UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

OPERATIONAL UPDATE
September, October, November 2022

UNHCR Representation to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Through the support of the DAFI scholarship programme, 13 young refugees in Kazakhstan can pursue higher education.

Key figures as of 30 June 2022

15,165*

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

in Kazakhstan (1,000), Kyrgyzstan (1,119), Turkmenistan (15) and Uzbekistan (11)*.

44,332

known Stateless people

in Kazakhstan (7,558), Kyrgyzstan (482), Turkmenistan (4,463) and Uzbekistan (31,829).

* In November 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan reported via mass media that 13,020 Afghan citizens had arrived in the country on short-term visas, of whom around 2,000 had valid visas as of July 2022. Given the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, UNHCR considers that they may be in a refugee-like situation.

In 2022, UNHCR requires $8.8 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, including in response to the Afghanistan emergency.

Funded	Unfunded
US$5.01 million (57%)	US$3.79 million (43%)

As of 24 November 2022

SUB-REGIONAL

Protecting Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- Within the framework of the **Almaty Process**, on 05-Oct-2022, UNHCR delivered a session on global cooperation mechanisms to find sustainable solutions to refugee situations in the "International Migration Strategies and Initiatives: Best Practices" webinar. The presentation included regional and national partnerships in Central Asia with governments, UN agencies and other international organizations, civil sector and academia. The Almaty Process was established in 2013 as an Inter-State Consultation Mechanism for the protection of refugees and international migration to, from and within Central Asia.

- As part of the **Border Management Programme in Central Asia** (BOMCA 10), UNHCR participated in a regional workshop in Tashkent, from 25 to 27 October, for representatives of Central Asia border management agencies on development of a handbook on profiling and identification at first line border checks. UNHCR presented on identification and referring of persons in need of international protection by staff at state borders, main protection principles guiding the identification and referral mechanisms for potential asylum seekers, and addressing specific needs of different categories of persons in situations of mixed migration.

- The nine-week **UNHCR Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Distance Learning Programme** was held October to November as part of efforts to improve the quality of RSD procedures in the region. Forty-five participants completed the online phase, including State officials, members of the national RSD Commissions, judges, and staff of relevant organizations providing legal assistance and support to asylum seekers and refugees. A five-day practical workshop was then held in Almaty, 21 to 25 November, for 32 of the participants to exercise the theory and exchange experience from across their organizations and countries.
  - UNHCR is **concerned about declining refugee recognitions** in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. While both countries have laws on refugees, national asylum systems, and national refugee status determination procedures, neither has recognised any asylum-seekers as refugees in 2022.

- Central Asia hosts 'convention refugees' – asylum-seekers recognised as refugees by the State – as well as 'mandate refugees' – people recognised as refugees under the global mandate of UNHCR. With all avenues for integration under national legislation exhausted, UNHCR continues to follow up the petitions of mandate refugees to President administrations for an extraordinary offer of citizenship – 18 mandate refugees submitted petitions in Kazakhstan, 139 in the Kyrgyz Republic, 10 in Turkmenistan and six in Uzbekistan.

- Together with partners, UNHCR is closely monitoring the evolving impact of the war in Ukraine on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Since 21 September, there have been reports of hundreds of thousands of people from the Russian Federation arriving in the region. Some 100,000 have stayed in Kazakhstan alone – as publicly reported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population. Citizens of the Russian Federation,

Photo: UNHCR

The Refugee Status Determination (RSD) Distance Learning Programme practical workshop brought together 32 State officials, members of the national RSD Commissions, judges, and staff of organizations providing legal assistance and support to asylum seekers and refugees to improve the quality of RSD procedures in the region.

Photo: UNHCR

The Central Asia study visit on statelessness to Georgia aimed to provide participants with practical knowledge on prevention and reduction of statelessness.

Ukraine and Belarus have visa-free entry and stay in all Central Asian States for 30 to 90 days. Both Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic have acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and have established national asylum systems. The respective governments are responsible for processing asylum applications. UNHCR and partners in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic have received an increased number of calls, emails and visits to offices. UNHCR is helping its partner organizations to upscale protection monitoring and provide legal counselling.

