

Kazakhstan

December 2021

Partnering with the Government to ensure national laws **protect** and are **inclusive** of people forced to flee, and **support local integration** of refugees Supporting authorities to better identify and protect people without a nationality, and prevent statelessness from occurring

Promoting alignment of national citizenship and refugee laws with international standards

People of Concern

A total of 8,504 people:

- 7831* Stateless people
- 319 Asylum-seekers
- 354 Refugees

By country of origin:

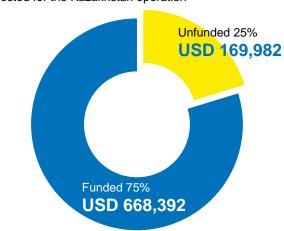


^{* 6,778} Stateless people registered by the Government, and 1,053 people with undetermined nationality registered by UNHCR.

FUNDING (AS OF DECEMBER 2021)

USD 838,374

requested for the Kazakhstan operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 4 National Staff
- 1 Affiliated Workforce

Offices:

National Office in Nur-Sultan



Without documents, Ulpan and her two-year old daughter Raushan have difficulties accessing medical services in Kazakhstan. (Photo: UNHCR/ Frederic Noy)

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Addressing Statelessness

- Without legal identity, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights and services such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement. Launched in 2014, the global #IBelong Campaign aims to end statelessness by 2024.
- Together with partners, UNHCR supports the Government of Kazakhstan to identify and document people of undetermined nationality, and prevent statelessness from occurring. In 2020, in partnership with UNHCR and civil society, Kazakhstan launched a countrywide campaign to identify and document persons with undetermined nationality. As of December 2021, 7,300 persons had been identified through the campaign. Of them, 4,130 have been documented as citizens of Kazakhstan and more than 1,900 have been recognised and documented by the State as Stateless.
- Since the launch of the #IBelong Campaign, Kazakhstan has introduced Statelessness Determination Procedures, amended legislation to ensure all children are registered at birth and issued birth certificates – irrespective of their parents' legal status – and granted citizenship to over 9,000 stateless people.
- UNHCR promotes further alignment of national citizenship and statelessness laws with international standards, and advocates for Kazakhstan's accession to both the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Protecting Refugees

Most refugees in Kazakhstan have been living in the country for years, some even for decades. They speak the local language, some have family ties with citizens and are culturally integrated. Without permanent residency status, however, they do not have access to most socio-economic rights, including local integration through naturalisation.

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- Kazakhstan is a State Party to both the 1951 Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol. UNHCR advocates for improvements in national legislation to ensure that all refugees have access to services and rights – including education, healthcare, and local integration – as outlined in international treaties and laws. During the Covid-19 pandemic, UNHCR successfully advocated for refugees to be included in national Covid-19 prevention, treatment, and vaccination measures.
- UNHCR supports the improvement of asylum procedures in Kazakhstan, and the establishment of an effective referral mechanism from border to responsible authorities, so that refugees and asylum-seekers can safely access territory and their rights as people forced to flee.

Working with Partners

- Working with partners is an integral part of UNHCR's strategy in Central Asia. In Kazakhstan, main Government partners are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Education and Science, Border Guards Service of the National Security Committee, Kazakhstan Commission on Human Rights, and the Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights.
- UNHCR works in close partnership with civil society, including the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law, the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society, and the Legal Centre for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim". UNHCR also cooperates with academia and the private sector in Kazakhstan.
- As a member of the UN Country Team and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework of Kazakhstan, UNHCR actively engages with UN and development partners, international financial institutions and other stakeholders to ensure refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people are not left behind in Kazakhstan's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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