

Armenia

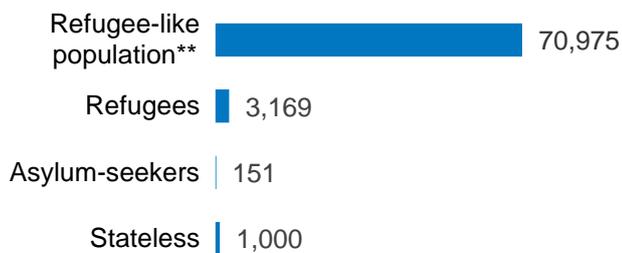
1 January – 31 March 2021

UNHCR, with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and the Government of Armenia, **continues to co-coordinate the response** to the needs of the refugee-like population from Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) and host communities.

An **Inter-Agency Response Plan** to address those needs was launched on 22 January. The Government of **Japan** extended an Emergency Grant of USD 3.6 million to UN Armenia, of which USD **2 million were allocated to UNHCR**.

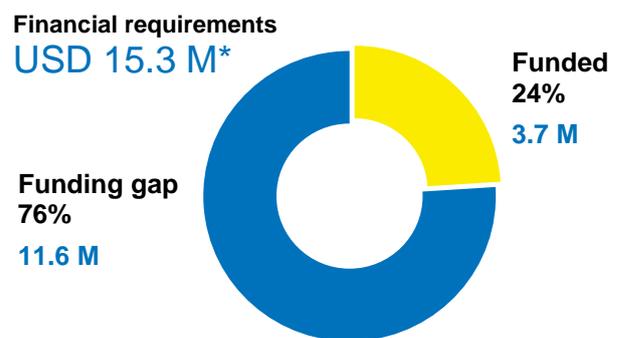
UNHCR continues strengthening the **asylum procedure and reception conditions**. The Migration Service and UNHCR issued good practices to adjust asylum procedures to the **COVID-19** situation.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

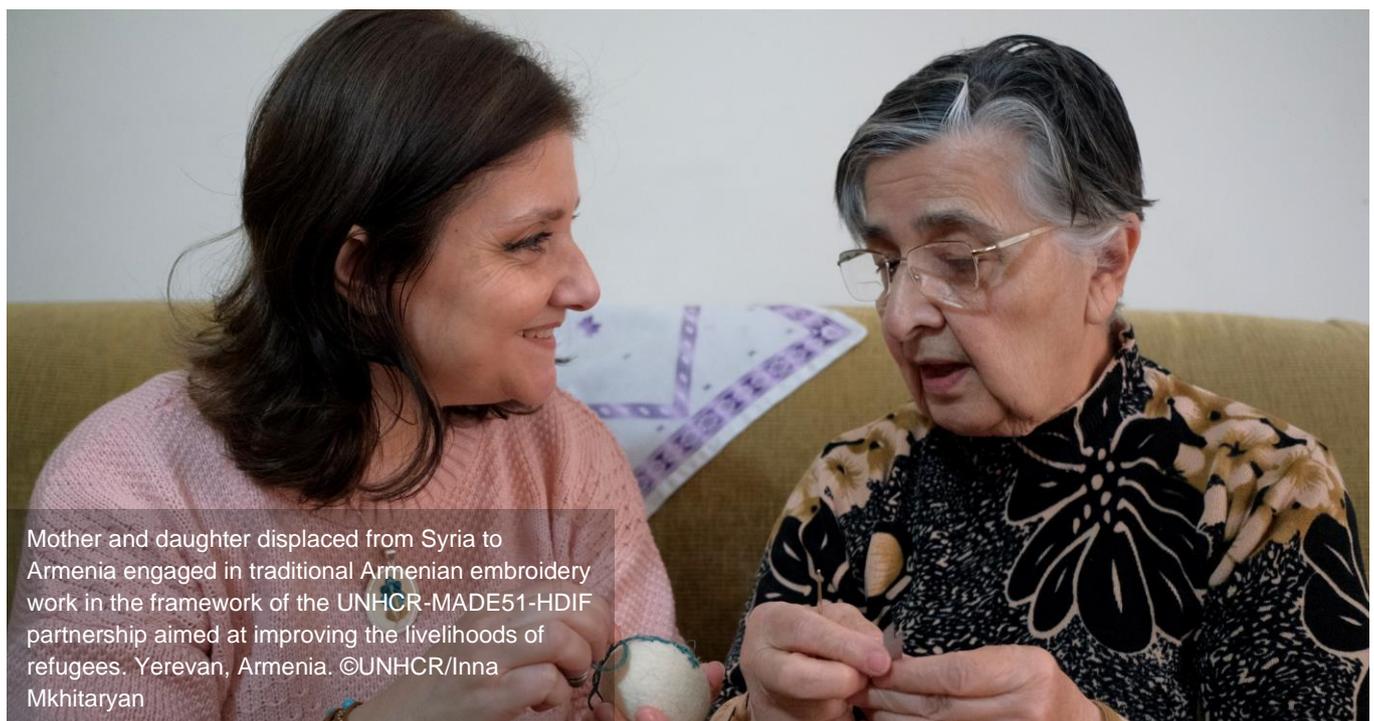


* Source: Migration Service, 1 January 2021
 ** including 66,051 persons in a refugee-like situation as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict [as of March 2021] and 4,527 Syrian-Armenian refugee-like population living in Armenia, assisted by UNHCR