Ending Statelessness

- With just two years left of the global **#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness**, UNHCR, States and partners are **accelerating efforts to implement pledges and achieve the goals** of the 10-year campaign – including **accession to the Statelessness Conventions.**

- On 4 November, the 8th anniversary of the #IBelong campaign, UNHCR launched its **third Regional Youth Competition on Statelessness**, inviting youth in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to submit written, visual or audio-visual works that explore the issue of statelessness. Submissions will be judged by UNHCR and partner staff, with winners announced on 10 December, Human Rights Day. The initiative seeks to help youth (18 to 24 years old) understand the gravity of statelessness and engage them in exploring solutions to end statelessness.

- Between 7 and 9 November, UNHCR, with support from the OSCE, convened a **study visit on statelessness in Georgia**, for government representatives from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The study visit aimed to provide participants with practical knowledge on prevention and reduction of statelessness from a country with similar background, and good practices on accession to the Statelessness Conventions, enaction of Statelessness Determination Procedures, and securing universal birth registration.

KAZAKHSTAN

State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

- Throughout September, October and November, UNHCR implementing partners Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society, Bureau for Human Rights, and Sana Sezim provided **counselling and assistance to asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless people**, including legal advice on submitting asylum applications and documentation to confirm nationality.

- As part of ongoing advocacy efforts to improve protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, UNHCR continuously engages with the responsible government entities. Meetings between September and November included:
  - The Committee on Migration of the **Ministry of Labour and Social Protection**, discussing developments with regards to refugee protection and alignment of national legislation with the 1951 Refugee Convention, including equating refugee status with that of a permanent resident from the moment of recognition and introducing simplified procedures to facilitate naturalization of refugees in Kazakhstan.
  - The Migration Services Committee of the **Ministry of Internal Affairs**, discussing developments in statelessness and refugee protection, including safeguards against statelessness, accession to the Statelessness Conventions and UNHCR recommendations to

the Ministry's proposals to by-laws regulating requirements for applying for residence.
- The newly appointed **Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs**, discussing issues of cooperation in support of stateless persons and refugees, and informing the Department of Multilateral Cooperation about the possibility of pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.
- The Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights of the **Ministry of Education**, highlighting the problems faced by undocumented stateless children to access education.
- The **Ministry of Healthcare** on the necessity to provide refugees with healthcare services alongside citizens.
- The newly formed **Ministry of Higher Education**, discussing the provision of refugee quota in the Bologna process (scholarships for foreigners) and the possibility of enabling refugees to compete for government higher education grants on par with citizens.
- **Parliament Mazhilis and Senate** (Upper and lower chamber) members, informing them of the importance of complying with 1951 Convention requirements and calling on the State to accede to the Statelessness Conventions.
- Local healthcare, education, social protection and migration services in Almaty and Shymkent regions – where most of the refugee and asylum-seeker communities are located – to reiterate the importance of ensuring due access to services and support resolution of individual cases.

Protecting Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- UNHCR and partner Bureau for Human Rights conducted joint missions to **monitor the admission practices and assess the reception conditions for asylum-seekers** at the Kazakhstan-Russia border crossing in Uralsk region, 8 to 9 September, and at Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan border crossing in Shymkent region, 14 to 15 September. At both locations, UNHCR delivered training on international standards regulating refugee status determination (RSD) procedures to members of the State RSD Commission, and held informal discussions with asylum-seekers.

- UNHCR – together with the Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society and Bureau for Human Rights, and with participation of representatives of the local state authorities – conducted **participatory assessments** with 82 refugees and asylum-seekers in Almaty on 12 September, and with 34 refugees and asylum-seekers in Shymkent on 13 September, to collect accurate information on the specific protection risks faced. To foster open discussion, participants were divided into five groups: refugee women and children, refugee men, refugee youth (18 to 24 years old), asylum-seekers from Ukraine, and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan. Group discussion themes were: integration, employment/ livelihoods, healthcare, education, community participation, and communication channels. Main issues raised included documentation procedures, and access to health care, employment and social protection.

