enjoy unhindered access to the territory of the country, efficient status determination procedures and can exercise their fundamental rights

By 2025, the incidence of statelessness is reduced

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan	1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kazakhstan	1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.33%	98.95%
Kyrgyzstan	1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kyrgyzstan	1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.84%	87.59%
Turkmenistan	1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
Turkmenistan	1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Uzbekistan	1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
Uzbekistan	1.2 Proportion of PoC who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. [GCR 2.1.2]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

Despite sensitive geo-political dynamics affecting countries', access to territory and asylum were maintained in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic, and governments' capacity strengthened to better protect asylum-seekers and refugees, including through increased joint advocacy with UN Country Teams, donors and civil society.

The 2023-2027 Migration Policy Concept of Kazakhstan includes asylum-seeker and refugee rights, with its corresponding action plan seeking to align national legislation with international standards, including introduction of referral mechanisms.

Through strong advocacy and capacity building efforts, no Afghan citizens were forcibly returned from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan.

Through a 20-month joint country-wide statelessness campaign, Kazakhstan confirmed citizenship of 4,800 people, and assisted 2,700 people with documentation.

Building on its 2020 Citizenship Law and 2021 amendments, Uzbekistan reduced its stateless population by a further 28 per cent.

Inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the 2023-2027 Migration Policy Concept of Kazakhstan could ease their access to medical care, employment, education, and social assistance on par with citizens and permanently residing foreigners.

UNHCR advanced efforts to boost the humanitarian-development nexus, targeting both displaced and host communities. A pilot project in Uzbekistan provided vocational training for Afghan citizens and vulnerable members of the host community after which 10 women established their own income-generating projects with their new skills.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2025, all beneficiaries to UNHCR benefit from wide range of solution, including access to civil registration documentation and naturalization

Country	Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin. [RF/GCR 4.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Kazakhstan	4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Kazakhstan	4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Kazakhstan	4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed.	Stateless Persons	1,679	1,614
Kazakhstan	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40	0
Kyrgyzstan	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin. [RF/GCR 4.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10	21
Kyrgyzstan	4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed.	Stateless Persons	128	253
Kyrgyzstan	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24	24
Turkmenistan	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin. [RF/GCR 4.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Turkmenistan	4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Turkmenistan	4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	1
Turkmenistan	4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed.	Stateless Persons	2,657	1,530
Turkmenistan	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	2
Uzbekistan	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin. [RF/GCR 4.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Uzbekistan	4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
Uzbekistan	4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	5
Uzbekistan	4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed.	Stateless Persons	32,091	9,354
Uzbekistan	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1	0

All countries continued cooperation to reduce and prevent statelessness, as part of the global #IBelong campaign, and implement 12 High-Level Segment pledges to address statelessness by 2024, including through ensuring universal birth registration, enactment of Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDP). UNHCR continued to pursue long-lasting solutions that empower refugees to rebuild their lives.

In Kazakhstan, UNHCR advocated for harmonization of the national legal framework in line with international standards, including ensuring universal birth registration, improving SDPs, and providing safeguards against statelessness in cases of termination of nationality. UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance to undocumented people and to people with undetermined nationality, supporting 1,487 people to acquire or confirm their citizenship of Kazakhstan, or be recognised as stateless.

Through UNHCR and partner support, 51 people in the Kyrgyz Republic obtained documents, including 13 birth certificates, 12 certificates of establishment of paternity, four medical birth certificates, and 22 Personal Identification Numbers. Four Convention Refugees were assisted to collect and submit documents for citizenship, and 18 refugees were granted Kyrgyz citizenship. Lawyers represented the interests of five stateless people, and one de jure stateless person obtained. UNHCR continued to assist Mandate refugees with birth registration.

UNHCR and its implementing partner referred cases of newly born Afghan children in Uzbekistan to UNICEF, following which the children were successfully registered and issued birth certificates. 9,354 stateless cases were resolved as a result of previous amendments to the citizenship law.

