

FACTSHEET:

National Office Kazakhstan



Photo: UNHCR/Elyor Nemat

Together with the government and NGO partners, UNHCR works to end statelessness and ensuring people with undetermined nationality like Nataliia, and her family, can receive identity documents, access socio-economic support, and contribute to the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

Supporting the Government to strengthen the **national asylum system** and ensure **fair and efficient asylum procedures**

Promoting national laws and practices that **protect** refugees and enable **access to due rights**, including **healthcare, education, and employment**

Working with authorities to **identify and protect** people without a nationality, and **reduce and prevent statelessness**

Key Figures* (as of 01 January 2025)



646

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

including from Afghanistan (320), Ukraine (244) and other countries.



7,866

known Stateless people

including 7,399 Stateless people registered by the Government, and 466 people with undetermined nationality registered by partners.

* Based on mass media reports, UNHCR estimates there may be up to 65,511 people in Kazakhstan in a 'refugee-like' situation who are outside their country of origin and face protection risks similar to those of refugees.

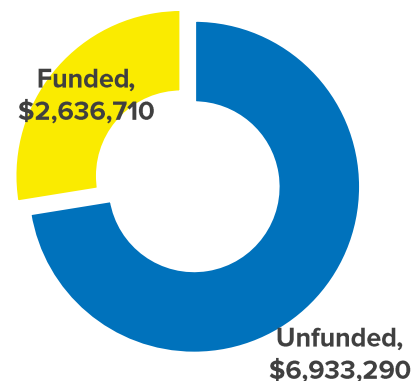
Kazakhstan is a State Party to the **1951 Refugee Convention** and its **1967 Protocol**, and has an established Refugee Law and national asylum procedures. Kazakhstan has not yet acceded to the **1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons** or the **1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**.

Reaffirming its commitment to protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people, authorities, academia, NGOs and the UN in Kazakhstan have made nine pledges to the objectives of the **Global Compact on Refugees**.

In 2024, Kazakhstan joined the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in adopting the **Ashgabat Declaration on Ending Statelessness in Central Asia**.

The UNHCR National Office Kazakhstan is based in Astana, and the UNHCR Representation to Central Asia is in Almaty.

The Kazakhstan operation is coordinated by the UNHCR Representation to Central Asia. 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 March 2025, the operations are 28% funded.



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Protecting and Securing Solutions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Most refugees have been living in Kazakhstan for years, or even decades. They speak local languages, and many have family ties with citizens. Issued only one-year residency permits however – and considered ‘temporary’ residents – they cannot access most socio-economic rights, including naturalisation.

UNHCR works with the government to strengthen asylum procedures and improve national legislation to ensure that all refugees have access to due rights and services – including legal employment, healthcare and local integration – and can contribute to the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

Together with its partners, UNHCR activities include:

- Providing [cash assistance](#) to support vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to meet their basic needs;
- Providing [legal and social assistance](#) for refugees and asylum-seekers, including ensuring feedback mechanisms;
- Conducting [trainings, seminars and workshops to strengthen the capacity](#) of State institutions, civil society, academia and other partners on Refugee Status Determination, and application of international refugee and human rights law;
- [Advocating alignment of national legislation with the Refugee Convention](#) and international standards, strengthening protection and facilitating local integration of forcibly displaced people.

Working with Partners

State partners include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, Justice, Healthcare, Labour and Social Protection of Population, and Education and Science, as well as the Supreme Court, akimats, Border Guards Service, Kazakhstan Commission on Human Rights, and the Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights.

UNHCR works in close partnership with civil society – including the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society, and the Legal Centre for Women's Initiatives Sana Sezim – and as well as academia and the private sector in Kazakhstan.

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

With thanks to our donors

UNHCR is grateful for contributions directly to the National Office Kazakhstan, as well as donors of unearmarked and flexible funding, including from: Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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.

Ending Statelessness

Without legal identity, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. Together with partners, UNHCR supports the government to identify and document people with undetermined nationality and to prevent statelessness from occurring.

With the support of UNHCR, Kazakhstan has made great progress in recent years, introducing Statelessness Determination Procedures, amending legislation to ensure all children are registered at birth and issued birth certificates – irrespective of their parents' legal status – and granting citizenship to more than 16,000 stateless people.

UNHCR promotes further alignment of national citizenship and statelessness laws with international standards, and advocates for Kazakhstan to accede to the [1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions](#).

Together with its partners, UNHCR activities include:

- Providing [legal counselling](#) to individuals to help them confirm or acquire nationality;
- Conducting [seminars and workshops to strengthen the capacity](#) of State institutions, civil society, academia and other partners on Statelessness Determination Procedures and application of international laws and standards;
- Supporting [establishment of safeguards](#) to reduce and prevent statelessness;
- [Building awareness and understanding](#) of the issue of statelessness.

