UNHCR’s Protection Monitoring (PM) exercise is conducted on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing individuals in a refugee-like situation from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts. It uses standard questionnaire to gain information on their protection situation, needs, and coping mechanisms.

Starting from July 2021, UNHCR implements protection monitoring in partnership with the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS). In addition, UNHCR Protection Unit conducts systematic protection missions to locations with high concentration of people in a refugee-like situation from Nagorno-Karabakh to meet with various stakeholders, displaced families and to complement the quantitative analysis from the household interviews.

### Key numbers July to August 2021

- **1,500 Families interviewed**
- **6,609 Individuals covered**
- **4,41 Average family size**
- **16% Persons with disabilities/special needs**

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## Highlights

The number of interviewed households residing in collective accommodation (Collective Shelters or Transitional Centers1) dropped from four percent (4%) during the previous reporting period to two percent (2%) for the reporting period of July-August.

The intention to return amongst people in a refugee-like situation interviewed during the reporting period dropped from 19% to 6% (compared to May-June 2021).

Among concerns related to return: security risks (34%), no access to the area of origin/former habitual residence (29%), lack of access to livelihood (17%) and damaged property (11%), lack of access to basic services (2%), presence of mines (1%) were reported.

During the latest Protection Monitoring exercise, 364 households were identified as the most vulnerable and were referred to relevant partners who provided them with the required assistance.

![Age & Gender disaggregation](image)

1 The term collective shelter is used for government-owned communal accommodation, whereas transit centres are communal accommodation generously provided by private entities.

For details and other statistics visit the Protection Monitoring Dashboard.
The interviews covering 6,609 individuals during reporting period of July-August were conducted by phone and in-person in communities by ARCS social workers, where there is a high concentration of people in a refugee-like situation. When needs for specific services, assistance or information are identified during PM interviews, UNHCR's and ARCS's protection monitoring teams refer the individuals concerned to relevant service providers.

In the framework of case management, assistance was provided to the 364 most vulnerable displaced individuals/families identified by ARCS during the protection monitoring interviews/site visits. Through the provision of more in-depth and specialized support UNHCR assists in identification of viable solutions in the displacement situation.

Individuals interviewed expressed five priority needs: shelter, cash, household items, employment, and food. It should be noted that the first top five priority needs remain unchanged since the beginning of the protection monitoring exercise.

37% of respondents relied on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income; 35% of respondents indicated employment; 16% mentioned pension, 7% shared having absolutely no income to rely on. Remaining respondents reported support from family abroad or other sources of income.

95% of interviewed households live in rental accommodations, and very often lack basic household items (cooking sets, stoves, etc).

Most of the interviewed individuals during July-August were from Lachin (46%), Hadrut (26%), Shusha (8%), Martakert/Aghdara (6%).

Vulnerable people in refugee-like situation received cash assistance through ARCS from UNHCR in July-August 2021.

Recipients reported using UNHCR cash assistance to, among others, cover the rental cost of their accommodation.

For details and other statistics visit the Protection Monitoring Dashboard
The respondents were also asked questions about the availability of the following documents: property ownership documents, marriage/divorce certificates, diplomas, driving license, birth/death certificates and residency card, etc.

84% Reported missing no documentation

The 48% of interviewed population who was missing some documents reported not having approached authorities because of lack of information about location of relevant authorities while 17% reported lack of resources to cover expenses.

100% of interviewed families confirmed their children have birth registration.

Children (0-18 years) constitute 35% of interviewed individuals for this reporting period.

Nine percent (9%) of respondents were elderly (60+ years old), 93% of whom reported having extensive medical needs.

In July 2021 the protection monitoring questions were expanded to include additional questions on COVID-19, to understand the extent to which people in a refugee-like situation have fallen ill with COVID-19, as well as on vaccination rates.

88% of interviewed households reported being aware of how to protect themselves from COVID-19. Although 16% of families interviewed had already fallen ill with COVID-19, only 5% of interviewed families reported that they have been vaccinated. It should be noted that displaced population in refugee-like situation has full access to free vaccination in Armenia. All precautions and COVID protective measures were put in place and strictly observed during all UNHCR/ARCS visits.

Over the course of the reporting period since January 2021, there has been a significant drop in the number of people in refugee-like situation considering return to Nagorno-Karabakh.

With 6% of respondents reporting intention to return during the latest reporting period, 61% of interviewed households were uncertain and did not know, 31% were planning to relocate within Armenia, and 1% wanted to go to a third country.

UNHCR is grateful for critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the operation in Armenia in 2021, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds. These include:

Armenia | European Union (ECHO) | Japan | Russian Federation | United States of America | UN CERF | GAP Inc. | UPS Corporate


Link to the previous Protection Monitoring Reports / Link to the Departures Monitoring Dashboard / Link to Key Informant Monitoring Dashboard

Protection monitoring in Armenia is conducted through different data collection tools, including individual/household interviews and key informants’ interviews as well as observations. It also accounts for information and needs coming from other communication points including the help line and self-referral through UNHCR operated hotline among others. For the individual/household interviews; the sample size for the reporting period provided us with 95 confidence interval, 5 margin of error.