In Turkmenistan, 1,530 stateless people (comprising 26 ethnicities, 57 per cent of whom are women), including two mandate refugees, were granted Turkmen citizenship.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kazakhstan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
Kazakhstan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.48%	13.99%
Kazakhstan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Stateless Persons	86.55%	92.08%
Kazakhstan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.33%	98.95%
Kazakhstan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Stateless Persons	86.55%	92.08%
Kazakhstan	3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kazakhstan	3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kyrgyzstan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kyrgyzstan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
Kyrgyzstan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.28%	100.00%
Kyrgyzstan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Stateless Persons	99.33%	98.52%

Kyrgyzstan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.75%	16.54%
Kyrgyzstan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Stateless Persons	99.33%	98.52%
Kyrgyzstan	3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Kyrgyzstan	3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Turkmenistan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Turkmenistan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
Turkmenistan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Turkmenistan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Stateless Persons	55.58%	53.94%
Turkmenistan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
Turkmenistan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Stateless Persons	55.58%	53.94%
Turkmenistan	3.2a Proportion of PoC enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
Turkmenistan	3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	0.00%
Uzbekistan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Uzbekistan	2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
Uzbekistan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Uzbekistan	2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%
Uzbekistan	3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

National security as well as geopolitical considerations continued to impede fair decision-making with relation to forcibly displaced and stateless people – a major obstacle to efforts to improve the protection environment. Two refoulement cases from Kazakhstan – the first in over a decade – highlighted further efforts needed to ensure adherence to the Refugee Convention and international human rights standards.

Frequent turnover of government personnel hindered UNHCR's ability to conduct activities as planned, with new personnel requiring briefing and training before any substantive developments could take place, and overall slower decision-making as authorities familiarise themselves with their new responsibilities. Lack of state budgets for asylum procedures is a further obstacle, including for interpreter services.

The precarious legal status of mandate refugees continued. Despite being culturally integrated, without legal status in host countries, they remained without access to most socio-economic rights and services, including access to local integration through naturalization.

While Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic have laws on refugees, national asylum systems, and national refugee status determination procedures, refugee recognition rates declined over the past years.

Uzbekistan remains the only country in the region that has not yet acceded to the Refugee or Statelessness Conventions. Borders to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan remained close to Afghans without visas.

Gaps in nationality laws, and insufficient safeguards during citizenship renunciation and against childhood statelessness persist, contributing to the occurrence of statelessness.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, countries suffered indirect impacts from sanctions and witnessed an increasing number of asylum seekers from Ukraine, the Russian Federation, as well as Belarus.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

As an active UN Country Team member, and integral part of UNSDCFs in each country, UNHCR engages with government, UN, development, international financial institution, diplomatic and other partners to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless people are not left behind in States' achievement of the SDGs.

UNHCR strengthened constructive engagement with responsible government entities, including Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Digital Development, Education, Emergency, Health, Internal Affairs, and Labour, President Administrations, Prosecutor General's office, Border Guards Service, judiciary, Ombudsperson's Office, Committees on Migration, Social Policy and Security, and Commission on Human Rights.

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were part of the (RRP) which, under the overall leadership of UNHCR, supported host governments to meet the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, and host communities. UNHCR continued to engage with UN partners to coordinate and implement RRP activities.

UNHCR led the Protection Sector of the interagency emergency response to internal displacement in Kyrgyzstan.

To strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, UNHCR consulted with development agencies (e.g. ADB, WB, UNDP) and the private sector to identify areas for cooperation and/or inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people into their projects across the sub-region. It continued close cooperation with a number of EU and OSCE projects.

UNHCR provided targeted advocacy messages to key partners' efforts to also advocate for the rights of forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Collaboration with universities and the private sector enhanced educational and other learning opportunities for refugees and promoted legal awareness of refugees and statelessness, reaching potential future policy-makers and practitioners.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

UNHCR beneficiaries benefit from efficient and functional referral mechanisms

Access to civil registration and identity documentation is improved for stateless persons and all children born in the country are registered with a civil authority.