- On 12 September, UNHCR and Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society held an orientation session for nine newly selected and four continuing scholars of the **DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme**. Of the 13 scholars, most students are women, are from Afghanistan and studying fields related to medicine. Attended by representatives of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Almaty, the event covered academic and social aspects of the Scholarship, and students' rights and responsibilities. On 22 and 23 November, UNHCR and Kazakhstan Red Crescent Society visited two colleges and six universities attended by DAFI students in Almaty to ensure open lines of communication with each institution and further discuss the programme and UNHCR's mandate in Kazakhstan. Ahead of the Global Refugee Forum in 2023, UNHCR also followed-up on the possibilities of universities pledging to providing scholarships directly to refugees.

Photo: UNHCR

Sisters Sharara (left) and Almas (right) are studying International relations and General Medicine respectively with thanks to the DAFI refugee scholarship programme.

- UNHCR and partner Bureau for Human Rights conducted **training on international standards regulating refugee status determination** (RSD) procedures for State RSD Commission members in Astana on 11 November, and Almaty on 12 November. With the shift of asylum functions from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of Social Protection of the Population in early 2022, and given the forming of new commission members, the training aimed to build the capacity of newly appointed commission members. Participants included representatives of Department of Social Protection and Coordination, Department of Education, Department of Internal Policy and Migration Service department.

- Between September and November, UNHCR provided 127 refugee households (193 people — 90 females and 103 males) with **multi-purpose cash-based assistance** to support them to cover their basic needs.

- In September, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population published the new **draft Social Code for public review**. UNHCR submitted recommendations, advocating for improvement of national legislation with regards to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Ending Statelessness

- In an event moderated by the Kazakhstan Commissioner for Human Rights, the **Government of Kazakhstan, UNHCR and NGOs discussed the country's progress towards resolving statelessness** in an event on 30 September. During the event, the Commissioner for Human Rights and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding which aims to establish and maintain relations in the field of international protection and humanitarian assistance for forcibly displaced and stateless people, as well as to further expand cooperation to improve compliance of the legislation of Kazakhstan with international legal standards.

- UNHCR, together with representatives from the National Center of Human Rights in Kazakhstan and the Migration and Social Protection Services, conducted a **participatory assessment** with five stateless people in Uralsk region on 31 October, 16 stateless people in Almaty on 2 November, and with 14 stateless people in Shymkent on 3 November. The assessment sought to improve UNHCR and other stakeholders' understanding of the population's background, capacities, and needs so that solutions can be reshaped for more sustainable integration and livelihoods support.

Photo: Sana Sezim

The participatory assessment with stateless people sought to better understand their needs so that solutions can be reshaped for more sustainable integration.

- A three-day **study visit of a delegation from North Macedonia to Astana**, coordinated by UNHCR, was held from 29 November, with the aim of exchanging best practices on addressing the issue of statelessness through aligning national practices and legislation to international standards. A special focus of the study visit was on the experience of Kazakhstan related to birth registration of a child in the absence of the documents of parent/s; identification and documentation of former USSR document holders; and safeguards established for prevention of statelessness at birth and in the process of renunciation of citizenship. The delegation comprised representatives of North Macedonian Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and civil society organizations.

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol

- Throughout September, October and November, UNHCR implementing partner "Legal Clinic Adilet" conducted interviews and legal assessments with asylum-seekers, and provided **counselling and assistance to prepare and lodge asylum applications**. Supporting efforts to resolve statelessness, Legal Clinic Adilet provided **consultations for stateless people and UNHCR mandate refugees on obtaining relevant documentation for confirmation or acquisition of Kyrgyz Republic citizenship**, and assisted with issuance of birth certificates and other civil registry documents.

- Within the ongoing legal inventory in the Kyrgyz Republic, UNHCR has **submitted comments to six draft laws which impact the rights and services of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people** – Law on Citizenship; Law on Refugees; Law on Medical Insurance; Law on Acts of Civil Status; Law on External Migration; and Law on Amendments to the legislative acts of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of migration – promoting alignment with international standards.

