

# Azerbaijan

September 2022

In partnership with the Government and civil society, **UNHCR works to ensure an adequate protection space** for asylum-seekers and enhance durable solution prospects for the persons of concern.

**UNHCR reinforced its efforts in the area of refugee integration and self-reliance** by taking additional measures to ensure their full and efficient inclusion into Azerbaijani social, economic, and cultural life.

UNHCR is also committed to working closer with other agencies through the **“Delivering as One”** initiative in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022\*

Refugees	<b>6,466</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>121</b>
Internally displaced persons	<b>654,839</b>
Stateless persons**	<b>3,585</b>

\*\*Includes un-registered persons at risk of statelessness – 2009 Census

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>4,788</b>	Ukraine	<b>41</b>
Afghanistan	<b>1,179</b>	Afghanistan	<b>35</b>
Russian Federation	<b>325</b>	Pakistan	<b>34</b>

\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

**As of 30 September, 4,218** refugees and people in a refugee-like situation from Ukraine are currently present in Azerbaijan.

In cooperation with the national authorities, UNHCR mainstreams Ukrainian nationals into its existing programs, primarily legal assistance, and counselling, as well as coverage of state fees for temporary and permanent residence permits.

UNHCR delivered **200 dry food parcels** and **100 dignity kits** to the newly arrived families in partnership with the Ukrainian Embassy and volunteers.

**Support to the most vulnerable:** cash assistance reached 31 vulnerable Ukrainians, as well as arranged legal assistance for 3 individuals.

**Coordination:** Following UNHCR-facilitated negotiations in June between the State Migration Service (SMS) and the State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance (SAMHI), SMS started sharing data on Ukrainians in a refugee-like situation with the SAMHI to facilitate their access to health services.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Over 60 young refugees

were supported to pursue tertiary education either through enrollment in the DAFI Scholarship (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) Programme or by covering their annual tuition fees.

### 1,160 internally displaced persons

benefitted from free legal aid provided through the legal counseling and legal aid projects implemented by UNHCR.

### 14 Ukrainian nationals

were financially supported by UNHCR to obtain temporary residence permits and legalize their stay in Azerbaijan after the completion of the 90 days visa-free stay period.

### Statelessness

From April to September 2022, the number of the registered stateless individuals decreased from 391 to 160 after the Government confirmed their citizenship.

## YOUNG REFUGEES GET DECENT JOBS



Nilab Zeynaddin, a young refugee from Afghanistan, has recently been employed as a nurse by the Leyla Medical Centre after her successful graduation from Baku Medical College. Nilab was supported by UNHCR Azerbaijan throughout her studies as the Agency paid her annual tuition fees and some expenses related to transport and purchasing supplies. Click [here](#) to read the press release published on 21 September 2022

## Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocates with authorities and stakeholders to ensure an adequate protection space and respect of human rights in line with international standards.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR monitors conditions for accessing the territory and adherence to the principle of non-refoulement in line with international law and standards.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR monitors access to asylum procedures and works to strengthen the quality of the Government's asylum process by providing guidance on international protection standards and training.
- **Solutions:** UNHCR is working with the Government to pursue self-reliance, inclusion and integration into Azerbaijani society for asylum-seekers and refugees and safe, dignified and voluntary return of IDPs to the war-affected areas after three decades of displacement. UNHCR provides policy advice and expertise to the Government on various issues, including housing, land and property in connection with IDP returns.
- **Integration: Despite the lack of legal status,** refugees and asylum-seekers have been granted legal access to the labour market, to free primary and secondary education and health care. Some refugee students are also assisted to go to University through the German-funded DAFI Scholarship Programme and other sources of funds.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR advocates with the Government and civil society to provide protection and solutions for refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, in line with international standards. In particular, UNHCR advocates improving the recognition rate of asylum-seekers from refugees' main countries of origin, granting a secure legal status to refugees, and adopting legislative amendments introducing complementary forms of protection.

- **Non-Food Items:** UNHCR distributes core relief items, or cash if feasible, to the most vulnerable people in displacement, including Ukrainians, and conflict-affected people, in need of humanitarian aid.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with State and civil society to coordinate protection and assistance interventions for refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, and conflict-affected persons.
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR intends to engage broader audiences to ensure awareness of the gravity and scale of forced displacement and statelessness, and the importance of UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR's approach is harmonized with humanitarian and development efforts of other actors as set out in the UN 2030 Agenda and Global Compact on Refugees.

## Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR is expected to exercise its supervisory role concerning returns as per the 9 November 2020 tripartite statement signed between the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan and Armenia. UNHCR will primarily engage in analysis and legal and policy advice, as well as advocacy to ensure returns are safe and voluntary.

## Statelessness

- UNHCR assists the Government of Azerbaijan in achieving its pledge made at the High-level Segment on Statelessness to naturalize documented stateless persons residing in Azerbaijan.

## UNHCR Presence in Azerbaijan

### Staff:

- 20 National Staff
- 4 International Staff
- 3 Affiliated workforce

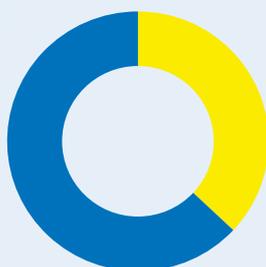
### Offices:

- 1 Country Office in Baku
- 1 Reception Centre in Baku

## Financial information (September 2022)

### Financial requirements USD 7.8 M

Funding gap  
63%  
4.9 M



Funded  
37%  
2.9 M

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