



HIGHLIGHTS

Statelessness

Over 24,000 persons with undetermined nationality/ stateless persons registered from late 2014 to date.

Emergency Preparedness

Strengthened inter-agency emergency response capacity for refugee influx from Afghanistan

Access to Asylum

Development of border management safeguards, and technical support to national asylum system

Refugee Solutions

Enhanced self-reliance, access to health and education services to benefit refugees who integrate locally or choose to repatriate

Population of concern

A total of **20,903** persons of concern

By country of origin	Total PoCs
Afghanistan	2,414
Ukraine	2
Iraq	2
Iran	4
Pakistan	8
Uzbekistan	2
Stateless/those at risk	17,009
Asylum seekers	1462*
Total	20,903

Funding

USD 2.33 Million requested

USD 1.51 Million received

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

- 8 national staff
- 3 international staff
- 5 affiliated work force

Offices:

- 1 office located in Dushanbe

UNHCR Partners

- Executive Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Department for Citizenship and Works with Refugees (DCWR) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Health and Labor;
- Ombudsman's Office;
- EU, OSCE, UN sister agencies, ICRC, IOM, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and its humanitarian arm, diplomatic missions and their respective development and humanitarian agencies
- NGOs and civil society actors, including Chashma, Consortium of Initiatives, Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC), and Right and Prosperity (R&P).



* Registered by UNHCR's legal NGO partner throughout 2016

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Addressing Statelessness

- Statelessness in Tajikistan primarily arises as a by-product of the dissolution of the former Soviet Union; migration, including in the context of the civil war and mixed marriages; gaps in nationality legislation, and; policy or administrative obstacles preventing the acquisition or confirmation of nationality.
- In July 2014, UNHCR, the Government of Tajikistan and civil society partners launched a national project to address statelessness in the Republic of Tajikistan. As of 31 December 2016, nearly 24,279 persons with undetermined nationality have been registered in three target regions; 9,096 people submitted their applications to confirm nationality and over 8,039 people have had their nationality confirmed.
- UNHCR continues promoting reforms to the *Constitutional Law on Nationality*. The Law signed by the President of Tajikistan on 8 August 2015, contains favorable improvements to prevent and reduce statelessness. The Government has developed relevant regulations-pending final review and endorsement- to facilitate implementation of the said Law.
- To resolve the situation of stateless persons and people of undetermined nationality who potentially face administrative penalties and criminal sanctions, the Government, with UNHCR's technical support drafted an Amnesty Law through the *Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Nationality/Statelessness*.
- Pursuant to a series of sustained activities supported by UNHCR; analyzing compatibility of national legislation with the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions and possible financial and legal impacts of the accession, the Government of Tajikistan is now considering accession to Statelessness Conventions.

Strengthening the National Asylum System and Solutions for Refugees

- The Republic of Tajikistan has ratified the 1951 Convention and developed national legislation which generally comports with international standards, although certain areas in implementation requiring strengthening. UNHCR is engaged in advocacy, technical support and capacity-building activities with Government stakeholders, including on the development of Regulations on Refugee Certificates, Travel Documents and the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Commission, following the recent amendments to the National Refugee Law.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen its collaboration with the National Border Guards, amongst others through development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Referrals of Asylum Seekers at the Border was established by the Government to draw up Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) on Referral Mechanisms at the Border and ensure access to the territory and the asylum procedure, in line with international standards.
- In line with established benchmarks on asylum and integration, UNHCR works with the Government of Tajikistan, to strengthen the quality of the asylum procedure and the overall protection environment. UNHCR hopes to eventually draw down conducting refugee status determination (RSD) under its mandate, while ensuring all persons of concern have access to the asylum procedures and protection from *refoulement*.
- UNHCR, the Government, UN and NGO partners work closely to promote refugee self-reliance with focus on skills trainings, job placement and small business initiatives as well as ensuring access to basic services such as education and health. UNHCR and its partners provide legal, protection and material assistance for at-risk cases, collaborating with UNDP legal clinics, so that persons of concern can access free legal counselling.
- The Tajikistan Operation is also engaged in developing creative approaches to solutions for the refugee caseload, which contemplate community-based development initiatives that target both refugees and local populations, thus promoting peaceful co-existence and facilitating local integration.

Preparedness for Forced Displacement

- Sitting at the crossroads between Afghanistan and the Fergana Valley of Central Asia – with ongoing conflict and unrest in the Northeastern region of Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan — the Office continues to strengthen its engagement with Government, UN sister agencies, international organizations and NGO partners on emergency preparedness.
- UNHCR places particular priority on promoting access to asylum and territory — including at the border — and the promotion of safeguards and referral systems for persons in need of international protection.

UNHCR has provided technical support to the Government to develop a national contingency plan for refugee influxes, with focus on Afghanistan. UNHCR's work in the preparedness context is characterized by close inter-agency collaboration, including updating the Refugee Contingency Plan an inter-agency refugee influx strategy consolidating resources of the key UN and NGO partners who complement and reinforce Government preparedness.

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