



HIGHLIGHTS

Statelessness

UNHCR aims to eliminate statelessness in Kazakhstan by 2024.

Access to Asylum

Establishment of a well-functioning referral mechanism and amendment of the national legislation related to asylum in line with international standards

Refugee Solutions

Enhanced self-reliance, access to health and education services to benefit refugees who integrate locally or choose to repatriate

Population of concern

A total of **8,714** people of concern
(as of 31 December 2015)

Refugee population by country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	646
China	9
Uzbekistan	26
Syria	21
Others	6
Total	708

Asylum-seeker population by country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	41
Syria	16
Ukraine	18
Others	22
Total	97

Total stateless population
7909*

*6876 - officially recognized stateless persons by the Government of Kazakhstan;
1033 – persons with undetermined nationality registered by UNHCR Partner.

Funding

USD 7 Million requested

USD 302,003 contributions

4% funded

UNHCR presence

Staff:

14 national staff
1 international staff

Offices:

2 offices located in:
Almaty and Astana city



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Government. UNHCR works with different governmental institutions on refugee protection and statelessness in Kazakhstan. The main interlocutors are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs (including the Migration Police Department and its territorial branches), General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ministry of Education, Border Guards Service of the National Security Committee, National Commission on Women's Affairs under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan Commission on Human Rights under the President of the Republic, and the Office of the Ombudsman.
- Partners. UNHCR works in close partnership with three organizations: Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law (BHR), Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society (KRCS), International Association of Social Projects (IASP). UNHCR partners provide legal counseling, medical and financial assistance, facilitate local integration by ensuring access to education, employment and self-reliance opportunities.
- Other counterparts. UNHCR cooperates in the areas of mutual interest with IOM, OSCE, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Legal advocacy. UNHCR advocates with the various agencies of the Government for the improvement of national legislation and related bylaws on refugee status determination. UNHCR advocates for adjusting the national legislation on asylum and refugee-related matters to ensure compliance with international standards and norms.
- Capacity building. UNHCR conducted RSD training for 16 State officials dealing with asylum issues. A capacity building exercise on RSD standards was conducted for 20 lawyers of local NGO. The office has been providing on a regular basis UNHCR updates on the situation in the countries of origin of the asylum-seekers. UNHCR participated and provided its expert advice on Refugee Status Determination (RSD) issues in the RSD commissions conducted by the Migration Police in various locations of Kazakhstan. The Office facilitated several sessions during the Workshop on Migration organized by the Government for 18 officials of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of Kazakhstan. The sessions covered topics related to Almaty Process and mixed migration in Central Asia and situation of refugees and stateless persons in Kazakhstan.
- Border monitoring and referral mechanism. UNHCR and its legal partner conducted border monitoring missions to four border crossing points with China, Russia and Uzbekistan, with the aim of observing admission practices at border entry points. As part of the border monitoring, UNHCR conducted awareness raising sessions for border guards on protection standards, identification, referral and reception mechanisms. UNHCR conducted the Protection Network meetings in Shymkent and Uralsk cities aimed at creation of an informal dialogue platform between various institutions in order to establish a referral system for different categories of persons, including asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons, victims of human trafficking, women and children at risk, to the competent State agencies for protection.

Statelessness. The Office shared with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice a draft National Action Plan with a suggestion to improve current situation related to statelessness. The draft Plan envisages UNHCR recommendations on revision of national legislation, accession to the statelessness conventions and improving data on stateless persons. UNHCR aims to eliminate statelessness in Kazakhstan by 2024. The Office presented the second edition of the publication "Nationality and Statelessness", jointly published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNHCR to members of the Parliament and Government. During the event, hosted by the Senate of Kazakhstan, UNHCR raised issues of concern related to statelessness in the country with the members of the Parliament and called for the revision of national legislation to exclude provisions that might lead to statelessness. As part of the awareness sessions on statelessness issues, the Office provided several interviews to mass media with national and regional coverage.

Within the Seeds for Solution project budget, in 2015, the Office extended the coverage of the free legal assistance provided to stateless persons and presently UNHCR legal partner operates in each region of Kazakhstan. A Working Group for Revision of the national legislation has been created under the auspices of Mangystau Region Administration. The Working Group has started its work to identify gaps in the national legislation pertaining to nationality and is in process of developing recommendations for improvement.

- Emergency Preparedness. The Office facilitated participation of two officials of the Migration Police Department in the Collective Security Treaty Organization meeting where issues of mass influx of forced migrants in the emergency situations and

reception conditions were discussed. UNHCR facilitated participation of two partner staff in the workshop on Basics of International Humanitarian Response.

Education

- A preparatory school for 6-7 year-old refugee and asylum-seeker children was organized during summer 2015 aimed at facilitating the integration and socialization of refugee and asylum seeking children and their entering the primary school. Russian and English language classes were provided to refugee and asylum seeking children and adults.

Health

- As a result of UNHCR advocacy for the improvement of national legislation in the area of healthcare for refugees and asylum-seekers, the Ministry of Health adopted a new Decree to the Health Code in June 2015 that provides free access to healthcare for refugees and asylum-seekers on a par with citizens.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Since January 2015, around 250 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers from 10 countries were provided with cash assistance.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR's partner Kazakh Red Crescent Society successfully secured funding from National Committee of Red Crescent Society to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with clothing amounting to US\$ 600 and household items amounting to US\$ 500.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- 13 vulnerable refugee families received Mini-grants for purposes of improving their economic and social well-being and increasing their self-reliance. Priority was given to female headed households to empower them to take an active role in improving their social, economic and financial well-being.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR Kazakhstan continued its efforts pursuing local integration for the majority of refugees. Voluntary repatriation prospects for refugees in Kazakhstan continue to be generally constrained by risks of persecution and/or instability and violence in their countries of origin. Since 1 January 2015, the Office has not received any requests for voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [|Kazakhstan|](#)

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