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan MCO	1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.49%	90.00%	93.61%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners assessed admission practices and reception conditions for asylum-seekers at six land borders and international airports in Kazakhstan. At each, UNHCR trained border guards on rights of asylum-seekers and international protection principles with respect to access to territory and asylum. With government partners, UNHCR trained representatives of Border Guards, penitentiary system and local executive bodies responsible for reception and reviewing of asylum cases on referral mechanisms.

Kyrgyzstan took account of UNHCR and partner's advice when adopting regulations for reception and accommodation of refugees in case of mass arrivals. To improve preparedness, UNHCR together with UN and civil society partners, supported conduct of a refugee emergency simulation exercise by national and local authorities. UNHCR visited border crossing points, monitored reception conditions and information available for people seeking asylum, and trained managers of border-crossings.

UNHCR organized an online lecture on emergency preparedness and response for Turkmenistan officials who would likely be involved in case of a mass influx of refugees.

In partnership with the National Human Rights Centre, UNHCR convened a roundtable on interim arrangements and referral mechanisms for people in need of international protection in Uzbekistan. As Uzbekistan does not have a national asylum system, the event explored provisional solutions to allow refugees access to due rights. UNHCR and partners advocated for the application of existing Political Asylum procedures to enable Afghans to legalise their stay and access essential services.

UNHCR advocated for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to accede to the Statelessness Conventions and align national legal frameworks with international standards, including by ensuring universal birth registration, improving or establishing SDPs, and providing safeguards against statelessness in cases of renunciation or loss of nationality.

In Kazakhstan, UNHCR published an analytical study on the impact of accession to the Statelessness Conventions, supported further improvements in the birth registration of children of undocumented mothers, as well as its inclusion in the national Voluntary National Review of progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The office of the national Commissioner for Human Rights and UNHCR held a roundtable – attended by parliamentarians, authorities, NGOs and UN Agencies – to discuss progress and challenges in eradicating statelessness, advocate for improved access to civil registration, and promote accession to the Conventions.

After receiving UNHCR's comments on draft laws, the Kyrgyz Republic made amendments allowing refugee certificates to be presented as a legal document for birth registration, and adopted proposals on the definition of stateless people, and considering birth registration in cases of undocumented parents and other measures to prevent the re-occurrence of statelessness.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite UNHCR training, monitoring and advocacy efforts, the absence of functional referral mechanisms in Kazakhstan remains of concern.

Limited public resources and uncertainties caused loss of institutional memory in Kyrgyzstan, challenging UNHCR's capacity building efforts.

Investments by UNHCR to support the establishment of asylum legislation or procedures by the Government of Uzbekistan have yet to bear fruit.

With restricted access in Turkmenistan, it remains difficult for UNHCR to establish border referral mechanisms.

In Kazakhstan, legislation needs improvement to ensure children born to undocumented parents outside medical institutions are not at risk of statelessness, and SDPs need to reflect the right to temporary legal stay throughout the process of those seeking recognition of their statelessness.

Asylum-seeker certificates are still not yet an accepted identity document for birth registration in the Kyrgyz Republic.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum seekers have access to fair and efficient RSD procedures

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan MCO	2.3 Proportion of individuals undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR facilitated a nine-week Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Distance Learning Programme as part of efforts to improve the quality of RSD procedures in the region. 37 participants from all countries completed the online phase, including state officials, members of the national RSD Commissions, judges, and staff of organizations providing legal assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees. A five-day practical workshop was then held in Almaty for 32 participants who completed the online phase to exercise the theory and exchange experience from across their organizations and countries.

Two officials from the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan were supported to complete the Online Course on International Refugee Law of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo. Participants learnt key aspects and principles of international refugee protection and enhanced their skills in developing and applying policies and standards on principles of international law.

