

# The Kyrgyz Republic

## National Office

Working with the Government to strengthen the **national asylum system** and support **local integration of refugees**

Advocating for immediate **birth registration, prevention of statelessness**, and accession to the **Statelessness Conventions**

Partnering for efficient **preparedness and response to forced displacement emergencies**



Photo: UNHCR/ Bektur Zhanibekov

The escalation of violence on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in 2022 displaced more than 142,000 people. With support from the People of Japan, UNHCR and partners supported recovery of civilian documents, ensuring individuals have legal proof of identity.

### Key Figures (as of 30 June 2023)



**1,030**  
**Refugees and Asylum-Seekers**

from Afghanistan (459), Syria (65), Ukraine (28) and other countries.



**227**  
**known Stateless people**

with more cases being discovered.



The operation in the Kyrgyz Republic is coordinated by the UNHCR Representation to Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In 2023, UNHCR requires \$6.4 million to protect refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people across the four countries. As of 31 August 2023, the operations are 44% funded.

### With thanks to our donors

UNHCR is grateful for contributions directly to the Kyrgyz Republic National Office, as well as donors of unearmarked and flexible funding, including: Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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## Protecting Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

UNHCR supports authorities in the Kyrgyz Republic to recognise, protect, and integrate refugees – serving both 'mandate' refugees (118 people recognised as refugees under UNHCR's mandate), and 'convention' refugees (137 refugees recognised by the State).

In December 2021, the Kyrgyz Republic made two [Global Compact on Refugees](#) pledges:

- To issue machine-readable travel documents for refugees and stateless persons recognized by the Kyrgyz Republic in line with ICAO standards.
- To ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have access to healthcare and social protection on par with citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In collaboration with partners, UNHCR supports implementation of these pledges, advocates for naturalisation of long-standing mandate refugees, and promotes integration of convention refugees.

In 2022, UNHCR submitted comments on six draft laws to promote alignment with international standards and ensure refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people in the Kyrgyz Republic can access due rights, including health, education and employment. As of mid-2023, 16 out of 29 proposals had been accepted, including providing refugees access to health services equally with citizens, and ensuring birth registration of all children – fulfilling two 2019 pledges. Legislation advocacy work continues regarding non-refoulement guarantees, access to asylum from detention, access of refugees to education equally with citizens, access to free legal assistance provided by the State, prevention of statelessness and access to naturalization, statelessness status determination procedures and issuance of travel documents of refugees and stateless persons.



**Download the [UNHCR Analysis of the Kyrgyz Republic's National Legislation on Statelessness](#)**

## Preparing for Emergencies

UNHCR engages with the UN Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) and UN Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) to ensure a protection-sensitive approach in national, regional and interagency emergency preparedness and response efforts.

In 2022, as part of the DRCU response to the internal displacement emergency on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, UNHCR led the Protection Sector and contributed to the Shelter and Non-Food Item Sector.

UNHCR supports the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to enhance emergency preparedness and build national response capacities for situations of forced displacement.

## Addressing and Preventing Statelessness

Encouraged by the global [#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness](#), in 2019 the Kyrgyz Republic became the first country in the world to resolve all its known cases of statelessness. However, by the start of 2023, the number of cases had again grown to 203, with more likely to be discovered.

To prevent the re-occurrence of statelessness, UNHCR and partners support the Government to implement its pledges made at the October 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness:

- To provide birth certificates to children who do not have birth registration
- To align national birth registration legislation with international standards to ensure registration of birth of every child born in the Kyrgyz Republic
- To adopt regulations for determining the legal status of a stateless person
- To study the experience of State parties to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness.

## Working with Partners

Government partners include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Labour, Social Security and Migration; Digital Development; Justice; Health; Education; Interior; and Emergencies; Statistic Committee and the Border Service. UNHCR works in partnership with NGO the Public Foundation Legal Clinic "Adilet".

As an active member of the UN Country Team and its Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, UNHCR engages with UN and development partners, international financial institutions and other stakeholders to ensure that refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people are not left behind in the Kyrgyz Republic's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the lead-up to the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the UN Country Team defined country-level input for the UN Common Pledge 2.0, ensuring commitments made lead directly to measurable changes in the lives of refugees and stateless people.