- As part of ongoing advocacy efforts to improve protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in the Kyrgyz Republic, **UNHCR**

continuously engages with the responsible government entities. Between September and November, UNHCR met with: Ministry of Digital Development; Ministry of Emergency Services; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Situational Center of President's Administration; Prosecutor General's office; Border Guards Service; National Statistic Committee, Ombudsman's Office; Committee on Constitutional Legislation, State Structure, Judicial and Legal Issues and Regulations; Committee on International Affairs, Defense, Security and Migration; Committee on Social Policy.

Protecting Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- At the High-Level Officials Meeting (HLOM) in December 2021, the Kyrgyz Republic pledged to **provide recognised refugees with due access to machine-readable travel documents, as well as healthcare and social protection** on par with citizens. Supporting the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration (in charge of refugee issues) and the Ministry of Health to implement these pledges, UNHCR is funding a Farsi interpreter for the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration to facilitate registration of asylum applications.

- Together with the **Office of the Ombudsperson** of the Kyrgyz Republic, UNHCR is following up on the petitions of mandate refugees to the President administration for an extraordinary offer of citizenship. As part of these efforts, the Office of the Ombudsperson conducted a survey with 129 of the mandate refugees, and **convened a roundtable** meeting on 18 October with relevant government authorities and NGOs to present the survey findings and discuss the way forward.

- Between September and November, UNHCR distributed **multi-purpose cash assistance** to 51 refugee households (95 females and 89 males) to help them cover their basic needs. 12 education grants have been provided to 17 female school children and 18 male school children.

Ending Statelessness

- At the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic pledged to:
  - Provide birth certificates to children who do not have birth registration;
  - Align national birth registration legislation with international standards to ensure registration of birth of every child born in the Kyrgyz Republic;
  - Adopt regulations for determining the legal status of a stateless person;
  - Study the experience of State parties to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness.

  With **implementation of the pledges still ongoing**, UNHCR and partners are supporting the government, including proposing solutions to enable the Kyrgyz Republic to align legislation with international standards and the Statelessness Conventions.

- On 13 September, the 'House of Happiness' – a **Civil Registry Department building in Osh – was officially reopened** following its refurbishment partially funded by 2019 Nansen Award Winner, Azizbek Ashurov of Fergana Valley Lawyers Without Borders as part of an ongoing statelessness eradication project. Services provided at the building include registration of civil acts, and processing of documentation to be granted Kyrgyz citizenship. The building will also house civil status archives for Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken regions.

Responding to Emergencies

- A surge in violence in the south of the Kyrgyz Republic along the border with Tajikistan, starting 14 September, internally displaced more than 142,071 people from Batken and Osh oblasts, and damaged or destroyed homes, schools, hospitals and infrastructure throughout Batken oblast. On 16 September, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the UN Country Team in Kyrgyzstan activated the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU), an inter

Photo: Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society

To help meet the immediate needs of people displaced by the border conflict, UNHCR delivered blankets for nearly 5,000 people, and over 6,000 jerrycans.

-agency coordination mechanism with participation of UN Agencies, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organizations, in support of the Government. Following a rapid needs assessment, at the request of the DRCU, **UNHCR activated and assumed leadership of the Protection Sector, and is participating in the Shelter Sector** led by the Red Cross and IOM.

