

Tajikistan

March 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 inter-agency **emergency response** capacities to react to any refugee influx from Afghanistan.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF FEBRUARY 2021)

A total of **12,374** persons of concern, including:

Refugees by country of origin

Afghanistan  5,573

Other | 8

Asylum Seekers – 408

Stateless persons – 6,385*

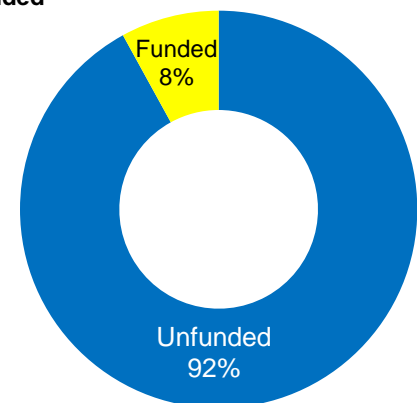
* Including 843 persons officially registered by the State as stateless persons

FUNDING (AS OF MARCH 2021)

USD 2,203,298

requested for the Tajikistan situation

USD 185,903 funded



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 7 National Staff
- 2 International Staff
- 4 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 (~~DCC~~), Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (~~REACT~~), and other inter-agency coordination forums. UNHCR co-chairs a Working Group on Emergency Preparedness along with the Committee on Emergency Situations 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, 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.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR supports community-based development initiatives that benefit both refugees and local populations ~~-, thereby~~ promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence and facilitating the local integration of refugees. To achieve this, UNHCR continues to expand 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.

Addressing Statelessness

- Since 2014, UNHCR - in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan and civil society partners - has been carrying out a national project to address statelessness in Tajikistan. As of January 2021, 50,171 persons with undetermined nationality have been registered in three target regions (15 districts) of Sughd, Khatlon provinces and Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS). 44,715 of them have yet had their nationality confirmed ~~as yet~~.
- 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.
- UNHCR has supported the Agency on Statistics to conduct the 2020 National Population Census to map the extent of statelessness in country.

- To prevent new statelessness cases, UNHCR is advocating for changes in the Civil Registration Law to ensure universal birth registration for every child born in Tajikistan regardless of the parents' legal status and availability of documents.

Emergency Preparedness

- In a country, that is located between Afghanistan and the Fergana Valley — UNHCR continues to strengthen its engagement with the Government, UN sister agencies, international organizations and other partners in emergency preparedness, including an Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for any Refugee Influx.

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 | 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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