

Azerbaijan

February 2021

Since 1992, UNHCR has been supporting the Government of Azerbaijan to find durable solutions for refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people in the country.

The majority of refugees do not have a clear legal status, but since 2020 they have legal access to the labour market and their data have been integrated into the state electronic system.

The adoption of complementary protection mechanism and acceptable recognition rates would increase the protection space for those in need of international protection.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (as of 30 June 2020)

Refugees	1,121
Asylum-seekers	66
Internally displaced people	652,326
Stateless people	3,585

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Afghanistan	645	Afghanistan	37
Russia	357	Russia	24
Iran	45	Iran	5

Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR's efforts are aimed at maintaining protection space for persons of concern in line with international law and standards amid COVID-19 crises.

Inclusion of persons of concern: UNHCR has received assurances that refugees and asylum-seekers will be included in the national health response to the COVID-19 emergency, including the vaccination on an equal basis with the citizens.

Communication with Communities: Governmental structures, civil society organizations, private sector companies, and benevolent individuals donated food and other daily consumables for the vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan.

Health: UNHCR provides free secondary health care services to registered refugees and asylum seekers through contracted service providers.

HIGHLIGHTS

Over 700,000 persons of concern

As of 28 February, Azerbaijan hosted **1,599** refugees, **275** asylum-seekers, 3,585 stateless persons, **653,921** internally displaced persons, and approximately **60,000** temporary displaced or conflict-affected persons in need of humanitarian assistance.

Emergency cash distribution

In 2020, some **374** refugee and asylum-seeker households were supported with emergency cash.

Aid to TDPs/conflict-affected people

From December 2020 to February 2021, core relief items were distributed to some 30,000 most vulnerable temporarily displaced or conflict-affected people

Over 200 stateless persons

received free legal assistance and over 100 vulnerable families were assisted in paying legal fees since 2015.



Core relief items distribution to the conflict-affected people of Tartar district in western Azerbaijan

Click [here](#) to read the press release disseminated by UNHCR jointly with Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society, the main CRIs distributing partner

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocates with authorities and stakeholders to ensure compliance of refugee legislation with international standards, including the adoption of complementary forms of protection and universal access to Refugee Status Determination procedures.
- **Access to territory:** If the applicant is considered to be in need of international protection, UNHCR provides legal counselling and representation. Refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate, but not by the Government, are tolerated and generally protected from refoulement, but do not enjoy formal legal status.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors access to asylum procedures and works to strengthen the quality of the Government's asylum process by guiding on international protection standards and by undertaking regular capacity development activities.
- **Solutions:** Despite lacking legal status, since 2020, refugees and asylum-seekers have had legal access to the labour market and been covered by the Law on Mandatory Health Insurance. As a result of advocacy efforts, information on UNHCR's persons of concern was integrated into the electronic information system allowing them access to state services.
- **Integration:** Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to free primary and secondary education and primary health care. Refugee students are supported through the DAFI Scholarship Programme.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR assists the Government in designing and implementing a comprehensive framework for the return of internally displaced and refugees in line with international standards. The Agency provides policy advice and expertise to the Government on various issues, including housing, land and property (HLP).
- **Non-Food Items:** UNHCR distributes core relief items (or cash if feasible) to the most vulnerable temporary displaced people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with other international agencies and central authorities to ensure compliance of refugee law with international standards and ensure inclusion and integration of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR reinforces communication with communities to raise awareness among persons of concern and host communities about relevant legislation and procedures, as well as their access to rights and services using a community-based protection approach.

Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR is expected to exercise its supervisory role concerning returns as per the 9 November 2020 tripartite statement signed between Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. The Agency is primarily involved in analysis, legal/policy/ advice, including advocating for the voluntariness of returns and that these are taking place in safety and dignity.

Statelessness

- Azerbaijan acceded to the UN Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness without any reservations.
- Within the #IBELONG campaign, Azerbaijani State Migration Service launched a nationality determination campaign in 2016 to identify and document stateless persons.
- In 2019, Azerbaijan pledged at the ExCom High-level Segment on Statelessness to ensure the naturalization of the registered stateless persons within the next three years.

UNHCR Presence in Azerbaijan

Staff:

16 National Staff
 5 International Staff
 5 Affiliated workforce

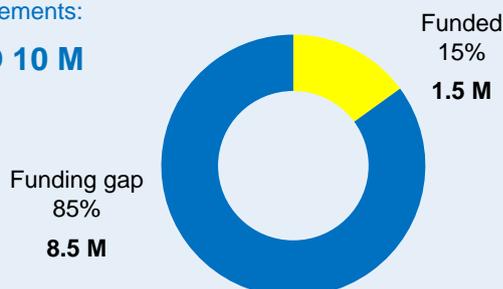
Offices:

1 Country Office in Baku
 1 Reception Centre in Baku

Financial information (28 February 2021)

Financial requirements:

USD 10 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February 2021):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.

UNHCR Azerbaijan is also grateful for 2021 contributions from the following donors (as of 28 February 2021):

UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) | Algeria | Armenia | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia |