

Tajikistan

September 2021

UNHCR supports the Government in developing border management safeguards, **strengthening the national asylum system** and helps refugees to achieve full self-reliance.

Following the adoption of the **Amnesty Law** in December 2019, UNHCR assists the Government in the legalization of persons at risk of stateless illegally residing in Tajikistan.

UNHCR leads efforts to strengthen Government and inter-agency **emergency response** capacities to react to the imminent risk of refugee influx from Afghanistan.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF JULY 2021)

A total of **17,287** persons of concern, including:

Refugees by country of origin



Asylum Seekers – 3,975

Stateless persons – 6,239*

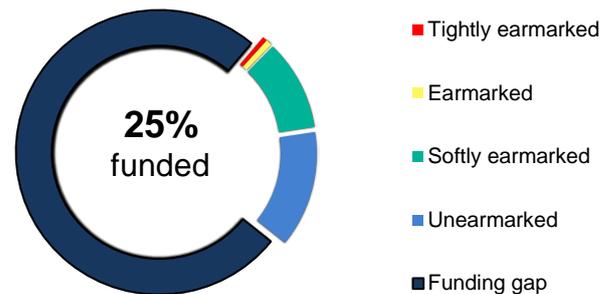
* Including 842 persons officially registered by the State as stateless persons

FUNDING (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021)

USD 12,003,802

requested for the Tajikistan situation

USD 2,962,529 funded



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 7 National Staff
- 1 International Staff
- 6 Affiliated Workforce

Offices:

- 1 Country Office in Dushanbe



Working with Partners

- UNHCR is an active member of the United Nations Country Team, Development Coordination Council, Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team, and other inter-agency coordination forums. UNHCR co-chairs a Working Group on Emergency Preparedness along with the the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, involve implementing and operational partners.

Main Activities

Strengthening the National Asylum System

- The Republic of Tajikistan ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and developed national asylum legislation and procedures. UNHCR is engaged in advocacy, technical support, and capacity-building activities with Government stakeholders to strengthen the quality of asylum procedures and the overall protection environment through work plans developed with the Executive Apparatus of the President and the Office of the Ombudsman.
- Through a Work Plan with the Department of Citizenship and Work with Refugees of the Passport Registration Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, encompassing enhanced coordination, capacity building, and technical support, UNHCR strengthens the protection of refugees and asylum seekers.
- UNHCR supports COVID-19 prevention, treatment, and socio-economic recovery plans and measures of authorities and the UN through technical assistance; and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees to access healthcare and livelihood for those who lost their income and access to education for refugee children.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR, the Government, UN and NGO partners work closely to promote refugees' economic inclusion through skills training, job placement and small-scale business initiatives and the realization of basic socio-economic rights with unhindered access to education, health, and social protection. UNHCR and its partners provide legal and limited material assistance to persons of concern at heightened risk.
- UNHCR supports community-based development initiatives that benefit both refugees and local populations - promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence and facilitating the economic integration of refugees. To achieve this, UNHCR continues its partnerships with the private sector, including the Hilton, Serena, and Hyatt Regency Hotels in Dushanbe as well as Auchan Hypermarket and Coca – Cola Tajikistan.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR learns the intentions of refugees for the future to seek the most appropriate durable solutions for them. For those refugees willing to return to home country UNHCR provides necessary assistance and information so they can take informed decisions on voluntary repatriation. Refugees opting to stay in Tajikistan are being assisted in obtaining professional training and job placement that will enhance their self-reliance capabilities and local integration prospects. Resettlement opportunities remain unavailable.

Addressing Statelessness

- Since 2014, UNHCR - in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan and civil society partners - has been carrying out a project to address statelessness in Tajikistan. Since then, 51,646 persons with undetermined nationality have been registered in three target regions (15 districts) of Sughd, Khatlon provinces and Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS). Of the total number, 46,304 persons have had their nationality confirmed.
- Fulfilling one of its four pledges made during the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in Geneva of October 2019, the Government of Tajikistan in December 2019 adopted an Amnesty Law to legalize stateless persons and foreign nationals illegally residing in the country. UNHCR supports the Passport Registration

Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in implementing the Amnesty Law through technical support, capacity building and the identification of potential beneficiaries.

- In 2021, the statelessness reduction activities are mainly focused on a resolution of the cases falling under the scope of the Amnesty Law, including expansion in Rasht Valley and GBAO region. UNHCR received authorisation from the Government and additional funding from PRM to continue with identification and reduction activities in the new regions..
- UNHCR has supported the Agency on Statistics to conduct the 2020 National Population Census to map the extent of statelessness in the country.
- To prevent statelessness at birth, UNHCR is advocating for changes in the Civil Registration Law to ensure universal birth registration for every child born in Tajikistan regardless of the parent's legal status and availability of documents.

Emergency Preparedness

- Following the seizure of the power by the Taliban in Kabul on 15 August 2021, the risk of a mass influx of refugees to neighboring countries has immediately increased. Despite the Taliban's public statement of the end of the war in Afghanistan and call for the population to return to their routine work, large numbers of the population continue to leave the country.
- On-going volatility in the north-eastern region bordering Tajikistan, which shares a 1,357 km border with Afghanistan, further increases the likelihood of population arrival. As part of response measures, UNHCR leads the dialogue with the Government of Tajikistan for ensured access to territory and procedures in adherence to international obligations towards refugees.
- UNHCR is coordinating with UN sister agencies and partner organizations across the development and humanitarian sectors the preparedness measures through updating Inter-Agency Contingency and Refugee Response Plans and leading the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination platform.
- UNHCR brings both Government and the international community into the open dialogue to discuss the joint coordination mechanisms, creating infrastructure for refugee reception and accommodation and other aspects within the refugee emergency preparedness and response efforts.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR appreciates the partnership and financial contributions of both unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds from donors, as well as for those who have contributed regionally and directly to UNHCR in Tajikistan:

Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Italy | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

UNHCR also appreciates the important contributions of private donors in the following countries: Australia | Germany | Italy | Japan | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden

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