

Armenia

September 2023

UNHCR works closely with government counterparts to improve national asylum procedures and build local capacities to ensure a [favourable protection environment](#) for forcibly displaced and stateless people in Armenia.

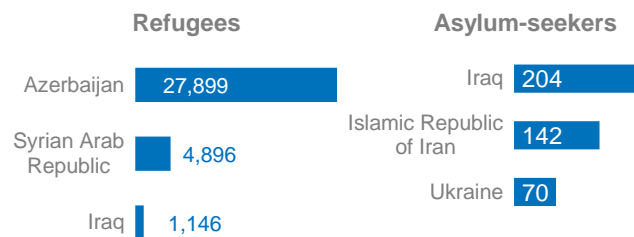
Following renewed escalation in the region in late-September 2023, UNHCR teams are on the ground to respond to the [urgent needs of over 100,000 refugees who arrived in Armenia](#), and is providing immediate assistance while closely monitoring the situation.

UNHCR is leading on preparation of the inter-agency [Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) in support of the Government-led response.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023) *

Refugees**	34,768
Asylum-seekers	655
Stateless people	531

Top three countries of origin



* UNHCR 2023 Mid-Year Trends, UNHCR [data finder](#) and Government of Armenia

** Following renewed escalation in the region in late-September 2023, an additional [100,514](#) refugees arrived in Armenia as of 3 October.

UPDATE ON THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM (GRF)



7 pledges registered for Armenia

since 2019, in the areas of [protection capacity](#), [statelessness](#), and [solutions](#).

Tackling Statelessness

As part of its pledge to address statelessness, Armenia made amendments to its Citizenship Law in late 2021. UNHCR continues to support government efforts in this area, most recently by [organizing a meeting](#) of the Working Group on Statelessness in March 2023, in line with its [#IBelong](#) campaign.

HIGHLIGHTS

Partnership with Government agencies

Since January 2023, to support the newly established Ministry of the Internal Affairs and Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS), UNHCR has developed [curriculums and trainings on asylum and statelessness](#) for MCS officers. These activities have been implemented under the EU co-funded project “Strengthening Migration Management Capacities in Support of Government Reform Agenda in Line with CEPA”, in collaboration with IOM. UNHCR has stepped up its support to the Government-led response in the current emergency.

Access to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection and MHPSS services

UNHCR through partner Women’s Support Center provided services to 31 survivors of GBV since the beginning of 2023. UNHCR through partner Armenian Red Cross Society, provided [case management support](#) to 92 children since January 2023, and one awareness-raising session for service providers on child protection. In the context of the recent emergency, UNHCR has stepped up [protection monitoring](#), [provision of information](#), and [referrals](#) to specialized services.

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA)

In August, UNHCR Armenia through partner Mission Armenia NGO, provided [MPCA](#) to 175 refugees and asylum-seekers (480 individuals in total since January 2023), to help meet their basic needs. UNHCR appeals for additional support to target more people in need of cash assistance. UNHCR is scaling up these and other services to meet the new and emerging needs in the region.



UNHCR provides emergency support to refugees arriving in Goris, south-east Armenia following the high number of arrivals in late-September 2023. UNHCR is on the ground to deliver [protection counselling and information on available services](#), in addition to [core-relief items](#) including mattresses, bedding, and hygiene items.
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Key Priorities

Asylum procedures

- UNHCR works in close collaboration with relevant Government counterparts to [improve national asylum procedures](#) and ensure a [favourable protection space](#) for refugees and stateless people in Armenia.
- UNHCR works closely with Chamber of Advocates to support the Office of the Public Defender (PDO) in providing quality [legal aid](#) to persons who are in need of international protection, through technical assistance, interpretation services and targeted expert support).
- Following renewed escalation in the region which saw some 100,514 refugees cross the border into Armenia starting in late-September 2023, UNHCR is on the ground and providing [emergency support](#) as part of the government-led response to meet the urgent protection needs of those arriving, including refugees with vulnerabilities and specific needs. UNHCR is distributing [core-relief items \(CRIs\)](#) including beds, mattresses, bedding, and hygiene items, as well as providing [material and technical assistance](#) to national authorities for registration and other protection response.

Capacity building

- UNHCR continues to invest in capacity building and training of local and national actors. In June and August, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Border Guard Troops under the National Security Service and the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS), organized [training sessions](#) for 45 border guards on refugee protection standards and procedures, including one training for newly recruited border guards and two refresher trainings.

Community Empowerment and resilience

- In August, UNHCR organized [community consultations](#) with forcibly displaced people from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Congo, Sierra Leone, Haiti, Ukraine, among them vulnerable women, children, persons with disabilities and older people. Their primary concerns: housing, livelihood opportunities and access to essential services, will be considered in the upcoming planning process.

Promoting social cohesion

- UNHCR [undertakes advocacy](#) and implements activities fostering peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs among others.
- In support of the Government, UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency refugee response, in line with the RCM and with the support of the UN Resident Coordinators Office (RCO).
- UNHCR has broadened its network of partners to scale up [operational capacity](#) in Yerevan, Shirak, Gegharkunik, and Syunik provinces. UNHCR has partnership agreements with Mission Armenia, Armenian Red Cross Society, KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation, the Chamber of Advocates of Armenia.
- UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Women's Support Center to provide consultancy on the prevention of [gender-based violence, case management](#) and other support.
- UNHCR coordinates assistance and support for forcibly displaced persons with 40 NGOs including World Vision, Action Against Hunger, People in Need, Caritas Armenia, GIZ, ACTED, Armenian Progressive Youth, Democracy International and others.

Statelessness

- Armenia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. However, there is still no legislation in force governing a national statelessness determination procedure. A draft law on stateless persons is currently being prepared by MCS, in cooperation with UNHCR and NGO Mission Armenia.
- In July 2023, UNHCR supported participation of NGO Mission Armenia's team of experts during a study visit to Georgia to learn good practices on statelessness determination procedures.

UNHCR Presence in Armenia

Staff:

- 32 National Staff
- 3 International Staff
- 7 Staff on emergency deployment

Offices:

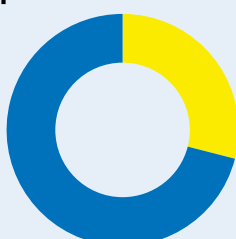
- 1 Country Office in Yerevan
- 1 Field Office in Goris

Financial information (September 2023)

Financial requirements

\$ 12.8 M

Funding gap 71%
\$ 9.1 M



Funded 29%
\$ 3.7 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked, and earmarked funding:

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UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.