



COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Country: Tajikistan

Planning Year: 2004

Executive Committee Summary

Country Operations Plan 2004 : TAJIKISTAN

UNHCR commenced its operation in Tajikistan in January 1993, and to date has assisted some 600,000 internally displaced and 52, 970 Tajik refugees to return to their homes and reintegrate. Approximately 61,000 Tajik refugees still remain in other Central Asian countries. Tajikistan currently hosts 3,437 refugees, the vast majority of whom are Afghans and a small number of asylum seekers, again largely Afghans.

UNHCR Tajikistan's overall objectives in 2004 will be to conduct a re-registration of all refugees in Tajikistan to support the government and non-government entities in strengthen the national asylum system, promote voluntary repatriation (especially for refugees wishing to return to Afghanistan), complete the re-integration activities and – and in exceptional cases – facilitate resettlement.

UNHCR will support the government's efforts to strengthen their national asylum system, including amendments of the national refugee law in accordance with international standards. UNHCR will continue to encourage the Government's accession to the 1954 Convention on Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In close co-operation with the other stakeholders including international organisations and national interlocutors, UNHCR will support migration policies that meet the needs of refugee and asylum-seekers.

Resettlement will be pursued exceptionally as a durable solution for women at risk, medical, family reunion and other extremely vulnerable cases.

UNHCR's activities will be achieved by working closely with the Government of Tajikistan and at the same time enlisting the support of UN and international agencies. The existing excellent working relations established with UNTOP, OSCE, IFRC and other partners, including donor countries and embassies, will be maintained.

CONTEXT AND BENEFICIARY POPULATION

Name of Beneficiary Population: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees and Asylum-Seekers 	
Main Goal(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide international protection and appropriate durable solution • Capacity building of the Government and local NGOs 	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the asylum climate and restore the satisfactory protection situation that existed before 2000 • Ensure that the fundamental principles of the 1951 Convention are incorporated into domestic refugee legislation • Capacitate the authorities who directly/indirectly are dealing with refugees and asylum-seekers and local NGOs • Pursue durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum-seekers have free access to national registration and RSD procedures (men and women equally) • SMS issues valid documentation to asylum-seekers/refugees • Asylum-seekers/refugees are secured from (arbitrary) detention and deportation • Resolutions 323 and 325 are abolished • The national law on refugees is amended • Relevant national authorities and local NGOs received training on refugee law, RSD and international protection of refugees • Adequate implementation of the 1951 Convention and domestic refugee law by the SMS, MoI, MoS, border protection and other relevant authorities • Quality of RSD procedure carried out by SMS is improved • Appeal cases are dealt with by competent judges • SMS's refugee database and statistics are comprehensive and correct, and statistics is regularly shared with UNHCR • Refugees wishing to voluntarily repatriate are assisted to do so in safety and dignity • Refugees who meet the provisions of the law on Tajik citizenship are naturalized, including mixed (Afghan/Tajik) marriages • UNHCR encourages the Government to accede to the 1954 Convention on Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness • Resettlement to third countries for limited number of deserving cases has been explored • All refugees in need have equal access to UNHCR care and maintenance activities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide care and maintenance assistance to refugees • Pursue special needs of refugee/asylum-seeker women and children as and when necessary • Assist the Government in better identification of and proper response to the needs of asylum-seekers and refugees, including access to protection within the broader context of migration management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary assistance has been provided to vulnerable refugees • Self-reliance among women refugees/asylum-seekers is created • The situation of women refugees is constantly monitored and timely legal and necessary material assistance is provided • Women and children are protected from sexual violence • National border authorities received training on the nexus between asylum and migration • Better co-ordination between border authorities and SMS is ensured • Treatment of asylum-seekers and refugees at the state border crossing points conforms to international standards • Joint activities and co-ordination on the issue are maintained with UNHCR offices in the region, IOM, OSCE and other relevant international organisations.
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SELECTED PROGRAMME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Name of Beneficiary Population: Tajik Returnees	
Main Goal(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate Repatriation, Reintegration and Protection of Tajik Returnees 	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary repatriation of residual cases from Central Asian States. • Continue reintegration and income generation projects for returnees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution has been made towards further consolidation of peace. • Population returning has been sustained • Skill development and income generating opportunities have been created • Smooth assimilation into host communities has taken place • Better targeting ensured and duplication

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage development actors and other relevant institutions in joint planning, resource mobilization activities required for sustainable reintegration. • Design and implement strategies to facilitate disengagement from reintegration operation. • Monitor the protection and human rights situation of returnees 	<p>of assistance has been avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returnee area development included in the CCA/UNDAF and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper processes, as well as in national development plans. • Systematic phase-out of UNHCR involvement in integration activities achieved. • Protection incidents and violation of the basic human rights of returnees are prevented • Intervention with the Government on discrimination against minority groups and vulnerable has been made.
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