Situation Update

Following the announcement by the Government of Armenia in November 2023 to provide pensions and other social benefits to refugees from Karabakh, 10,629 pensions and other social benefits have already been distributed.

UNHCR Response

On 15 December, 25 older refugees and host community members participated in a community event organised in Akhuryan, Shirak region, by UNHCR and partner People in Need (PIN). The event provided an opportunity for older persons to get to know each other, enjoy playing board games and share a meal. The initiative aimed to strengthen social cohesion and was part of a targeted outreach to older refugees in Lori, Tavush, and Shirak regions.

UNHCR has carried out protection monitoring for 7,355 refugees (1,601 households) in Yerevan and ten provinces.

UNHCR's hotline has received over 3,095 calls from refugees from Karabakh, inquiring about food, warm clothes, bedding, household, and hygiene items. The hotline offers a two-way communication between refugees and UNHCR.

As of 19 December 2023, UNHCR, directly and through its partners Mission Armenia and People in Need, provided 79,409 non-food items to 17,130 refugees in 5,546 refugee households across the country.

With the objective to strengthen community infrastructure through repairs, the puppet theatre and the concert hall of the Family and Community NGO in Metsamor, Armavir region, were assessed by UNHCR. The assessment will help enhance the quality of services delivered to refugees, such as promoting social cohesion and providing mental health and psychosocial support.

On 12 December, UNHCR discussed the refugee situation in the country during a meeting with the Estonian Refugee Council and explored the possibility of joint programming.

Twelve journalists were awarded the ‘Suitcase media award 2023’ for their high quality reporting about refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced people and migrants in Armenia. The event was co-organised by UNHCR, PIN, the Migration and Citizenship Service, IOM, UN Armenia, and Caritas.

UNHCR published the Inter-Agency Update #10, which highlights key developments in the emergency response between 6 – 12 December 2023. UNHCR continue to provide secretariat support to the refugee coordination forum. Sectors and inter-agency working group continues to meet.

Armenia at the second GRF

Armenia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan, the Head of the Migration and Citizenship Service Armen Ghazaryan and two refugees from Karabakh attended the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) between 13 to 15 December in Geneva. Armenia made 6 new pledges regarding refugee housing, education, women empowerment, social protection, economic integration, and health. Maral, a displaced woman from Syria, participated in the GRF and the MADE51 exhibition, presenting her handmade items.

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