



CENTRAL ASIA

FACTSHEET

September 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

Mixed Migration

Senior Officials meeting for Almaty Process is scheduled for November, and new Chair of the Almaty Process is appointed.

Statelessness

786 persons naturalized in Turkmenistan during the International Conference on Migration and Statelessness. Successful implementation of the *Seeds for Solutions* initiative.

A total of 36,910 people of concern

By country in the region

Country	Total PoC
Kazakhstan	7,651
Kyrgyzstan	16,091
Tajikistan	5,617
Turkmenistan	7, 551
Total	36,910

USD 16,680,101 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

- 10 national staff
- 5 international staff

Offices:

Regional Office for Central Asia located in Almaty, Kazakhstan



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

A common interest of UN and other agencies working in Central Asia from the regional perspective is the complex population flows towards, within and out of the region and their impact on economic development, security, health and other fields. UNHCR collaborates with the following actors to advocate for keeping asylum space open: in addition to concerned governments, UNHCR works with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, OSCE, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, EU, IOM, UNDSS, UNAIDS, OHCHR, OIC, CICA, World Bank, ACTED, Asian Development Bank, ICRC, WFP, and others in the region. UNHCR closely cooperates with the NGOs partners in each country as well as with media and civil society.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- The Regional Office (RO) assists UNHCR offices in the region to complete analysis of the data on persons of concern. This allows for designing
 more targeted interventions for all persons of concern, including those with specific needs and disabilities.
- The self study phase of the 2014 Refugee Status Determination Distance Learning Program (DLP) was completed in August by participants, including governmental officials. The Regional Office is planning to conduct a workshop and study tour for participants who completed the DLP, in Minsk in October 2014.
- UNHCR Central Asia collaborates with the OSCE and other training institutions in order to include asylum issues in border and security
 management. It is aimed at increasing the refugee content in trainings, and building capacity on protection-sensitive border management.

Mixed Migration

- UNHCR in Central Asia supports governments with the implementation of the 10 Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration, focusing on data collection and analysis, protection-sensitive entry systems, reception arrangements, mechanisms for profiling and referral, and differentiated processes and procedures.
- The Government of Kazakhstan, Chair of the Almaty Process, UNHCR and IOM agreed on the theme for the first meeting of the Almaty Process Senior Officials (SOM) to be held in November 2014: 'Mixed Migration Movements from Afghanistan Post-2014'.
- The Vice Minister of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan was appointed as the new Chairperson of the Almaty Process.

Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness

- Statelessness remains one of the key areas of concern for UNHCR in Central Asia. Many of those who are stateless today have been in this situation for decades. There are a reported 28,359 stateless people in the region in 2014; however it is believed that the number is considerably higher than this. Significant momentum has been built in the region to tackle statelessness, with numerous law and policy reform initiatives, group and individual naturalizations, and accessions to the two statelessness Conventions.
- RO in collaboration with IOM assisted the Government of Turkmenistan in organizing the International Conference on Migration and Statelessness held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on the 23-24 June 2014. The event brought together all the states in the region, and those further afield. The conference was a platform to discuss good practices in resolving and preventing statelessness, as well as providing some elements of the regional agenda for the future. During the conference the Government of Turkmenistan held a citizenship ceremony, during which 786 stateless persons were granted Turkmen nationality.
- The 'Seed for Solutions' initiatives that is taking place in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, builds on the momentum to eradicate statelessness in the region. This initiative seeks to find durable solutions to statelessness, or where this is not immediately possible, the foundations for these solutions will be laid.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

• A regional strategy for community-based protection for 2014-2015 is being developed to ensure that protection of people of concern in the region is firmly grounded in the communities.

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 following donors who have directly contributed to the sub-regional operations:

Kazakhstan | Russia | Turkmenistan | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United States of America

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