



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

KYRGYZSTAN



Courtesy: UNHCR

Reasons for Displacement:

In April 2010, a demonstration by opposition leaders over corruption and increased living expenses resulted in

the President Bakiyev being overthrown. This was followed by inter-ethnic violence between Kyrgyzstan's two main ethnic groups (Kyrgyz and Uzbeks) erupting in June 2010. As a result of the violence, there were casualties on each side, as well as torture, sexual assault, and widespread property damages. An estimated 300,000 people fled for safety to other locations within Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring Uzbekistan. However, with security forces quickly re-establishing order, the vast majority of refugees and IDPs returned within months.

Since the June 2010 violence, there has been no further large scale violence

and intolerance. Although, many of the victims of the 2010 violence face difficulty in registering and replacing lost or destroyed documents which are needed in order to prove ownership of their homes.

Refugee Communities:

Within Kyrgyzstan there are around 12,000 stateless people. The issue of statelessness is due to a lack of awareness amongst the public about obtaining identification, particularly amongst people living in poor rural areas. Without proper identification, these people find it difficult to obtain basic rights including education, health care, employment and social allowances. UNHCR continues to work with the Kyrgyzstan government to address the issue of statelessness in the country.

Number of refugees:

482 residing in Kyrgyzstan
2,437 originating from Kyrgyzstan
[source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

0
12,133 stateless persons
[source: UNHCR]

History:

1990—State of emergency after inter-ethnic clash between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz

1991—Gained independence and its present name

1992—Joins UN and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

1993—Currency changes from Russian ruble to som

1995—President Akayev is elected

1996—Referendum giving more power to the president; another referendum in 2003 changes it

1998—Moratorium on death penalty announced

2002—President Akayev reelected

2005—President Bakiyev elected

2007—Referendum approves constitutional change

2010—Revolution overthrows President K. Bakiyevan

2011—Prime Minister Almazbek Atambayev wins presidential elections

2014—Joomart Otorbayev is elected prime minister

Assistance:

- RIJ funded emergency assistance to 940 elderly people to prepare them for winter
- UNHCR, in cooperation with the government and local NGOs, aims to reduce statelessness through activities such as on-the-spot registrations
- The Danish Refugee Council built a large number of permanent housing for returnee families

