

# Azerbaijan

February 2024

UNHCR supports the Government in achieving **durable solutions** for internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, and stateless people present in Azerbaijan.

In addition to the interventions aimed at promoting **self-reliance of internally displaced communities**, UNHCR supports community mobilization, legal and social aid programmes.

UNHCR's interventions are aligned with the humanitarian and **sustainable development** priorities reflected in the UN 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Refugees.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)\*

Internally displaced people	<b>658,793</b>
Refugees	<b>6,280</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>159</b>
Stateless people	<b>3,585</b>

### Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	4,668	Ukraine	108
Afghanistan	1,126	Pakistan	31
Russian Federation	303	Afghanistan	15

\*UNHCR mid-2023 Trends and UNHCR data finder

## Support for return of IDPs

UNHCR supports safe and voluntary return of IDPs to their places of origin, which the Government is implementing in the context of its 'Great Return Programme.'

### Technical assistance for capacity building

UNHCR is engaged with the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service (JIPS) to support the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs Affairs. Following a mission in September 2023, JIPS produced a report with key observations and recommendations to strengthen the Committee's capability for IDP statistics and analysis, as well as to develop efficient tools for monitoring and assessment.

### Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

In collaboration with Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA), 275 mine-risk awareness billboards were produced and installed between September 2022 - December 2023 within the EORE project funded by UNHCR and implemented by NGO International Eurasia Press Fund across six regions. UNHCR and the implementing partner plan to install 155 billboards and conduct information sessions for over 50,000 people in 2024.

### Material support to IDP community initiatives

UNHCR provides financial support to some IDP communities in Aghdam, Baku, and Jabrayil to complete several infrastructure and livelihood projects, in collaboration with the State Committee for Refugees and IDPs Affairs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**55,337 internally displaced people (IDPs)** attended mine awareness sessions organized as part of a UNHCR-funded project in 2023, to secure favourable conditions for safe and voluntary returns.

**52 refugee youth** were supported by UNHCR to pursue higher education through both the DAFI Scholarship Programme, as well as assistance with covering annual tuition fees.

**17 stateless persons** acquired nationality in 2023 and 117 individuals submitted citizenship requests through UNHCR's legal and financial aid.

**2,852 IDPs and other vulnerable people** benefitted from eye tests and free-of-charge eyeglasses by the Japanese Fuji Optical in 2023.



Learning the art of cooking © Umid SSD / Chimnaz Huseynova,

## UNHCR-funded apprenticeship programme

Ravan Ahmadov, a 20-year-old internally displaced person, worked hard to become a professional chef. He is optimistic about the possibility of one day returning to Shusha, southwest Azerbaijan, which is the birthplace of his father.

Click [here](#) to read Ravan's story.

## Key Priorities

- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** In 2023, UNHCR supported six community empowerment projects developed by internally displaced communities, reaching more than 8,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in three regions where 6 community centres were established, as well as 30 training sessions on project development, community mobilization, and needs assessment. UNHCR facilitated the participation of young refugees in workshops on various topics, such as leadership, communication, and career growth.
- **Legal and social assistance:** Nearly 5,500 IDPs benefitted from legal aid and social counselling projects in seven cities and regions in 2023. UNHCR also provided legal aid and counselling to about 1,500 refugees and stateless persons.
- **Women empowerment:** UNHCR's project related to strengthening youth and women-inclusive initiatives and services reached 184 IDPs through training programmes in four regions. Additionally, six refugee women undertook internships arranged by UNHCR.
- **Access to services and benefits:** Apart from monitoring refugees' access to education, health, and legal employment, UNHCR provides financial support to the most vulnerable refugees to help meet their basic needs. In 2023, 337 schoolchildren benefitted from one-time cash assistance, 252 refugees received financial support for health services not covered by health insurance, 188 refugee families received regular cash and 92 families received one-time cash payments. 1,993 people including some refugees from Ukraine benefitted from food parcels.
- **Socio-economic inclusion of refugees:** UNHCR engages with the private sector and development actors along with relevant authorities. Through UNHCR, 11 refugees obtained formal employment in 2023, and eight refugees obtained digital ASAN signatures (i.e., digital mobile identities to access e-services) upon completion

of driving school. In 2023, about 45 refugee youth attended skills training courses in Baku with UNHCR's support.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Government, law enforcement, and civil society organizations to improve the protection space for forcibly displaced and stateless persons, as well as to contribute to the implementation of the pledges made by Azerbaijan within the Global Refugee Forums in 2019 and 2023, including the pledge related to the safe and voluntary return of IDPs.
- **External engagement:** In collaboration with the Government partners, in October 2023 UNHCR participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> **Senior Officials' Meeting** of the **Almaty Process**, chaired by Azerbaijan. In November, UNHCR **organized a workshop** devoted to the improvement of access of asylum seekers and stateless persons to the national justice system.

## Statelessness

- Azerbaijan has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. As part of the **#IBelong** campaign, over 2,000 stateless people have acquired nationality, while more than 6,000 persons' affiliation to citizenship was established.
- UNHCR works closely with government counterparts to reduce statelessness. 134 stateless persons benefitted from legal aid services and 856 individuals from legal counselling provided by UNHCR in 2023.

## UNHCR Presence in Azerbaijan

### Staff:

23 National Staff  
 3 International Staff  
 11 Affiliated workforce

### Offices:

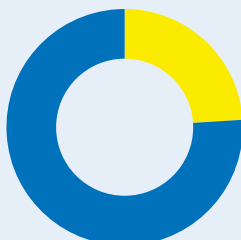
1 Country Office in Baku

## Financial information (February 2024)

### Financial requirements for 2024

**\$ 8.0 M**

Funding gap 76%  
**\$ 6.1 M**



Funded 24%  
**\$ 1.9 M**

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