

Armenia

30 June 2021

In the context of **Global Refugee Compact**, UNHCR supports the State to improve refugee reception and protection mechanisms, statelessness related policies, and ensure refugees' inclusion in ongoing national reforms.

Nagorno-Karabakh (NK): Jointly with the UN RC Office, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to the **refugee-like population** displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and residing across the country.

Inter-Agency Response: Under the joint leadership of the UN RC and UNHCR, the UN Country Team launched the **Armenia Inter-Agency Response Plan** - presented to the Government on 28 January 2021.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	3,401
Asylum-seekers	144
Persons in refugee-like situation*	42,023
Stateless people	892
Total	46,460

* includes persons in a refugee-like situation from Syria and NK

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Azerbaijan	1,212	Iran	38
Iraq	1,092	Syria	20
Syria	744	Iraq	9

Data source: Government of Armenia

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF advocate for the inclusion of persons of concern in the national vaccination programme. As of 30 June 2021, some 40 persons of concern were vaccinated through UNHCR referrals.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's collaboration with host communities and persons of concern is ongoing through regular field visits and by operating hotline services, UNHCR Armenia Facebook page, "Refugee Info Armenia" Telegram channel, as well as UNHCR Armenia Help website.

Prevention: UNHCR and partners disseminate WHO information leaflets and posters on the prevention of COVID-19, distributes face masks and other protective tools to municipalities and collective shelters; 736 persons of concern received cash assistance to cover basic needs in context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS

Protection Monitoring

1,907 individuals were interviewed during the reporting period. Among them, 51% were women. The most recent **Protection Monitoring Report** includes data on protection related risks and challenges faced by persons of concern.

Cash Assistance

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and UNHCR, along with its partner NGOs delivering cash assistance to persons in refugee-like situation.

Peaceful Co-existence Projects

and **community support initiatives** are launched through Armenia. **Two municipalities and five community-based organizations** were provided with technical assistance.



UNHCR Armenia staff delivering assistance.

Visit [UNHCR Armenia Facebook](#) page to explore more.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** Along with protection monitoring activities, UNHCR supports the Government to enhance reception conditions and address basic needs of the most vulnerable persons of concern; monitors reception facilities and provides individual legal, psychological, medical, and social assistance to persons with specific needs. Around 1,095 individuals displaced from NK were referred through protection monitoring to receive non-food items from UNHCR.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR systematically monitors the points of entry to ensure that asylum-seekers can access the territory and national asylum procedure without hindrance; supports the building of national capacities in the area of asylum and migration, and assists in institutionalization of refugee law courses for border guards and entry officials.
- **Asylum to procedures:** UNHCR, in partnership with Mission Armenia NGO, monitors administrative and judicial asylum procedures; and assists the Government to enhance the quality and efficiency of asylum procedures.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR provides targeted assistance to persons of concern to facilitate their integration in Armenia. Along with psychosocial, legal and medical assistance, refugees benefit from vocational and language courses, and livelihood projects with income generation tools. Partnered with MADE51, displaced women entrepreneurs are engaged in production of traditional handicraft, souvenirs, and masks.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with state and non-state stakeholders, including the Migration Service, the Human Rights Defender's Office, Public Defender's Office, line ministries and the judiciary, the Parliament, Police, regional governors' offices and municipalities, civil society, mass media, and academia.
- **External Engagement and Communication with Communities:** Key activities included: enhancing public awareness on the plight and challenges faced by persons of concern; educating the latter on their rights and responsibilities, in line with the spirit of the

Global Compact on Refugees, including through the newly launched [UNHCR HELP Armenia website](#).

Nagorno-Karabakh Response

- Some **36,989 persons** were in a **refugee-like situation** in Armenia as of May 2021. The vast majority are women and children.
- Together with the UN RC's Office, UNHCR leads the **coordination mechanisms** for the response to the humanitarian needs of persons displaced from NK due to the armed conflict that erupted in September 2020.
- UNHCR is closely engaged in **protection monitoring** activities (including departure and return monitoring) to effectively identify and respond to the protection needs of the vulnerable displaced persons across Armenia.
- During the reporting period, some **1,285 persons** from the refugee-like population from NK received in-kind assistance to cover basic needs.

Statelessness

- Armenia acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. In promotion of #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness. UNHCR supports the Government's efforts in assuring statelessness related legal policies and procedures.
- UNHCR promotes introduction of the 1954 Convention travel documents for stateless persons compatible with the International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

UNHCR Presence in Armenia

Staff:

32 National Staff
 10 International Staff

Offices:

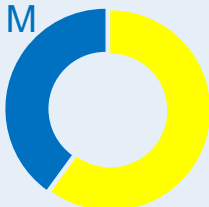
1 Field Office in Yerevan

Financial information (July 2021)

Financial requirements
USD 15.4 M

Funded
 60%
9.3 M

Funding gap
 40%
6.1 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions to the 2021 global programmes, which allow UNHCR for critical flexibility to reach populations of concern in the greatest need. Donors of USD 10 million or more:

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