



HIGHLIGHTS

Statelessness

UNHCR aims to eliminate statelessness in Kazakhstan by 2024.

250 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with cash assistance

36 Government officials and **22** NGOs staff participated in various UNHCR capacity building exercises

Population of concern

A total of **7,849** people of concern
(as of 30 June 2015)

Refugee population by country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	593
China	9
Uzbekistan	27
Syria	25
Others	8
Total	662

Asylum-seeker population by country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	78
Syria	21
Ukraine	27
Others	23
Total	149

Total stateless population 7,038

Funding

USD 7 Million requested

USD 208,484 contributions

3% funded

UNHCR presence

Staff: **Offices:**

16 national staff **2** offices located in:
2 international staff **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. By the end of first half of 2015, 687 stateless persons were provided with various types of legal assistance under existing procedures for the confirmation and acquisition of Kazakh nationality and obtaining statelessness status. In 2015, the Office started work to facilitate the payment of embassy fees for persons with undetermined nationality. In the first half of 2015, 30 persons with undetermined nationality have obtained the required documents from the embassies to process their applications under the relevant State determination procedures.

- 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 56 refugee children and 34 refugee women and men.

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, while resettlement is considered for the most vulnerable refugees who meet the resettlement criteria. 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|](#)

Contacts:

Zhanna Dossova, Assistant Communication/PI Officer, dossova@unhcr.org, Tel: +7 727 258 4598, ext. 2102

www.unhcr.kz