

# Armenia

February 2023

From September to October 2022, UNHCR provided **1,102 NFIs** to **215 families** (935 individuals) displaced due to military escalation along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in September 2022.

In 2022, some 1,000 people called the **UNHCR Hotline** to enquire about national asylum procedures, UNHCR and partner assistance, resettlement prospects, and other issues.

**Case management** for protection and durable solutions was undertaken for 841 displaced households, by identifying and addressing specific needs and protection risks.

## UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS as of mid-2022\*

Refugees**	<b>34,274</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>395</b>
Stateless persons	<b>816</b>

### Top three countries of origin

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	<b>4,855</b>	Ukraine	<b>217</b>
Azerbaijan	<b>1,204</b>	Iran	<b>72</b>
Iraq	<b>1,103</b>	Cuba	<b>45</b>

\*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends, UNHCR [Data Finder](#) and Government of Armenia.

\*\* Includes people in refugee like situation.

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, **511** Ukrainians applied for refugee status and **303** were recognized as refugees.

**Primary Needs:** The majority of asylum-seekers were found in need of food, clothing, hygiene items, medicine, rent/ shelter.

**Cash assistance:** 190 households / 398 refugees from Ukraine were provided with multi-purpose cash assistance.

**Education:** UNHCR is aware of 64 children from Ukraine enrolled in primary education. UNHCR and partners monitor and assist refugee children school enrolment, in cooperation with national institutions.

**Capacity-building:** In 2022, UNHCR provided equipment and other technical assistance to the newly established Ukrainian Forum NGO to support humanitarian and integration activities for refugee families from Ukraine.

**Peaceful Coexistence and Inclusion:** Activities were organized in cooperation with the Ukrainian Forum and Syunik Development NGOs, such as TED-talks, craft-sales and Christmas celebrations, music/art events, a meeting with a Ukrainian celebrity and an interactive awareness-raising session on 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Participatory Assessment (PA)

UNHCR conducted a PA exercise to assess and analyse needs and challenges faced by displaced populations in Armenia. As a follow-up, a workshop with State and non-state stakeholders validated the findings and proposed recommendations.

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

In January 2023, UNHCR signed an MoU with the [Women's Resource Center](#) to join efforts in prevention and response to gender-based violence affecting displaced people

### Vardenis joins Cities #WithRefugees campaign

In February 2023, the Mayor of Vardenis joined the campaign- by [signing a Statement of Solidarity](#) with refugees, thus becoming the sixth city in Armenia pledging solidarity with forcibly displaced people residing in their city.



A refugee woman from Ukraine offers traditional Ukrainian handmade souvenirs at a Christmas craft-sale in Yerevan, Armenia, 17 December 2022. © UNHCR/Tatevik Badalyan

## Key Priorities

- **Key advocacy areas:** UNHCR's advocacy interventions aim at bringing national policy, legal framework and practice further in line with international standards to ensure that persons in need of international protection have effective access to the territory and to fair and efficient asylum procedures, and dignified reception conditions.
- **Asylum procedures:** Considering the progress achieved in 2022, with improved practices of registration of asylum-seekers, UNHCR will continue monitoring and supporting systematic enhancement of state asylum procedures.
- **Reception conditions:** UNHCR supports the government in enhancing reception conditions and addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable displaced people, monitors reception facilities for timely individual assistance to asylum-seekers.
- **Detention monitoring:** UNHCR is closely engaged in monitoring of detention conditions to ensure timely identification of vulnerable asylum-seekers and their effective referrals, in parallel to capacity building of respective authorities.
- **Integration:** Along with psycho-social, legal, medical and cash assistance, UNHCR has carried out activities to increase resilience and self-reliance of people we serve through provision of language courses, vocational training and income-generation tools, as well as cultural and community-based activities with women, children, youth and older people.
- **Emergency Preparedness:** UNHCR continues building the capacity of local authorities and state agencies, focusing on registration, vulnerability assessments and information management in an emergency situation.

## Working with Partners

- With the financial contribution of the **European Union**, UNHCR partners up with national stakeholders to further enhance the international protection system. The legal aid system for asylum-seekers is being strengthened in partnership with the **Chamber of Advocates** through assistance, interpretation services and expert support.
- In partnership with the **Academy of Justice**, UNHCR has developed trainings on asylum and statelessness for the staff of the recently established **Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS)**. Through an inter-agency platform led by the MCS and UNHCR, a comprehensive review of the legislation on international protection is supported, align it with international standards.
- In January 2023, UNHCR provided equipment to the **Border Guard Troops of the National Security Service**, to support educational processes and enhance state systems' capacities.

## Statelessness

- During the Statelessness Working Group meetings co-organized with NGO Mission Armenia, the Project on Provision of Assistance in Identification of Undocumented Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness presented its three-year work summary and steps to be taken in 2023. UNHCR developed **2023-2024 Action Plan on Statelessness** and will present it to key stakeholders in March 2023.
- UNHCR's partner NGO Mission Armenia, through the **Julia Taft Refugee Fund** grant, will carry out awareness-raising campaign to end statelessness.

## UNHCR Presence in Armenia

### Staff:

32 National staff

3 International staff

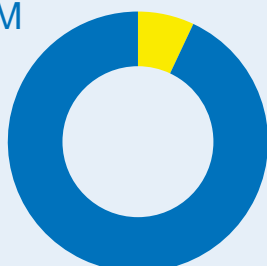
### Offices:

1 Country representation

1 Field unit in Goris

## Financial information (February 2023)

### Financial requirements

**USD 12.8 M**
**Funding gap**  
 93%  
 11.9 M

**Funded**  
 7%  
 0.9 M

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