FUNDING (AS OF 31 MARCH 2021)



*including USD 12.1 M in the Inter-Agency Response Plan



Mother and daughter displaced from Syria to Armenia engaged in traditional Armenian embroidery work in the framework of the UNHCR-MADE51-HDIF partnership aimed at improving the livelihoods of refugees. Yerevan, Armenia. ©UNHCR/Inna Mkhitarian

Operational Context

On 27 September 2020, clashes broke out along the line of contact and expanded to other areas in and around **Nagorno-Karabakh**, until a ceasefire statement was signed on 9 November. The conflict resulted in civilian casualties, destroyed infrastructure and some 90,000 people displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts to Armenia. According to the Migration Service, **66,051 persons** were in a refugee-like situation in Armenia as of 30 March 2021. The vast **majority are women and children**, hosted by relatives or in collective accommodation shelters, some in substandard condition.

Documentation, housing, decent employment and livelihood opportunities remain the most pressing needs of asylum-seekers and refugees. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the escalation of the conflict, aggravated the challenges associated with their difficult socioeconomic situation in Armenia.

UNHCR and partners work toward enhancing the protection environment while providing assistance to those most at risk. UNHCR advocates for inclusion of persons of concern in national response plans, including COVID-19 recovery and vaccination plans, and other legislative and administrative reforms.

Covering Immediate needs of the refugee-like population from Nagorno-Karabakh

Under the leadership of **UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Armenia**, an [Inter-Agency Response Plan 2020-2021](#) has been developed to support the humanitarian response. The Plan is country-specific and covers a nine-month period from October 2020 to June 2021.

It presents planned activities of 35 UN, NGO and Red Cross Movement partners with overall required funds of **USD 62.1 million**. The Plan is linked to broader UN plans, such as the UN COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Framework (under development).

UNHCR expanded its **Protection Monitoring**, which provides first-hand information about protection-related trends, risks and vulnerabilities, as well as possibilities to intervene and support. It plays an important role in identifying vulnerable persons and determining the most critical needs.

Shelter, cash, household items, employment, clothing, food, healthcare and hygiene kits remain, in order of priority, the main needs among persons in a refugee-like situation. However, currently more families prioritize employment and clothing over food.

UNHCR Priorities



PROTECTION

- Continue conducting **protection monitoring** to identify protection risks and monitor living conditions of persons of concern to UNHCR;
- Raise awareness and provide **legal assistance** when necessary;
- Support **prevention of and protection from gender-based violence**;
- Strengthen communication with communities on **access to rights and services**



SHELTER AND NFI

- Provide **shelter assistance** (including through repairs in collective centres), especially in light of the winter weather, while advocating for long-term solutions;
- Provide and distribute **NFI kits** to the most vulnerable in a refugee-like situation, including personal hygiene kits, domestic items, kitchen supplies, winterization kits and **cash assistance**.

Achievements of January-March 2021



Some **4,950 persons** in a refugee-like situation received **hygiene kits**, around **22,800 individuals** received in-kind assistance for basic needs, and **about 43,000** received winter clothes with support from UNHCR partner the Armenian Red Cross Society. In addition, **1,127 households** were provided with non-cash assistance by UNHCR partner Mission Armenia.



UNHCR reached 2,872 individuals through **645 protection monitoring interviews**, of which 256 were held during field visits and NFI distributions, and 389 by phone. 336 households (1,484 individuals) were identified for referrals for additional assistance and access to services.



Around **4,000 individuals** benefited from social services provided by Mission Armenia. Some **1,000** individuals received cash assistance.



723 persons of concern received health care services.



Some **3,500** individuals were reached through awareness-raising activities during protection monitoring visits and interviews by UNHCR Armenia.



78 persons were provided with legal counselling and assistance by Mission Armenia.

Working in partnership

- UNHCR Armenia, operating within the UN Country Team, cooperates with State and non-State stakeholders. UNHCR is a member of UN inter-agency coordination platforms and mechanisms. Jointly with the UN Country Team, it promotes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in Armenia.
- The UN Country Team in Armenia has established a flexible coordination structure under the co-leadership of UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. At the technical level, the coordination structure is centred around four humanitarian Working Groups (WGs), as well as a fifth WG on Early Recovery to strengthen the resilience capacity of both the refugee-like population and host communities. UNHCR leads the Protection WG and the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) WG and co-leads the Sub-WG on Cash Assistance.

