



# **COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN**

**Country: Uzbekistan**

**Planning Year: 2004**

## Executive Committee Summary

### Country Operations Plan 2004 : UZBEKISTAN

The Republic of Uzbekistan is the only country in Central Asia which has yet to sign international refugee instruments and adopt national asylum legislation. Nevertheless, UNHCR is encouraged by the informal agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan (RoU) and UNHCR in August 1999, wherein the Government agreed not to detain, arrest or refoul refugees recognised by UNHCR.

UNHCR's objectives and role will not change significantly in 2004. It will continue to provide international protection and durable solutions to refugees, and render logistic support to the UNHCR operations in Northern Afghanistan and other offices in Central Asia.

UNHCR is the primary actor with regard to refugee protection and identification of durable solutions. UNHCR directly conducts RSD, intervenes in individual cases, and organises voluntary repatriation as well as resettlement. UNHCR Uzbekistan also supports other UNHCR offices in the CIS in the implementation of their voluntary repatriation programmes for Afghan refugees. Afghan refugees returning from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, the Ukraine and other CIS countries will transit through Uzbekistan and will be assisted by UNHCR's offices in Tashkent and Termez.

#### Selected Programme Goals and Objectives

| <b>Name of Beneficiary Population #1: Afghan Mandate Refugees.</b>   |   |
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| Main Goal:<br>Provide international protection including RSD until an appropriate asylum system is established in Uzbekistan.                    |   |
| <b>Principal Objectives</b>  | <b>Related Outputs</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide RSD to all asylum seekers in accordance with UNHCR standards.</li></ul>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free access of asylum seekers to RSD is ensured.</li><li>• Appeal possibility is granted to rejected cases.</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide International Protection to mandate and prima facie Afghan refugees;</li></ul>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The "gentlemen's agreement" with Ministry of Foreign Affairs holds and increasingly respected by law enforcement bodies.</li><li>• Mandate refugees benefit from the International Human Rights instruments signed by Uzbekistan.</li></ul>                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide care and maintenance assistance to the refugees in need.</li></ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vulnerable refugees have equal access to UNHCR's care and maintenance activities;</li><li>• Vulnerable categories of mandate refugees (e.g. women, handicapped, elderly, etc.) receive appropriate assistance.</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Find durable solutions to refugees through resettlement and voluntary repatriation programmes.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The resettlement programme is carried out in accordance with UNHCR's regional resettlement strategy so as to discourage irregular movers seeking UNHCR assistance.</li><li>• Transportation of refugees is provided up to Mazar-i-Sharif (Afghanistan).</li></ul> |

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| <b>Name of Beneficiary Population #2: Tajik Prima Facie Refugees.</b>   |   |
| Goal: Prevent deportation of Tajik prima facie refugees until global UNHCR policy is established and implemented in Uzbekistan.             |   |
| <b>Principal Objectives</b>   | <b>Related Outputs</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent mass deportation of Tajik <i>prima facie</i> refugees.</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global UNHCR policy is established and implemented in Uzbekistan.</li> <li>Dialogue with the government and key embassies is established.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide International protection and counselling with regard to the statelessness issues.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intervene to individual cases when needed.</li> <li>Clear information on Uzbek naturalisation legislation and protection is available.</li> </ul>    |