- On 28 September, **UNHCR delivered blankets for nearly 5,000 people and over 6,000 jerrycans** to the National Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan to help people displaced by the clashes.
- The Minister of Emergency Situations and the UN Resident Coordinator launched the **inter-agency Emergency Response Plan** on 21 October, targeting 77,800 people with Emergency Shelter/ NFI, Food Security, Health, Protection, WASH, Education, and Early Recovery.
- The Protection Sector response targets 16,119 people, with a total funding requirement of US$789,000, of which UNHCR is appealing for $124,000. In addition to coordinating the Protection Sector, UNHCR is focusing protection response efforts on: *Technical support to national Civil Society Organizations to support State efforts and provide additional free legal assistance and representation, protection monitoring, raising legal awareness of the targeted people in need about their right to effective remedies, including compensation and rehabilitation, and Implement the established monitoring mechanism to ensure fair and equal protection of the targeted people in need of assistance; to identify and mitigate risks and negative trends; to advocate for access to rights; and to achieve transparency and accountability of humanitarian response programs.*
- The Emergency Shelter/ NFI response plan targets 14,030 people, with a funding requirement of US$1.8 million, of which UNHCR is appealing for $377,000. UNHCR is involved in efforts to *purchase and distribute NFI and alternative heating items to IDPs and host families through coordinated distribution points with the active participation of IDPs.*
- Critical gaps identified and being address by the Protection Sector, UNHCR and partners are: Insufficient and fragmented information about IDP numbers and conditions in collective accommodation centres, with no disaggregated data on gender, age, ethnicity and location; Insufficient access to information and ineffective awareness raising of the population, and civil society actors involved in provision of services, about available/already provided services and assistance; Coordination between State and non-state providers on provision of legal, psychological, mental health and social services to the affected population, including specialized services to vulnerable women, children, elderly, people with disabilities and IDPs.
- On 28 October, the **Government of Japan announced a US$500,000 contribution to support UNHCR's activities** in the Kyrgyz Republic to assist people displaced by the conflict and returnees, and enable provision of essential core relief items and emergency shelter for IDPs, returnees and host communities to protect them from the cold Kyrgyzstan winter.
- To support the response, UNHCR mobilised two members of its Emergency Response Team – a Senior Protection Officer based in Osh, and an Information Management Officer based in Almaty also supporting other regional scaled-up activities.
- After closing its office in Osh in 2015, UNHCR has re-established a temporary presence to support its response to this emergency.

READ THE PLAN

TURKMENISTAN

State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol
State Party to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions

Ending Statelessness

- Within the framework of the World Bank and UNHCR **Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement project** – "Support for data collection on statelessness through national population censuses in Central Asia" – information materials were created and disseminated to encourage people without a nationality in Turkmenistan to participate in the upcoming census, due to take place 17 to 27 December 2022.

- On 24 September, on the occasion of Turkmenistan Independence Day, **1,530 persons representing 26 nationalities – including two stateless mandate refugees – received passports of Turkmenistan** at a ceremony organized by the State Migration Service. UNHCR Representative for Central Asia addressed the ceremony with a video message reiterating support to the efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan to reduce statelessness and integrate the remaining small number of mandate refugees via naturalization.

- As part of efforts to mark the 8th anniversary of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, UNHCR delivered an **online lecture on statelessness** to Sustainable Development Goal ambassadors on 20 October, and to third-year Law students at Magtymguly Turkmen State University and the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan on 25 October. The sessions sought to introduce the issue to participants and encourage their engagement in ending statelessness.

Responding to Emergencies

- Turkmenistan is part of the **2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** which, under the overall leadership of UNHCR, supports host governments to meet the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, as well as host communities. As there has been no mass influx of new arrivals from Afghanistan in Turkmenistan, UNHCR and partners continue focusing on emergency preparedness activities while advocating for the government to enable safe and unhindered access to territory, and prevent non-refoulment. RRP partners in Turkmenistan are UNFPA and UNICEF. Preparations are underway for RRP 2023.

UZBEKISTAN

Protecting Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- UNHCR and a national NGO partner are implementing a **6-month pilot livelihoods project** in Termez that seeks to improve the skills of Afghan citizens in Uzbekistan and the host community – helping to fill a national shortfall in human capital – and support groups to recover and rebuild.
  - With each course lasting two months, since July: 21 women and 13 men have completed the hairdressing course; 13 women have completed the manicurist course; 24 women have completed the sewing course; and 22 women and 1 man have completed the confectionist course.
  - As part of the project, three-month language courses are also offered to children. Since July: 5 girls and 7 boys have completed the English language course; 8 girls and 8 boys have completed the Russian language course; and 5 girls and 6 boys have completed the Uzbek language course.