With the transfer of responsibility for refugees and asylum-seekers to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and decentralisation of responsibilities for receiving asylum applications and issuing RSD decisions to each city and regional administrations, UNHCR and its implementing partner trained 58 officials responsible for reviewing asylum cases, across all 17 regions of Kazakhstan. As a result, UNHCR observed government offices in regions that previously did not host asylum-seekers began receiving applications. UNHCR and partners successfully intervened in cases of non-registration to ensure people in need of international protection could access State RSD procedures.

UNHCR and its implementing partner conducted a two-day seminar for 19 judges and prosecutors of the Kyrgyz Republic on national RSD and appeal procedures, assisted over 100 Afghan nationals to lodge asylum applications, and represented 53 individuals during RSD procedures. Negative first instance decisions were contested 41 times across three stages of court appeals.

Uzbekistan has not yet acceded to the Refugee Convention or its Protocol, and does not yet have an asylum system.

Turkmenistan has not registered an asylum application in over 15 years.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

In Kazakhstan, State RSD Commission meetings were often postponed, and new members needed further capacity building to become acquainted with refugee and asylum issues. Of 836 asylum applications lodged in 2022, only 39 were reviewed for first instance determination of which 19 were recognised and 20 rejected. The claims of asylum-seekers charged with irregular border crossing or stay were frequently rejected or postponed until an expulsion decision came into force.

Limited public resources for asylum procedures hampered timely registration and processing of asylum applications in the Kyrgyz Republic. Lack of interpreters – at all stages of the asylum process including interviews and court hearings – negatively affected the quality of RSD decisions.

Government counterparts from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan did not participate in the RSD Distance Learning Programme.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

National legal and procedural frameworks are harmonized and refugees have access to rights accorded by the 1951 Convention.

Safeguards against statelessness are included in the national legal frameworks and protection of stateless persons is ensured through statelessness determination procedures in line with international standards.

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan MCO	3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not Adequate	Favorable	Not Adequate
Kazakhstan MCO	3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.	Stateless Persons	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR maintained joint annual workplans with government counterparts in each country which detailed UNSDCF contributions by outlining shared activities.

UNHCR's recommendations were successfully included in the 2023-2027 Migration Policy Concept of Kazakhstan and should help ensure refugees and asylum seekers can access medical care, employment, education and social assistance on par with citizens and permanent residents. In its Second Voluntary National Review, Kazakhstan included forcibly displaced and stateless people under SDG 10: "Granting access to basic socio-economic rights" and SDG 16: "Ensuring rights and interests protection". UNHCR and the Commissioner for Human Rights signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand cooperation to protect and assist forcibly displaced and stateless people and to improve alignment of national legislation with international standards.

UNHCR contributed comments to six draft laws on the legal inventory of the **Kyrgyz Republic** which impact the rights and services of forcibly displaced and stateless people. UNHCR and partners also submitted comments on the draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Approval of the Procedure for Expulsion of Foreign Citizens from the Kyrgyz Republic", after which stateless people, refugees and asylum-seekers were successfully omitted from its scope.

To support **Uzbekistan's** plans to also accede to the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, UNHCR commissioned and published a legal analysis of national legislation and practices, highlighting best practices and gaps, and providing recommendations and follow-up measures to guide future legislative changes. The report was presented to authorities at a joint event with the National Human Rights Centre.

Kazakhstan's 'Plan of Further Measures in the field of human rights and rule of law' included consideration of conclusion of international treaties related to stateless people. To support these efforts,

UNHCR developed and published a comparative analysis legal analysis of national legislation on statelessness and citizenship matters for the Government, and an impact study of accession to the statelessness conventions.

UNHCR provided recommendations to align the by-law regulating SDPs in **Kazakhstan** (adopted in 2020) with international standards by increasing procedural safeguards. UNHCR recommendations were included in the draft law. UNHCR also contributed comments on a draft law on migration issues.

