

Azerbaijan

February 2023

Since 1992, UNHCR has been supporting the government in **protecting** refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people, and finding **durable solutions** for them.

In addition to **refugee integration and self-reliance**, UNHCR has launched programs to promote the safe, voluntary, and dignified **return of displaced people** to their places of origin.

Within the **“Delivering as One”** initiative, UNHCR cooperates with other agencies in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance, and the environment.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees	6,466
Asylum-seekers	121
Stateless persons	3,585
Internally displaced persons	654,839

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	4,788	Ukraine	41
Afghanistan	1,179	Afghanistan	35
Russia	325	Pakistan	34

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 15 February, **4,928** refugees and people in a refugee-like situation from Ukraine were present in Azerbaijan.

In cooperation with the national authorities, UNHCR mainstreams refugees from Ukraine into its existing programs, primarily legal assistance, and counselling. Upon vulnerability assessment, refugees from Ukraine receive cash assistance from UNHCR, while the **state fees for temporary or permanent residence permits** are covered for those referred by the authorities.

Support to the most vulnerable: In 2022, UNHCR delivered **cash assistance** to 110 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, and arranged **legal assistance** for 5 refugees.

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.

Inclusion: UNHCR works with relevant authorities to ensure that Ukrainians in the country have access to basic services, mainly to health, education, and to legal employment.

HIGHLIGHTS

27,628 internally displaced persons

attended awareness-raising sessions in 2022 on mine and unexploded ordnance within a UNHCR-funded project

Over 60 young refugees

were supported in 2022 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.

3,179 internally displaced persons

benefitted from the legal counseling and legal aid projects in 2022 implemented by UNHCR.

Statelessness

In 2022, **65** stateless persons acquired nationality, while **212** submitted applications to the authorities for 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 align policies, practices, and laws 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 and provides guidance on international protection standards to strengthen the quality of the government's asylum process.
- **Solutions:** UNHCR is working with the government to pursue self-reliance, inclusion, and integration of asylum-seekers and refugees and a safe, dignified, and voluntary return of internally displaced people. UNHCR provides policy advice and expertise to the government on various issues, including housing, land, and property in connection with returns of internally displaced people.
- **Integration:** Despite the lack of legal status, refugees and asylum-seekers have been granted legal access to the labour market, free primary and secondary education, and health care. Some refugee students are also assisted to pursue their education in colleges, universities, and academies.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR advocates with the government and civil society to provide protection and solutions for the people we serve, including the stateless, in line with international standards. In particular, UNHCR advocates for an improved recognition rate of asylum-seekers from refugees' main countries of origin, granting legal status to refugees, and adopting legislative amendments introducing complementary forms of protection.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with authorities and civil society to coordinate protection and assistance interventions for all forcibly displaced people, including conflict-affected people and the stateless.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR intends to engage broader audiences to improve awareness of the gravity and scale of forced displacement and statelessness, and the importance of UNHCR's mandate. UNHCR's approach is aligned with the humanitarian and development efforts of other actors as set out in the UN 2030 Agenda and Global Compact on Refugees.

Internally Displaced People

- 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 legal and policy advice, as well as advocacy for safe and voluntary return.
- UNHCR funds mine-awareness and community mobilization projects to secure favorable conditions for safe and voluntary return.

Statelessness

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

UNHCR Presence in Azerbaijan

Staff:

- 28 National Staff
- 4 International Staff
- 4 Affiliated workforce

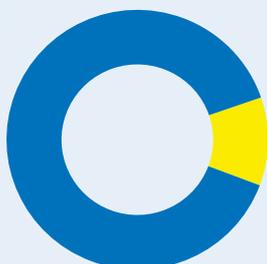
Offices:

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

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements USD 7.4 M

Funding gap
89%
6.6 M



Funded
11%
0.8 M

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UNHCR Azerbaijan is grateful to the donors to its 2023 programme.

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