- **UNHCR and UNDP are partnering on a climate action and sustainability project** that engages Afghan citizens in Uzbekistan and vulnerable people from host communities in afforestation activities through cash-for-work. Implemented in Surkhandarya region, bordering Afghanistan, the project seeks to enhance the resilience of local communities while addressing the damaging impact of dust storms on the population and the economy. Planting sites have been identified and outreach is ongoing to recruit Afghan citizens and members of the host community.

- On 20 September, the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and UNHCR conducted a joint workshop in Tashkent**, focusing on the OSCE's conflict cycle toolbox; UNHCR's mandate, strategic priorities and activities in Central Asia; OSCE's commitments to migration and forced displacement, and the Protection Checklist as a practical tool for forced displacement issues.

- Between September and November, UNHCR provided one female-headed mandate refugee household with **multi-purpose cash assistance** to support them to cover their basic needs.

Ending Statelessness

- Within the framework of the World Bank and UNHCR **Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement project** – "Support for data collection on statelessness through national population censuses in Central Asia" – on 1 November UNHCR handed over 25 tablet computers to the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan for use during the upcoming census. The Uzbekistan census – the first in 30 years – will take place at the end of 2023.

Responding to Emergencies

- In the weeks following the catastrophic flooding in Pakistan, which displaced some 7.6 million people, UNHCR dispatched over 100 trucks of Core Relief Items – including 11,000+ family tents and 42,000+ blankets – from its Regional Humanitarian Logistics Hub in Termez to support thousands affected. On 29 September, **UNHCR and the Government of Uzbekistan sent their first-ever joint airlift of humanitarian assistance** from Termez, destined for Karachi. With an aircraft provided by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the airlift contained over 15 tons of UNHCR Refugee Housing Units to provide temporary shelter to those whose homes had been destroyed by the floods.

- As a country neighbouring Afghanistan, Uzbekistan is part of the **2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP).** Under the overall leadership of UNHCR, the plan seeks to support host governments to meet the needs of Afghans of varying statuses, as well as host communities, and potential new arrivals. UNHCR and partners continue focusing on supporting Afghan citizens already in the country, and preparedness activities while advocating for the government to enable safe and unhindered access to territory, and prevent non-refoulment. RRP partners in Uzbekistan are UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. Preparations are underway for RRP 2023.

- Established in October 2021 with support from the Government of Uzbekistan, the **UNHCR Regional Humanitarian Logistics Hub** provides 9000m^2 of storage space for humanitarian relief items. The hub – located within the Termez Cargo Centre – enables UNHCR to rapidly replenish local stockpiles and be more agile in its response, while reducing costs and risks associated with carrying large inventory in each country affected by the Afghanistan situation. In 12 months of operations, 2,485 tons – the equivalent of 217 truckloads – of relief items had been dispatched from the hub to support emergency responses in

WATCH THE VIDEO

Photo: UNHCR

UNHCR and the Government of Uzbekistan sent their first-ever joint airlift of humanitarian assistance from Termez, destined for Karachi to help those affected by the devastating floods.

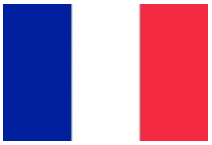
WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR Senior Development Officer from the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific conducted an official visit to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, 24 to 28 October, to support identification and advancement of more strategic development partnerships. In Kazakhstan, meetings were held with the World Bank Regional Office and Kazakhstan Country Office, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and KazAID. In Uzbekistan, meetings were held with the Asian Development Bank, KfW, World Bank, and UNDP.

- As a member of the UN Country Team and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, UNHCR engages with governments, UN and development partners, international financial institutions and others across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to ensure refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people are not left behind in States' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Thank you for the support

UNHCR is grateful for contributions directly to the UNHCR Representation to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as donors of unearmarked and flexible funding, including:



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UNHCR maintains email and phone 'hotlines' across the four countries for anyone in need of information or consultation on refugee and asylum issues. People forced to flee can find key contacts and updated information about asylum procedures in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on help.unhcr.org/centralasia, in English and Russian languages.