

# UNHCR Turkmenistan

Fact Sheet | September 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.
- Procedure to determine status of stateless persons is developed.
- 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
- Emergency preparedness and response capacity of government agencies through technical assistance and training is increased.

## Persons of concern

Population	Total Number	Assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	57	57
Asylum Seekers	0	0
Stateless	11,000*	11,000

\* Approx. figure, not confirmed by government agencies. 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	29 August 2012
ICCPR	20 December 1996
ICESCR	20 December 1996
CAT	30 April 1999
CEDAW	20 December 1996
CRC	23 September 1994
<b>Who does refugee status determination?</b>	Government

## Summary of resettlement

Country	Submissions	Departures
Canada	7	1 departed on 29 August 2012
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

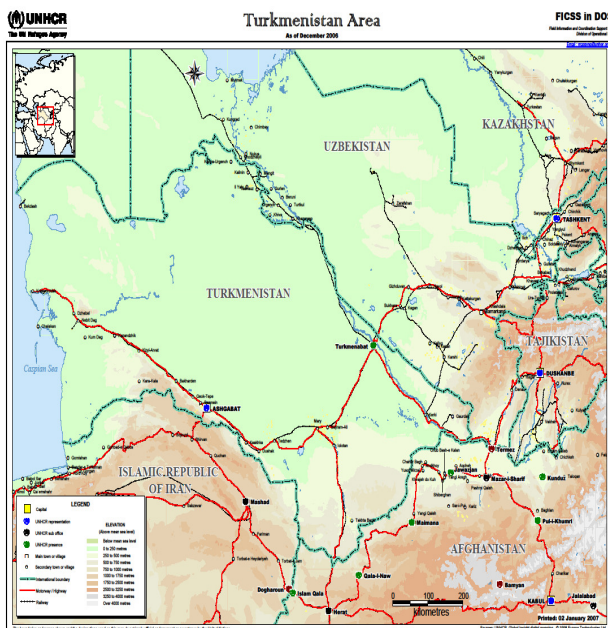
Government – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Migration Service of Turkmenistan, Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, Parliament, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, State Border Guards Service, Ministry of Healthcare, local authorities.

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 4 August 2012 the Parliament of Turkmenistan adopted the Regulation on Acceding to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. On 29 August 2012, Turkmenistan deposited the instrument of accession, and Turkmenistan becomes 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 mid 2011 UNHCR jointly with relevant government agencies carried out a country-wide registration of persons with undetermined nationality aiming at assisting the undocumented persons with finding a durable solution to the plight. By the end of 2011 a total of 3,318 stateless individuals were granted Turkmenistan citizenship. The rest of citizenship applications are in the process of finalization.
- On 11-12 May 2012 Turkmenistan jointly with the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and UNHCR hosted a Ministerial Conference on Refugees in the Muslim World which resulted with adoption of the Ashgabat Declaration.
- On 27 April 2011 Turkmenistan was elected as a new member of ExCom, becoming the first country in Central Asia to join the ExCom.
- On 4 August 2012, the Parliament adopted a new Law on Refugees, which entered into force on 11 August 2012. The new Law is not fully in line with international refugee law and the Office continues its efforts to align the Law with international standards.
- 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 Presence



**Offices comprise:** Representation in Ashgabat

**Staff comprise:** National staff (4) and International staff (1). Total: 5 persons

## 2012 Comprehensive Needs Assistance

Population Group	Budget in USD
PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	549,017
PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	1,245,767
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,794,784</b>

## Contact Information

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