With the support of UNHCR, the Kyrgyz Republic developed a SDPs, which are now pending approval by Parliament. UNHCR advocated for the draft Law on Citizenship to include the universal right of a child to be registered at birth and to citizenship, if they would otherwise be stateless. The Government accepted UNHCR proposals to eliminate the need to prove other citizenship for children at risk of statelessness.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Geopolitical and security concerns impeded positive decisions in naturalization, access to territory and non-refoulement, socio-economic rights, and quality of asylum as well as accession to the Statelessness conventions, providing safeguards against statelessness in cases of renunciation or loss of citizenship, and improving the SDPs in line with the international standards.

While positive changes were made to legislation to prevent statelessness in the Kyrgyz Republic, UNHCR recommendations related to the refusal or termination of citizenship only when another State's nationality is guaranteed, and loss of nationality only on the basis of a court decision, were not adopted. In absence of dedicated SDPs, people were determined to be stateless through procedures not yet in compliance with international standards.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Basic needs of UNHCR beneficiaries are met through monetary support

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
Kazakhstan MCO	8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.99%	82.00%	29.46%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

As asylum-seeker and refugees yet remain ineligible for social protection, UNHCR used cash assistance as a protection tool to help the most vulnerable meet their basic needs.

In Kazakhstan, 313 refugees and asylum-seekers benefitted from multipurpose cash grants to meet their basic needs. Rising costs of living and new arrivals from Ukraine saw a greater number of refugees and asylum-seekers requiring cash assistance. UNHCR partners provided in-kind humanitarian assistance to 103 of the most vulnerable households. UNHCR also enabled 200 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers who suffered from acute diseases, needed surgical interventions, or prenatal care to access necessary health services that exceeded the minimum provided by the State.

UNHCR provided multipurpose cash grants to 302 refugees and asylum-seekers in the Kyrgyz Republic. 24 families were also provided with education grants to support 34 girls and 27 boys with school-related expenses.

In Uzbekistan, UNHCR distributed multipurpose cash grants to five mandate refugees. A further 66 girls and 74 boys were provided with vouchers to redeem for school stationery supplies, and 56 girls and 84 boys with vouchers to redeem for winter clothing. Under a six-month pilot project, a UNHCR partner provided legal counselling to 86 Afghan citizens, psychological counselling to 65, and social counselling to 123, assisted with enrolling Afghan children to school and provided guidance on birth registration procedures. In Turkmenistan, four refugees benefitted from multipurpose cash assistance, including two mandate refugees who received an integration grant following their naturalization.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

High inflation in prices of basic necessities such as food, clothing, medicines, rents, and energy, greatly diminished the purchasing power of refugees and asylum-seekers in the countries. In Kazakhstan, for example, where refugees and asylum-seekers have only basic access to public health services, requests for cash-based assistance to help cover healthcare increased.

Without a national asylum system or interim procedures legalising the stay of Afghans already in Uzbekistan, UNHCR was able to provide cash assistance to only a few mandate refugees.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

UNHCR beneficiaries resilience increased through income generating opportunities

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Although many convention refugees have some access to livelihoods, the pandemic situation and rapidly increasing costs of living has meant those who had previously been self-reliant became dependent on aid, and other refugee families who were already economically vulnerable were pushed into poverty.

Thanks to UNHCR's partner, employment opportunities were offered to refugees in Kazakhstan by two companies in the areas of logistics and beverage production.

Kazakhstan's second cohort of DAFI scholarship students was accepted in 2022 and, as in 2021, most were women, who applied for studies related to medicine. By year end, 10 women and three men – all from Afghanistan – were studying in higher and vocational education institutions. One student completed a Resident Surgeon's Assistant internship in an Almaty hospital and took part in a "Future Surgeon" training. The Bureau of Continuing Professional Development of the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) held an online master class for refugee youth in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on early career planning and developing life skills, providing them with useful resources for determining their future professions.

In the Kyrgyz Republic UNHCR welcomed the 25th cohort of DAFI students. By year end, two women and four men were enrolled in higher education thanks to the DAFI scholarship programme.

