

UNHCR Turkmenistan

Fact Sheet | February 2012
Asia-Pacific Field Update

Operational objectives

- Stateless persons are identified and their basic rights are safeguarded, statelessness is prevented and reduced
- Citizenship legislation revised to meet international standards.
- Turkmenistan accedes to the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness.
- The Government is capacitated to carry out quality refugee status determination
- Amendments to the national refugee law are brought fully in line with international standards.
- Respect and support by government officials and civil society towards refugees and stateless persons is increased
- Update and effective UNHCR contingency plan is in place.

Persons of concern

Population	Total Number
Refugees	59
Asylum Seekers	0
Stateless	11,000*

* Approx. figure, based on unofficial information from the State Migration Service. The number represents "persons with undetermined nationality", many of who are still in the process of confirming their (non)nationality.

Legal and institutional framework

Convention	Dates of Accession
1951 Refugee Convention	12 June 1997
1967 Protocol	12 June 1997
1954 Statelessness	07 December 2011
1961 Statelessness	-
ICCPR	20 December 1996
ICESCR	20 December 1996
CAT	30 April 1999
CEDAW	20 December 1996
CRC	23 September 1994
Who does refugee status determination?	Government

Summary of resettlement

Country	Submissions	Departures
Canada	7	N/A
USA	9	N/A
via HQs	7	N/A
France	5	N/A

Working with partners

UNHCR works with the Government and civil society in providing protection and support to persons of concern.

Implementing Partners

NGOs – National NGO "Keik Okara"

Operational Partners

Government – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Migration Service of Turkmenistan, Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Parliament, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, State Border Guards Service, Ministry of Healthcare, local authorities.

Others – UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, OSCE, EU "Europe House", UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

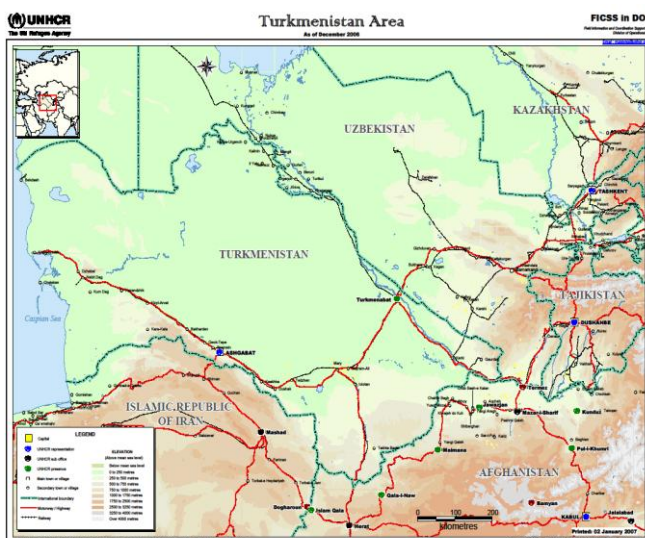
Recent operational activities and highlights

- On 7 December 2010, the Turkmenistan Government expressed its consent to implementation of the Action Plan for Joint Activities on Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in Turkmenistan through identification and registration of stateless persons and persons at risk of being stateless.

The Action Plan envisages reviewing the opportunity for accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and aims at revising and amending the legal framework in line with international standards.

- US Government earmarked funds have been used in the implementation of the Action Plan for Joint Activities on Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in Turkmenistan.
- The Government and UNHCR carried out a registration of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness in the country in the period of 6 May – 30 June 2011. During the registration exercise, some 8,000 undocumented persons aged 18 and above were registered. On 8 July 2011, 1,590 stateless persons were granted Turkmenistan citizenship. This is the first group of undocumented persons to benefit from the joint statelessness registration exercise, the remaining applications are being processed for citizenship/residence permits.
- On 25 October 2011, the President of Turkmenistan signed a decree granting citizenship to 1,728 stateless persons (18 and above years of age) residing in the country. This is the second citizenship decree adopted by the Turkmen Government as a follow-up to the statelessness registration campaign carried out by government agencies with support of UNHCR in 2007-2010. The rest of citizenship applications are in the process of finalization.
- By the end of 2011 a total of 3,318 stateless individuals were granted Turkmenistan citizenship. Citizhips were granted by Presidential Decrees as a result of follow-up to the statelessness registration campaign carried out by government agencies with the support of UNHCR in 2007-2010. The Government and UNHCR carried out further registration of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness in the country in the period of 6 May – 30 June 2011. During the registration exercise, some 8,000 undocumented persons aged 18 and above were registered. The remaining applications are being processed for citizenship/residence permits.
- On 7 December 2011 at the UNHCR Ministerial Conference in Geneva Turkmenistan deposited its instruments of accession to the 1954 Statelessness Convention. This made Turkmenistan the first country in Central Asia to accede to this Convention.
- On 29 December 2011 the Turkmenistan Government informed UNHCR that Turkmenistan will consider a possibility of granting residence permits to UNHCR Mandate refugees residing in the country.
- UNHCR in Turkmenistan also closely cooperates with the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation in preparing the Ministerial Conference in the Situation of Refugees in the Muslim world which will be hosted in Ashgabat in May 2012.
- On 27 April 2011 Turkmenistan was elected as a new member of ExCom, becoming the first country in Central Asia to join the ExCom

UNHCR Presence



Offices comprise: Representation in Ashgabat

Staff comprise: National staff (3) and International staff (1). Total: 4 persons

2012 Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Population Group	Budget in USD
PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	549,017
PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	1,045,767
TOTAL BUDGET	1,594,784

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