Financial Information

In 2021, UNHCR Armenia is seeking **USD 15.3 million** to respond to the needs of people in a refugee-like situation and to cover the regular annual programme. The **Inter-Agency Response Plan's** financial requirements reach **USD 62.1 million**.

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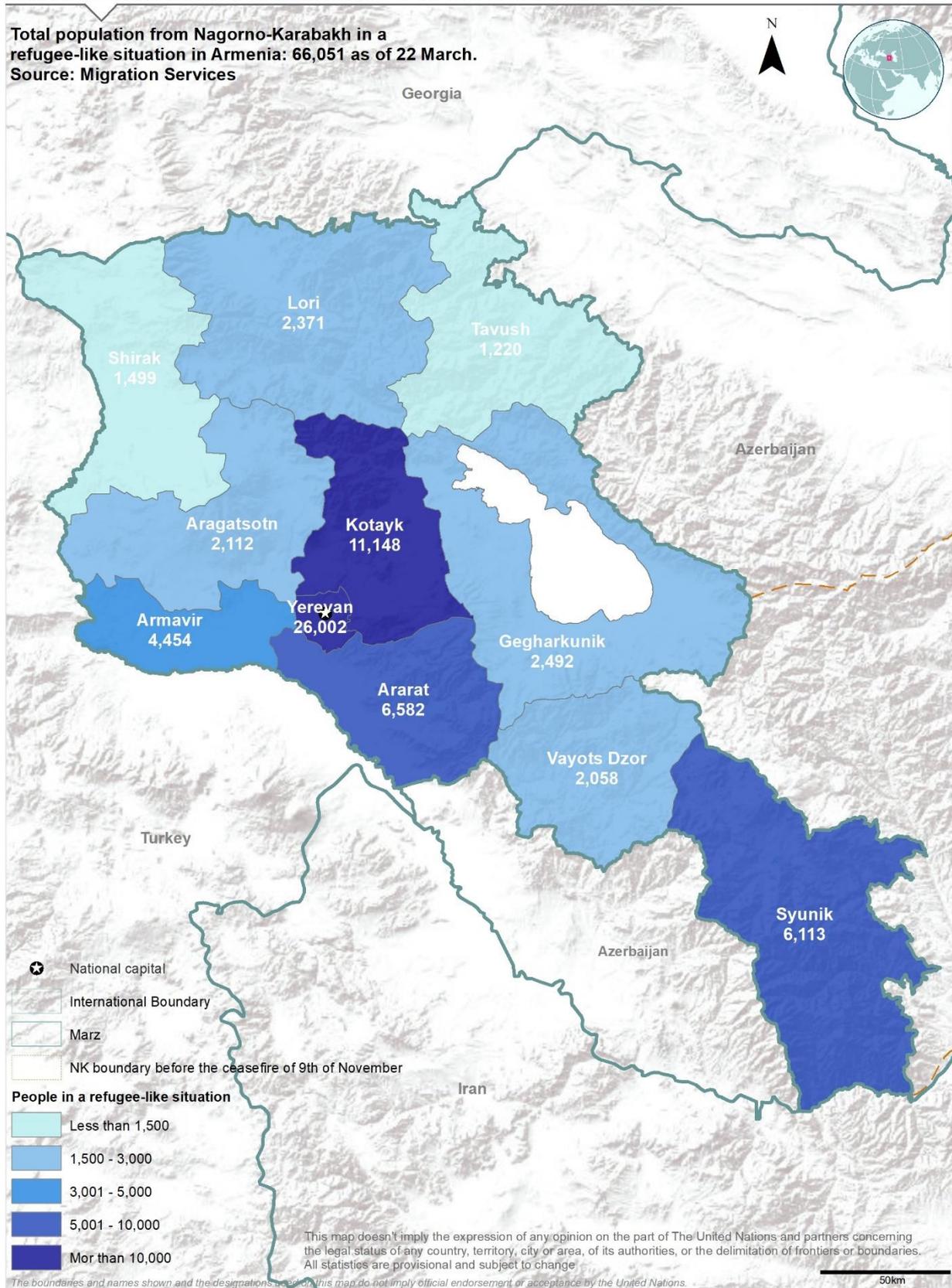
For more information, visit the [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#)
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Armenia - People in a refugee-like situation from NK

Information Management Working Group (IMWG) product supported by UNRCO and UNHCR

Total population from Nagorno-Karabakh in a refugee-like situation in Armenia: **66,051** as of 22 March.
Source: Migration Services



Printing date: 23 Mar 2021 Sources: UNHCR, UNCS, REACH, MoLSA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, IOM, MoTAI (MS) Author: UNHCR - Armenia
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