In mid-2022, UNHCR launched a six-month pilot project with a national NGO in Uzbekistan to improve the skills of Afghan citizens in the country and members of the host community which helped to fill a national shortfall in human capital and support groups to recover and rebuild. By the end of 2022, 146 beneficiaries had completed vocational training in hairdressing, manicure, sewing or confectionary. 10 women who completed the training were provided with equipment to support them to set up income-generating activity. 40 Afghan girls and 46 boys completed three-month Uzbek, Russian, or English language courses.

To strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, UNHCR and UNDP partnered on climate action and sustainability offering Afghan citizens and vulnerable people from host communities in Uzbekistan cash-for-work in afforestation activities. To mitigate the damaging impact of dust storms in regions bordering Afghanistan and aligned with the National Afforestation initiative to plant 200 million trees annually, 448 Afghan citizens and 194 members of the host community had been engaged under this UNHCR-UNDP project.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

In Kazakhstan, refugees and asylum-seekers can only access higher education and vocational training on a paid basis, which is prohibitively expensive for most. Following bilateral engagements to promote higher education opportunities for refugee youth, the Ministry of Education is considering waiving some of the requirements for higher education scholarships under the "Bologna process", an inter-governmental higher education reform process to enhance the quality and recognition of higher education systems.

In the absence of national asylum legislation and procedures in Uzbekistan, resulting in lack of registration and documentation as asylum-seekers and refugees, Afghan citizens do not have access to legal employment and other income generating opportunities outside of humanitarian interventions.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

UNHCR beneficiaries are provided avenues for naturalization and regularization of their status and documentation and are included in the public welfare, social, health, education services alongside with nationals

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

With all avenues for integration under national legislation exhausted, UNHCR had supported mandate refugees to submit petitions to President administrations for an extraordinary offer of citizenship – 18 mandate refugees submitted petitions in Kazakhstan, 120 in the Kyrgyz Republic, 10 in Turkmenistan and six in Uzbekistan. Follow-up continues in all countries.

Following UNHCR advocacy, two mandate refugees were granted Turkmenistan citizenship in 2022. Throughout the year, in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic, UNHCR implementing partners conducted interviews and legal assessments with asylum seekers, counselled and assisted asylum applications. As a result of UNHCR's advocacy, refugees and asylum seekers were included in the 2023-2027 Migration Policy Concept of Kazakhstan which envisages amendments to the national legislation to enable access to medical care, employment, education and social assistance on par with citizens and permanently residents to achieve sustainable social and economic development and full and productive employment.

UNHCR supported the Kyrgyz Republic to implement its GRF pledges to provide recognised refugees with due access to machine-readable travel documents, as well as healthcare and social protection on par with citizens. UNHCR supported the refurbishment of a Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre to enhance access to health care and engaged in an intra-governmental working group to develop the legal framework for the issuance of travel documents.

To support the responsibilities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration to protect the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR equipped local offices under the Ministry that receive, process, and follow-up asylum applications and registration of refugees.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Geopolitical and security concerns limited inclinations to allow local integration and a more favourable protection environment for refugees in Kazakhstan.

UNHCR proposals to include refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people at the same level as Kyrgyzstan citizens in medical insurance legislation and asylum seeker certificates in the list of official identity documents as well as provide access to social rights on par with citizens in the Law on Refugees, were all rejected.

To apply for citizenship in Uzbekistan, the Government requires mandate refugees to present a valid national passport and proof of legal stay. However, having lived in Uzbekistan for over a decade, and unable to return to Afghanistan, they cannot provide this documentation.

In Turkmenistan, authorities require mandate refugees to present a valid passport to apply for residency and prove renunciation of any former citizenship to apply for Turkmen citizenship, which is impossible for mandate refugees.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Data collected by UNHCR and its partners in the four countries is disaggregated by age, sex and diversity criteria (including specific needs) and used to design programmes and inform strategic priorities. However, such data is not always available from authorities.

UNHCR maintained email and phone 'hotlines' across the four countries for anyone in need of information

or consultation on refugee and asylum issues. People forced to flee can find key contacts and updated information about asylum procedures in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also on the HELP page of the UNHCR Central Asia website.

