

FACTSHEET: Uzbekistan



Photo: UNHCR/Elyor Nemat

With private sector support, UNHCR and UNDP implemented livelihoods and environment protection programmes in Uzbekistan, engaging forcibly displaced Afghan citizens and vulnerable members of the host community in tree-planting activities through cash-for-work.

Supporting authorities to protect and assist forcibly displaced and stateless people, ensuring access to due rights and services

Coordinating and implementing activities, as a non-resident agency, in close collaboration with United Nations partners

Prepositioning essential relief items in the UNHCR Global Stockpile Termez, supporting forced displacement emergencies globally

Key Figures (as of 01 January 2025)



8,505*

Forcibly displaced people

Five recognised as refugees by UNHCR and 8,500 in a refugee-like situation.



20,000

Stateless people

registered by the Government.

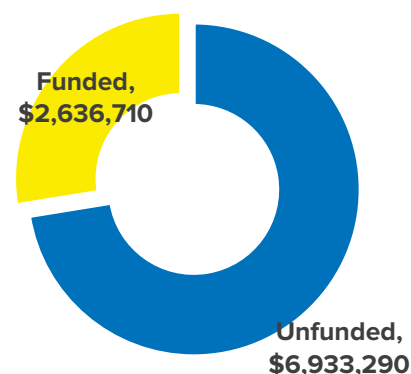
* Based on government reports in mass media, UNHCR estimates there are up to 8,500 people in Uzbekistan in a 'refugee-like' situation.

Uzbekistan is not yet a State Party to the [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and its [1967 Protocol](#), and does not have a Refugee Law or national asylum procedures. Refugees in Uzbekistan are currently unable to legalise their stay as people forced to flee.

Uzbekistan has not yet acceded to the [1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons](#) or the [1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness](#). In 2024, Uzbekistan joined Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan in adopting the [Ashgabat Declaration on Ending Statelessness in Central Asia](#). Uzbekistan has the largest population of stateless people in Central Asia, the majority of whom are ex-citizens of the former Soviet Union, or their descendants, who have not yet acquired or confirmed citizenship.

UNHCR is a non-resident agency in Uzbekistan, implementing protection activities from the UNHCR Representation to Central Asia based in Almaty. UNHCR has a small logistics presence in Termez.

The UNHCR Representation to Central Asia implements activities in Uzbekistan. In 2025, UNHCR requires \$9.6 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As of 31 March 2025, the operations are 28% funded.



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Protecting People Forced to Flee

Uzbekistan has not acceded to the Refugee Convention and does not yet have a national asylum system. As such, forcibly displaced people in the country are not protected from being returned to danger, and have no access to socio-economic rights or services, including legal employment, healthcare, or social protection.

Under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in 2018 and in 2023, Uzbekistan supported recommendations to ratify the Refugee Convention and its Protocol.

In support of the government's efforts, UNHCR commissioned an [Analytical Report which examines national legislation related to refugee issues](#) and provides recommendations and follow-up measures to guide development of the national protection framework.

UNHCR stands ready to continue supporting the government to establish and implement a Refugee Law and asylum system in line with international standards, allowing forcibly displaced people in the country to legalise their stay, and access basic human and socio-economic rights.

In collaboration with UN and NGO partners, UNHCR has provided livelihoods support to forcibly displaced Afghan citizens in Uzbekistan and vulnerable members of the host community, including through vocational training and language classes.

Engaging in Climate Action

In support of the [Government of Uzbekistan's Yashil Makon \(Green Nation\) initiative](#), UNHCR partnered with UNDP for an afforestation project, engaging forcibly displaced people and vulnerable members of the host community in tree-planting activities through cash-for-work. Supervised by forestry specialists, participants also gained practical knowledge and experience in sustainable land management practices - skills which can be applied on their own lands, contributing to long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

With thanks to our donors

UNHCR is grateful for contributions directly to the UNHCR Representation to Central Asia, as well as donors of unearmarked and flexible funding, including from: Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

UNHCR maintains email and phone 'hotlines' for anyone in need of information or consultation on refugee and asylum issues. People forced to flee can find key contacts and updated information on help.unhcr.org/centralasia.

Reducing and Preventing Statelessness

Without a nationality, stateless people often have difficulty accessing basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has made great progress to reduce and prevent statelessness, including by ensuring universal birth registration in 2018, adopting progressive legislative reforms such as the Citizenship Law of 2020, and granting citizenship to over 90,000 stateless people.

In line with Uzbekistan's 2018 Universal Periodic Review recommendations, UNHCR advocates for Uzbekistan to accede to the two UN Statelessness conventions, and further align national citizenship and statelessness laws with international standards.

In support of the government's efforts, UNHCR facilitated a comparative [legal analysis of the national legislation and practices of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian States](#).

Working with Partners

Government partners in Uzbekistan include the National Human Rights Centre; Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, and Justice; Office of the Ombudsperson; the Lawyers' Training Center under the Ministry of Justice; and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

As a member of the UN Country Team and the [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#) of Uzbekistan, UNHCR engages with UN and development partners to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless people are not left behind in Uzbekistan's achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the UN Country Team in Uzbekistan – together with 49 other UN Country Teams around the world – contributed to the [UN Common Pledge 2.0](#), committing to support host countries' efforts to include refugees and stateless people in national systems, such as health and education, and to boost refugees' access to decent work.

