

# CENTRAL ASIA

March 2021

UNHCR supports the efforts of Central Asian States to **protect refugees and stateless persons** and to **eradicate statelessness**

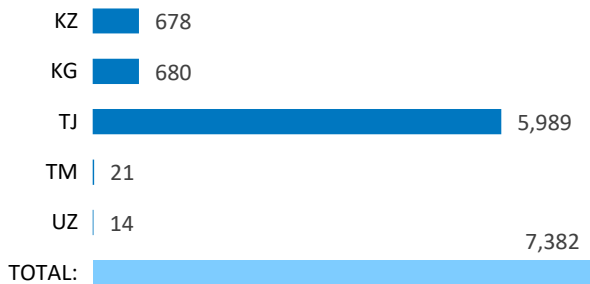
UNHCR assists states in amending legislation to secure access to **fair and effective asylum procedures, refugee integration**, as well as to **immediate birth registration** of all children and other measures to **prevent statelessness**

UNHCR advocates for the full inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in **development strategies and programmes**, including those for COVID-19 treatment, vaccination and socio-economic recovery

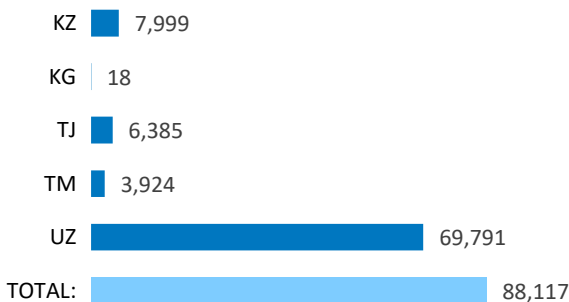
## POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

A total of **95,499** persons of concern, including:

### Refugees and asylum seekers by country of asylum



### Stateless persons by country of residence

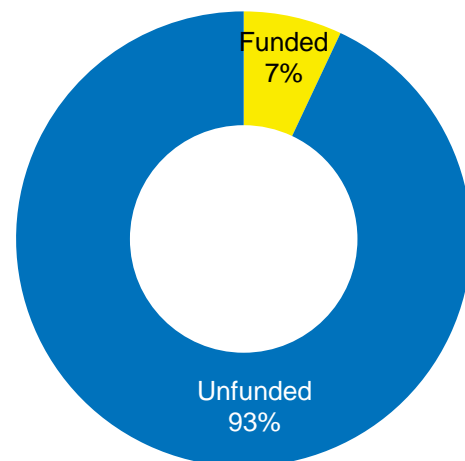


## FUNDING (AS OF MARCH 2021)

**USD 6,252,267**

requested for the Central Asian situation

**USD 489,428** funded



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

29 National Staff

8 International Staff

8 Affiliated Workforce

### Offices:

- **Multi-Country Office** for Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- **Country Office** in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- **National Office** in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- **National Office** in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic



## 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 to secure access to asylum and secure durable solutions for refugees and stateless persons, as well as to identify the full extent of, reduce and prevent statelessness in Central Asia.
- UNHCR's main governmental counterparts include Ministries of Foreign and Internal Affairs, of Justice, State Migration and Registration Services, State Committees on Statistics and National Security, Border Guards, as well as Ombudspersons in each country.
- UNHCR closely cooperates with community-based and non-governmental organisations, which assist and guide persons, who seek protection in Central Asia. Also the academia and judiciary are key partners of 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.
- Participating in all five United Nations Country Teams to support One UN, UNHCR collaborates with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, development partners, international financial institutions and other stakeholders to secure refugees', asylum-seekers' and stateless persons' contributions to states' progress in Agenda 2030 implementation.

## Main Activities

### Protection and Solutions for Refugees

- UNHCR supports the efforts of Central Asian countries to develop national asylum systems and to secure solutions for refugees, with an increasing focus on self-reliance and states' role in facilitating the local integration of refugees.
- In close consultation with authorities, UNHCR identifies local integration potential to secure solutions for mandate refugees, who suffer under situations of protracted displacement.
- Targeted community-based protection and cash-based interventions for refugees are based on harmonised regional assistance schemes and vulnerability criteria.
- UNHCR supports COVID-19 prevention, treatment, vaccination and socio-economic recovery plans and measures of authorities and the UN through technical assistance and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees to access health-care, livelihood, for those who lost their income, and online education for refugee children, where public schools have been temporarily closed.

### Refugee Protection in the Context of Mixed Migration

- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The Almaty Process is the only inter-governmental consultative platform for refugee protection and migration that focuses on Central Asia. Secretariat support is provided by IOM and UNHCR in partnership with the rotating Chairmanship served by a Member State. Current Chair of the Almaty Process is Turkey. 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.

### Addressing Statelessness

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- UNHCR supports the efforts of Central Asian states to better identify and protect stateless persons, to prevent statelessness, and to eradicate it by 2024, in line with the goals and pledges of the global *#IBelong* campaign.
- UNHCR partners support authorities in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in identifying and reducing statelessness through outreach, legal counselling, and support to confirmation or acquisition of nationality.
- Over 90,000 persons were identified as stateless in Central Asia between 2014 and mid-2020, of which 67,000 had their situations resolved. In addition, over 12,323 persons were granted Turkmen citizenship between 2011 and 2019, while 17,739 persons have been granted nationality in Uzbekistan since December 2016.
- UNHCR's statelessness activities support countries' efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 16). In collaboration with UNICEF and UN ESCAP, UNHCR advocates for legal and policy reforms to ensure that all children receive birth certificates immediately after their birth irrespective of their parents' legal status. In collaboration with UNFPA, UNHCR supports the mapping of stateless populations through national population censuses.
- Amongst the five Central Asian States, only Turkmenistan is already party to the *1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* and the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*. UNHCR advocates that also Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan soon accede to these two important instruments.

### Emergency Preparedness

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- UNHCR supports governments, UN, and other partners in contingency planning and emergency preparedness and response to forced internal displacement and refugee influx, within and into the sub-region.

## 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 for Central Asia:

Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland

UNHCR also appreciates the important contributions of private donors in the following countries: Spain

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