

Azerbaijan

February 2022

UNHCR works in partnership with the Government and civil society to ensure an adequate protection space for asylum-seekers and enhance local integration prospects for refugees.

UNHCR delivers humanitarian aid to the conflict-affected population and is increasing engagement with internally displaced persons (IDPs) via awareness-raising and individual legal assistance.

UNHCR is proactively involved in the design and implementation of a durable solutions framework with a particular focus on IDP and refugee returns in the post-conflict context.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	1,603
Asylum-seekers	42
Internally displaced persons	653,921
Stateless persons	3,585
Total population of concern	659,151

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Afghanistan	1,109	Afghanistan	24
Russian Federation	324	Russian Federation	18
Iran	45		

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR's efforts aim at maintaining protection space for persons of concern in line with international law and standards amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inclusion: Following advocacy with authorities, persons of concern who received free-of-charge vaccinations were able to obtain COVID-19 passports, necessary to access some public gatherings and services.

Aid distribution: UNHCR distributes emergency cash, food and core relief items (CRIs) to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Azerbaijan to cover their basic needs.

Health: UNHCR continues to provide free secondary health care services to registered refugees and asylum-seekers through contracted service providers.

HIGHLIGHTS

Over 50,000 conflict-affected people

benefitted from distribution of CRIs, while 654 families (2,903 persons) received cash. In addition, 1,650 eyeglasses and 20 hearing aids from Japanese Fuji Optical were distributed.

Cash assistance to refugees

In 2021, 110 refugee and asylum-seeking families were provided with monthly allowances, and 797 households received emergency cash to cope with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Encouragement to refugee education

23 refugee students were supported within the DAFI Scholarship (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) Programme in 2021. Additionally, UNHCR covered tuition fees for some 47 young refugees and asylum-seekers studying in universities and colleges.

Support to conflict-affected communities



With the financial support of donors, UNHCR has delivered critical assistance to conflict-affected populations in cooperation with the authorities and a number of implementing partners.

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Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR advocates with authorities and stakeholders to ensure an adequate protection space in line with international standards and the adoption of complementary forms of protection.
- **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:** Despite the lack of legal status, since 2020, refugees and asylum-seekers have enjoyed legal access to the labour market and coverage by the Law on Mandatory Health Insurance. As a result of UNHCR's advocacy, data on persons of concern was integrated into the electronic information system, allowing them access to State services.
- **Integration:** Refugees and asylum-seekers have access to free primary and secondary education and primary health care. Some refugee students benefit from the DAFI Scholarship Programme and most receive UNHCR tuition support and cash assistance.
- **Advocacy:** UNHCR assists the Government in designing and implementing a comprehensive framework for IDP and refugee returns in line with international standards. UNHCR provides policy advice and expertise to the Government on various issues, including housing, land and property.
- **Non-Food Items:** UNHCR distributes core relief items, or cash if feasible, to the most vulnerable conflict-affected persons in need of humanitarian assistance.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with State and non-State actors to coordinate protection and assistance interventions for refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless persons and conflict-affected persons in Azerbaijan.
- **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 Azerbaijan assists the State Migration Service with awareness-raising aimed at identifying persons at risk of statelessness in the country.

UNHCR Presence in Azerbaijan

Staff:

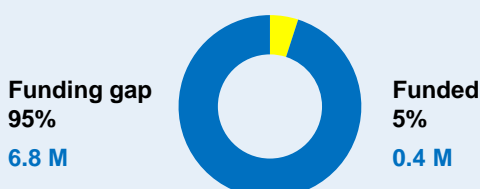
21 National Staff
 5 International Staff
 3 Affiliated workforce

Offices:

1 Country Office in Baku
 1 Reception Centre in Baku

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements
USD 7.2 million



UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provides UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest needs or at the greatest risks.