

# Armenia

February 2022

UNHCR launched a new **Protection Strategy** in December 2021, which will guide the Office's protection interventions and overarching operational deliverables for 2022.

In 2022, UNHCR expanded its **protection monitoring** activities to cover all of UNHCR's person of concern population groups, including asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons.

In coordination with state agencies, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to **persons in a refugee-like situation** in Armenia who were displaced as a result of the **Nagorno-Karabakh (NK)** conflict.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN AS OF JULY 2021

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

\*Includes persons in a refugee-like situation from Syria and those displaced as a result of the NK conflict

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Azerbaijan	<b>1,212</b>	Iran <b>51</b>
Iraq	<b>1,092</b>	Syria <b>19</b>
Syria	<b>744</b>	Cuba <b>17</b>

Data source: Government of Armenia and UNHCR Data finder platform

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF advocate for the inclusion of persons of concern in the national vaccination programme, including through individual counselling and 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 and distribute face masks and other personal protective equipment to municipalities and collective shelters.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Protection Monitoring

During 2021, UNHCR conducted 5,804 interviews covering 25,746 individuals in communities with a high concentration of people in a refugee-like situation. In 2022, key informant interviews along international borders will be arranged with the aim of strengthening community networks, early warning systems and emergency preparedness.

### Protection Hotline

UNHCR continues operation of a hotline to ensure consistent communication and a feedback mechanism with persons of concern. Between September 2021 and January 2022, the hotline received 1,317 calls from persons of concern.



A displaced woman bakes bread for her large, multi-generational family in Getahovit village near Ijevan, Tavush Province, Armenia, February 2022. ©UNHCR/Areg Balayan

## Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR continues extending expert support to the Government to seek durable solutions for refugees and other displaced persons in accordance with the international standards.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR systematically monitors points of entry to ensure that asylum-seekers can access the territory without hindrance, supports the building of national capacities in the area of asylum, 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. In 2022, UNHCR is commissioning a comprehensive assessment of the capacity gaps and needs in the asylum system of Armenia.
- **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 and income-generation projects. Through partnership with MADE51, displaced women entrepreneurs are engaged in production of traditional handicraft, souvenirs and masks.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with state and non-government stakeholders, including the Migration Service, the Human Rights Defender's Office, Public Defender's Office, Border Guards of the National Security Service, line ministries and the judiciary, the Parliament, Police, regional governors' offices and municipalities, civil society and mass media.
- **External Engagement and Communication with Communities:** Key activities include enhancing public awareness on the plight and challenges faced by persons of concern and educating the latter on their rights and responsibilities, in line with the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, including through [UNHCR HELP Armenia website](#).

## Response to the NK Conflict

- As of June 2021, **36,989 persons** were in a **refugee-like situation** in Armenia as a result of the NK conflict. The vast majority were women and children.
- In October–December 2021, around **1,100 households** in a refugee-like situation as a result of the conflict received winterization assistance. As per the memorandum of understanding signed with the Armenian authorities, **118 households** received a rental subsidy in conjunction with their agreement to move from collective shelters with sub-standard conditions to private accommodation. Some **100 of these households** had received income-generating tools as livelihood support as of December 2021. Over **16,000 households** were supported with non-cash assistance to address basic needs in 2021.
- Under the framework of **Peaceful Co-existence Projects and Community Support Initiatives**, the municipalities of Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions received technical assistance in January 2022, along with the support of NGOs working in the field.

## Statelessness

- Armenia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.
- In line with its pledge made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia recently adopted long-awaited amendments to the Citizenship Law which will allow stateless refugees from Azerbaijan to benefit from a simplified naturalization process until the end of 2023.

## UNHCR Presence in Armenia

### Staff:

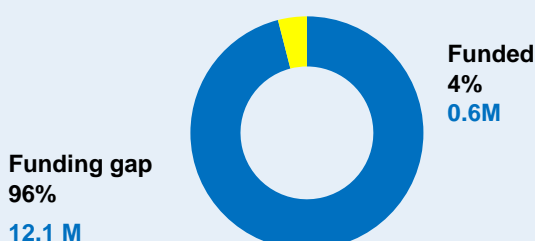
31 National Staff  
6 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Representation in Yerevan  
1 Field Unit in Goris

## Financial information (15 February 2022)

**Financial requirements**  
**USD 12.7 M**



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

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

UNHCR Armenia is grateful to the donors to its 2022 programmes:

**European Union**