Situation Update

With temperatures in Armenia dropping below zero as the winter season sets in, UNHCR has scaled up the distribution of heaters, thermal sleeping bags, gloves, and winter jackets to refugees in the northern region of Armenia, which regularly experiences harsh winter conditions.

UNHCR Response

Since 24 September 2023, UNHCR has provided 71,660 non-food items to 15,951 refugees (4,728 refugee families) across 10 regions in Armenia.

UNHCR has distributed 500 pairs of winter gloves, over 660 winter jackets, and some 680 electric heaters, and is preparing a distribution of 7,000 winter jackets for children, which will be distributed in the coming days.

UNHCR has conducted focus group discussions with refugees living in private accommodation and two collective shelters to assess their shelter needs and inform UNHCR's shelter response for 2024. In the coming weeks, UNHCR will begin minor repairs of shelters in support of government efforts.

UNHCR's hotline has received over 2,064 calls from refugees, inquiring about accommodation, financial support, access to hygiene kits, household items, bedding sets and clothes. Refugees were referred for NFIs provision to UNHCR partners.

UNHCR partners continue to provide mental health and psycho-social support to vulnerable refugees, including persons with disabilities and older people. Under UNHCR's lead, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the protection sector is developing community messaging on available services to help refugees cope as the winter season sets in.

UNHCR continues to support and work closely with Armenia's Migration and Citizenship Service in their ongoing effort to distribute refugee cards and launch an awareness campaign on temporary protection.

The second Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) was held on 21 September 2023, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and UNHCR, and with participation from 35 humanitarian and development organizations. Partners discussed the current situation and urgent priorities for refugees who arrived in Armenia since September. Efforts to strengthen local level coordination in Syunik region are also underway.

Inter-agency partners have launched the online reporting and monitoring tool 'ActivityInfo' for use by members of five sectors in the Armenia Refugee Response Plan (RRP) to report on their progress, funding levels and target indicators.

UNHCR published the Inter-Agency Update #7, which highlights key developments in the emergency response between 15 – 21 November 2023.

On 25 November, UNHCR and NGO partner Resource Centre for Women's Empowerment marked #16 Days of Activism by organizing a sewing workshop for 25 refugee women with the objective of raising awareness on refugee self-reliance, while serving as a forum for participants to share their experiences and concerns.

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors: Australia | Belgium | Canada | CERF | Czech Republic | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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