To collect additional information on specific protection needs and adjust programming accordingly, UNHCR conducted participatory assessments with refugees and stateless people in Kazakhstan and with IDPs in the Kyrgyz Republic. To foster open constructive discussions, focus groups were divided by gender, age, asylum status and country of origin as applicable. No participatory assessment could be conducted in Turkmenistan due to post-covid logistical restrictions or in Uzbekistan due to reservation of partners.

Mainstreaming refugee and stateless populations of all age, gender, and diversity groups into national development programmes to improve the social and economic status of people of concern continued successfully. UNHCR proactively participated in structures and teams in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, including the UNSDCFs, national strategies and plans, working groups (Human Rights, Gender and Youth) to ensure refugees, asylum seekers or stateless people are not 'left behind' in sustainable development. In all four countries, UNHCR will continue strengthening strategic partnerships, approaches, and programmes.

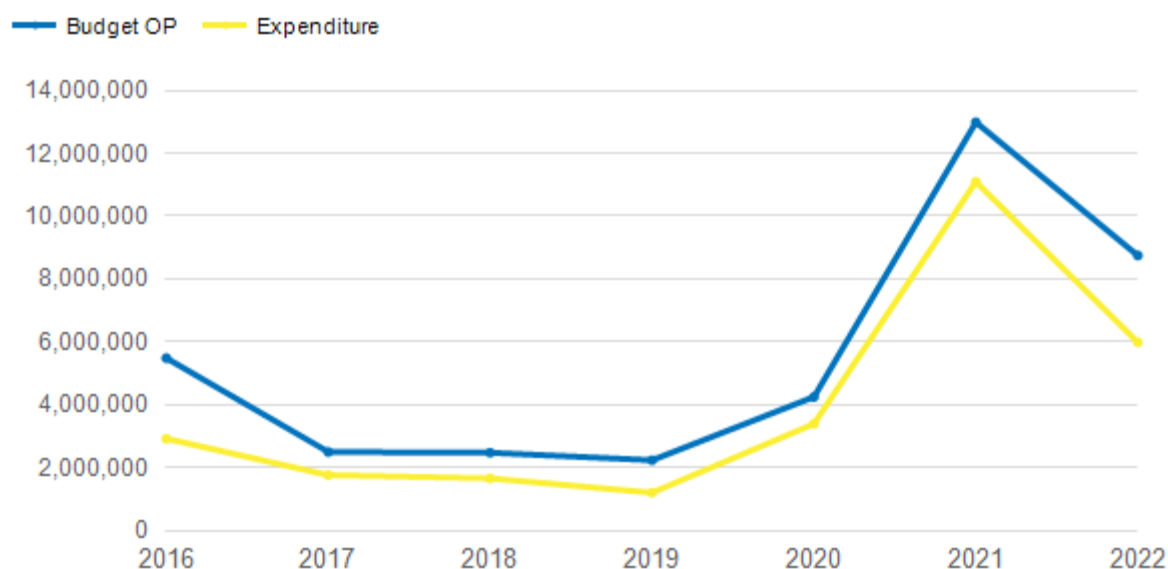
Section 3: Resources

3.1 Financial Data

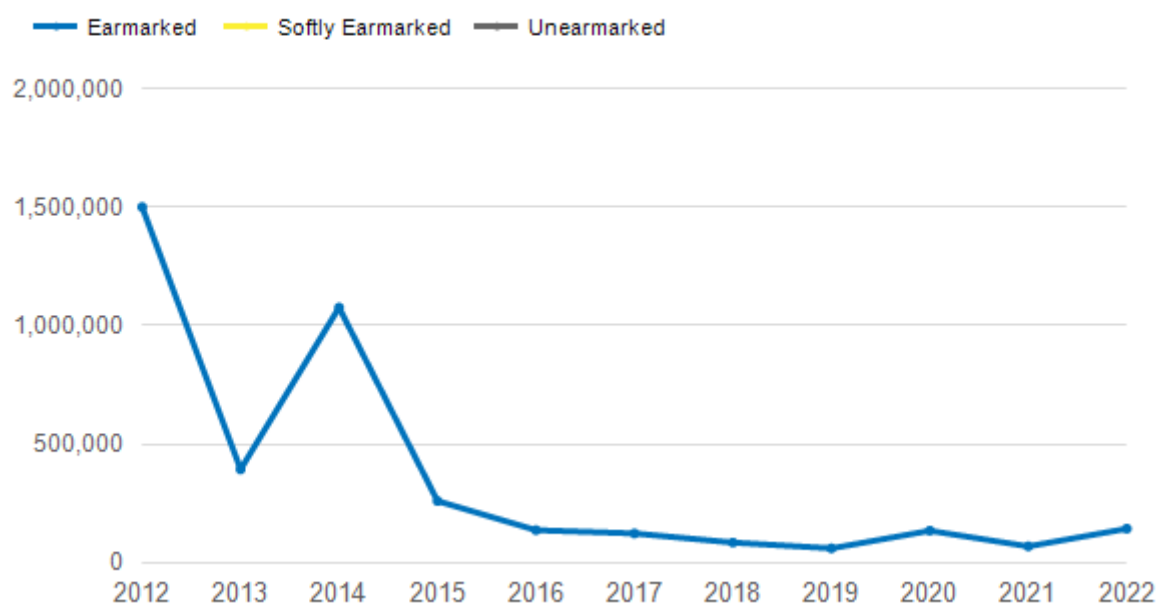
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	7,415,306	4,709,735	63.51%	4,700,643	99.81%
IA4: Solve	1,336,094	1,267,850	94.89%	1,290,774	101.81%
All Impact Areas		133,931	0.00%		0.00%
Total	8,751,400	6,111,515	69.83%	5,991,417	98.03%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	1,621,719	1,477,553	91.11%	1,491,746	100.96%
OA2: Status	5,027,365	2,378,125	47.30%	2,399,353	100.89%
OA3: Policy/Law	819,974	835,684	101.92%	848,387	101.52%
OA8: Well-being	697,403	622,585	89.27%	633,666	101.79%
OA13 Livelihood	132,350	100,596	76.01%	104,321	103.70%
OA16: Integrate	452,589	499,045	110.26%	513,944	102.99%
All Outcome Areas		197,927	0.00%		0.00%
Total	8,751,400	6,111,515	69.83%	5,991,417	98.03%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

