

Uzbekistan

Supporting authorities to **protect and assist forcibly displaced and stateless people**, ensuring access to due rights and services.

Coordinating and implementing activities, as a **non-resident agency**, in close collaboration with United Nations partners.

Prepositioning essential relief items in the UNHCR **Global Stockpile Termez**, supporting forced displacement emergencies globally.



Photo: UNHCR/ Elyor Nemat

Mukhamadjon, a former kickboxing champion, was stateless for 28 years in Uzbekistan. In 2020, Uzbekistan changed its Citizenship Law making thousands of stateless people eligible for citizenship. Now he's a citizen, guiding a new generation of martial artists.

Key Figures (as of 30 June 2024)



8,955*

Forcibly displaced people

5 recognised as refugees by UNHCR, and 8,950 in a refugee-like situation



22,496

Stateless people

registered by the government

* Based on government reports in mass media, UNHCR estimates there are 8,950 people in Uzbekistan in a refugee-like situation.



The UNHCR Representation to Central Asia implements activities in Uzbekistan. In 2025, UNHCR requires \$9.6 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As of 31 January 2025, the operations are 17% funded.

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Protecting People Forced to Flee

Uzbekistan has not acceded to the Refugee Convention and does not yet have a national asylum system. As such, forcibly displaced people in the country are not protected from being returned to danger, and have no access to socio-economic rights or services, including lawful employment, healthcare, or social protection.

Under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in 2018 and in 2023, Uzbekistan supported recommendations to ratify the Refugee Convention and its Protocol.

In support of the government's efforts, UNHCR commissioned an [Analytical Report which examines national legislation related to refugee issues](#) and provides recommendations and follow-up measures to guide future legislative changes and development of the national protection framework.

UNHCR advocates establishment of a Refugee Law and asylum system in line with international standards, allowing forcibly displaced people in the country to legalise their stay, and access basic human and socio-economic rights.

Working with Partners

Government partners in Uzbekistan include the National Human Rights Centre; Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, and Justice; Office of the Ombudsperson; the Lawyers' Training Center under the Ministry of Justice; and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

As a UN Country Team member, UNHCR engages with UN and development partners to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless people are not left behind in Uzbekistan's achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

At the December 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the UN Country Team in Uzbekistan – together with 49 other UN Country Teams around the world – contributed to the [UN Common Pledge 2.0](#), committing to support host countries' efforts to include refugees and stateless people in national systems, such as health and education, and to boost refugees' access to decent work.

With thanks to our donors

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UNHCR maintains email and phone 'hotlines' for anyone in need of information or consultation on refugee and asylum issues. People forced to flee can find key contacts and updated information on help.unhcr.org/centralasia.