

# CENTRAL ASIA

August 2019

UNHCR supports the efforts of Central Asian States **to enhance national asylum systems and to prevent and eradicate statelessness** in the region.

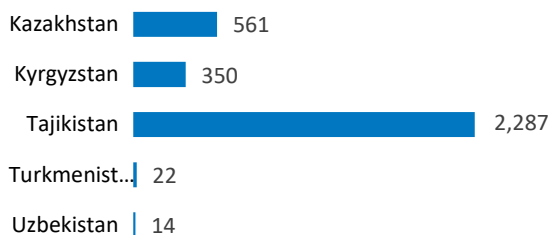
UNHCR assists states in amending national legislation **to have effective asylum procedures and to facilitate birth registration** of all children in the region.

UNHCR works closely with the Governments **to ensure lawful stay and self-reliance of Persons of Concern** in Central Asia.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN (as of July 2019)

A total of **103,956** persons of concern

### Refugee population by country of asylum



**Asylum Seekers** 2,483

**Stateless Persons** 98,238\*

**Others of concern** 1

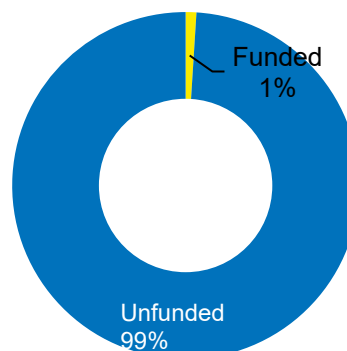
\*The number includes 77 870 stateless persons in

## FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 2019 )

**USD 8,676,147**

requested for the Central Asian situation

**USD 122,205** funded



## UNHCR PRESENCE

Total number of staff:

31 national staff

8 international staff

### Offices:

**Regional Representation** for

Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan

**National Office** in Astana,

Kazakhstan

**National Office** in Bishkek,

Kyrgyzstan

**Country Office** in Dushanbe,

Tajikistan



## Working with Partners

- Working with partners is an integral part of UNHCR's strategy in Central Asia. UNHCR collaborates with an array of national and international partners in order to warrant access to asylum, increase protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers as well as to address statelessness in Central Asia.
- UNHCR's main government counterparts include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Internal Affairs and Justice, the State Migration authorities, the State Civil Registry System, the State Committee of National Security, the Border Guards, and the Office of the Ombudsman, in each country.
- UNHCR closely cooperates with community-based organisations and non-governmental organizations which provide direct assistance and guidance to the newly arrived persons who seek protection in Central Asia. The academia and the judiciary are key partners for UNHCR. Building technical capacity of advocates, judges and state officials involved in the asylum system will strengthen application of refugee protection in line with the international standards.
- As a part of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), UNHCR coordinates with other United Nations agencies and international actors for contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Main Activities

### Protection and Solutions for Refugees

- UNHCR supports the efforts of Central Asian countries to develop and refine the national asylum systems as well as to achieve solutions for refugees, with an increasing focus on self-reliance of refugees and the States' responsibility for protecting refugees and asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR continues to explore solutions for mandate refugees, who are in protracted refugee situation, through alternative pathways to identify their local integration potentials in close consultation with the authorities.
- Regional harmonisation of assistance schemes and vulnerability criteria, in line with UNHCR's policies on community-based protection and cash-based interventions, is being implemented.

### Refugee Protection in the Context of Mixed Migration

- The Member States of the "Almaty Process<sup>1</sup> on Refugee Protection and International Migration" are committed to enhancing regional cooperation, exchanging information and experiences in the management of mixed migratory flows. The Almaty Process is the only inter-governmental consultative platform for refugee protection and migration that focuses on Central Asia. The secretariat support is provided by UNHCR and IOM in partnership with the rotating Chairmanship served by a Member State. Current Chair of the Almaty Process is Tajikistan.

### Addressing Statelessness

- Over 67,000 people have been identified as stateless in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan between 2014 and 2018 as a result of joint outreach campaign conducted by the respective Governments and UNHCR with the support of NGO

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<sup>1</sup> Member States are the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Turkey, and Turkmenistan. Observer States are the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

partners. The majority of them have had their statelessness situations resolved by end-2018 through citizenship confirmation or acquisition.

- In addition, over 8,800 people who had been officially recognized as such by Turkmenistan were granted Turkmen citizenship between 2011 and 2018.
- UNHCR's statelessness activities directly contributes to the governments' effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): By 2030, Provide Legal Identity for All, Including Birth Registration (Goal 16). In collaboration with other actors such as UNICEF and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNHCR advocates for legal and policy reforms to ensure that all children receive birth certificate immediately after their birth irrespective of their parents' legal status
- In 2010, the Government of Uzbekistan reported 86,703 stateless persons with permanent residence. A total of 1,243 persons have been granted nationality since December 2016.

### **Preparedness for Forced Displacement**

Central Asia has experienced forced displacement in the past (i.e. Fergana Valley) and a number of Central Asian countries have common borders with Afghanistan where conditions remain volatile. UNHCR actively contributes technical support to the governments and coordinates with UN sister agencies, international organizations and NGO partners for emergency preparedness and response.

## **Financial Information**

UNHCR is grateful for the essential support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

### **UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS<sup>1</sup> | USD**

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 90.4 million | Denmark 54.9 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 27.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Algeria | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

## External/Donor Relations

### CONTACTS

**Yasuko Oda**, Regional Representative/Regional Coordinator of UNHCR for Central Asia  
[oda@unhcr.org](mailto:oda@unhcr.org), Tel: +7 727 258 45 98

**Alexandra Kruglova**, Senior Liaison Associate, UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Asia  
[kruglova@unhcr.org](mailto:kruglova@unhcr.org), Tel: +7 727 258 45 98, Cell: +7 701 951 2344

### LINKS

[www.unhcr.kz](http://www.unhcr.kz) – <http://unhcr.kz/eng/central-asia>

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<sup>i</sup> The total amount of unearmarked contributions is shown for donors who have contributed \$10 million and more.