At the end of 2022, the \$8.8 million budget for UNHCR's Kazakhstan Multi-Country Office was 70 per cent funded. Three quarters of the funding was provided by unearmarked or softly earmarked contributions. Funds were mostly utilized for livelihoods and income generating activities, to improve of status determination procedures, scale up the provision of legal counselling services, support advocacy interventions to harmonize the local frameworks in line with 1951 Convention and enhance the provision of cash assistance.

Following the August 2021 events in Afghanistan, the Multi-Country Office in Almaty received additional funding to enable UNHCR to scale up activities for Afghan citizens in Uzbekistan, including livelihoods interventions and dedicated hotline. In 2022, approximately 603 Afghan households (1,543 individuals) approached UNHCR in Uzbekistan. UNHCR provided general counselling, including information on how to request political asylum, mindful of the challenges. Of those who approached UNHCR, most reported issues relating to economic hardship, and lack of access to legal employment, medical services and rights.

With the escalation of violence on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in September 2022, UNHCR mobilised additional resources to be able to respond to the internal displacement emergency, provide legal counselling, essential relief items, and winterised shelter support, and coordinate the Protection Sector.

With flexible funding, UNHCR was able to quickly direct funds to where they are most needed. To better understand the protection needs and concerns of people forced to flee, and to collect, securely store, and strategically analyse data, UNHCR created and deployed protection monitoring tools for use by partners in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. The exercise involved the collection of non-personal data, including most urgent needs, identity document carried, family composition, and intentions (i.e. stay in Central Asia or move onwards). To deploy the tool, UNHCR delivered workshops and supplied technical equipment to implementing partners.



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