



## HIGHLIGHTS

**17,900**

stateless persons granted Turkmenistan citizenship during 2005-2014

**29 August 2012**

deposited the instrument of accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

**7 December 2011**

acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons

**ID and Travel documents**

for refugees and stateless persons compliant with ICAO standards are produced.

### Population of concern

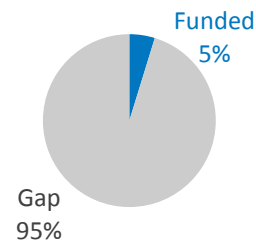
A total of **7,551** people of concern

#### By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Afghanistan	19
Azerbaijan	15
Russian Federation	1
Stateless/Undetermined nationality	7,516*
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,551</b>

### Funding

**USD 859,383** requested



\* Approximate figure, not confirmed by government agencies.  
The number represents stateless and persons with undetermined nationality.

### UNHCR Presence

#### Staff:

4 national staff  
0 international staff

#### Offices:

1 office located in Ashgabat



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works with government agencies and civil society in providing protection and support to persons of concern. Key operational partners include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Migration Service, Parliament, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Border Guards Service, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Justice, Institute of Democracy and Human Rights and national NGOs. UNHCR also closely cooperates with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNODC, OSCE, UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and diplomatic missions.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Statelessness

- On 23-24 June 2014, Turkmenistan hosted and co-organized jointly with UNHCR and IOM the 'International Conference on Migration and Statelessness: Identifying challenges and way forward'. The Conference focused on identifying best practices for addressing situations of statelessness and for improving migration management in Central Asia and globally.
- In the period of 2011-June 2014 the Government of Turkmenistan granted citizenship to 4,713 stateless persons. The remaining 7,516 persons are pending decisions with the Executive Office for citizenship/residence permit.
- In June 2014, Turkmenistan shared with UNHCR, other UN agencies and diplomatic missions samples of ID and Travel documents for refugees and stateless persons compliant with ICAO standards. Further, in accordance with the amendments to the 2012 Law on Migration, enacted as of June 2014, the ID and Travel documents are issued to refugees free of charge; and to stateless persons for a minimum fee.
- On 22 June 2013, Turkmenistan Parliament adopted the new Law on Citizenship, which entered into force on 03 July 2013. The Law incorporated most of the UNHCR suggested recommendations for improvement, bringing it to closer compliance with international standards for the prevention of statelessness.
- On 29 August 2012, Turkmenistan deposited the instrument of accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and became the 46th State Party to the 1961 Convention. This made Turkmenistan the first country in Central Asia to accede to both Statelessness Conventions.
- On 7 December 2011, at the UNHCR Ministerial Conference in Geneva, Turkmenistan deposited its instruments of accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
- In August 2005, as a consequence of the joint UNHCR/Government registration exercise of *prima facie* refugees from Tajikistan and Afghanistan, the Government granted citizenship and residence permit to some 16,000 refugees and stateless persons.

### Asylum system and refugee protection

- On the eve of the International Conference on Migration and Statelessness held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 23-24 June 2014, the Government of Turkmenistan granted citizenship to eight 'mandate refugees'. Since the opening of the UNHCR Office in 1995, this is the first occasion when 'mandate refugees' were granted Turkmenistan citizenship.
- On 27 April 2011, Turkmenistan was elected as a member of the UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom), becoming the first country in Central Asia to be an ExCom member.

### Emergency preparedness and response

- The joint UNHCR/Turkmenistan Working Group is engaged in developing a Contingency Plan focusing on possible refugee movements from Afghanistan.
- In March 2013, UNHCR together with the Embassy of Turkey in Ashgabat organized and co-funded a study visit of 15 high-level Turkmenistan government officials to Turkey, to learn by experience on how to accommodate, register and provide assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees in situations of mass influx.

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 operation:

| [Turkmenistan](#) |

#### Contacts:

Batyr Sapbiyev, Associate Protection Officer, [sapbiyev@unhcr.org](mailto:sapbiyev@unhcr.org), Tel: +993 12 42 56 87, Cell +993 65 85 7737.