

Armenia

September 2021

In the context of **Global Refugee Compact**, UNHCR supports Armenia in improving refugee protection mechanisms, statelessness-related policies, and ensuring refugees' inclusion.

UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to individuals in a **refugee-like situation** displaced during the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) conflict residing in Armenia in coordination with other UN agencies..

Inter-Agency: Under the joint leadership of the UN RC and UNHCR, the UN Country Team is implementing the **Inter-Agency Response Plan**. Latest report on the [data portal](#)..

POPULATION OF CONCERN (as of end 2020)*

Refugees	3,366
Persons in refugee-like situation**	104,551
Asylum-seekers	151
Stateless persons	1,000

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Azerbaijan	1,215	Iran	51
Iraq	1,086	Cuba	9
Syria	741	India	5

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#) / Government of Armenia.

**UNHCR global statistics include these persons in the Refugee category. Note that, as of June 2021, some 36,989 persons in a refugee-like situation remained in Armenia.

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

10,880 individuals were interviewed from January to September 2021 [[report available here](#)]. 4,243 individuals were referred to relevant services received individual assistance.

Launch of a Hotline

In August 2021, a Hotline was launched to ensure consistent communication channel and a feedback mechanism with persons of concern. .

Peaceful Co-existence Projects

Two municipalities and five community-based organizations were provided with technical assistance in Syunik province. Construction of two sports courts with children's playgrounds was launched in Sisian and Goris towns respectively



Schoolchildren from displaced families during the NK conflict, Abovyan, Kotayk Province, June 2021.

Photo ©UNHCR/Anahit Hayrapetyan

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 monitors points of entry to ensure that asylum-seekers access the territory without hindrance; supports national asylum capacities' building and assists in institutionalizing refugee law courses for border guards and entry officials.
- **Asylum:** UNHCR and Mission Armenia NGO, monitor administrative and judicial asylum procedures and assist the Government to enhance the quality and efficiency of asylum procedures.
- **Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance:** UNHCR provides targeted assistance to persons of concern to facilitate their integration. Along with psychosocial, legal and medical assistance, refugees benefit from vocational and language courses, and livelihood projects. Partnered with MADE51, displaced women entrepreneurs are engaged in production of traditional handicraft and masks.

Working with Partners

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

Response to the NK conflict

- Some **36,989 persons remain** in a **refugee-like situation** in Armenia as of June 2021. The vast majority are women and children.
- With the UN RC's Office, UNHCR leads the **coordination mechanisms** to respond to the humanitarian needs of those displaced in Armenia due to the 2020 NK conflict.
- UNHCR is engaged in **protection monitoring**, including departure and return monitoring, to identify and respond to the protection needs of the displaced persons across Armenia.
- So far this year, some **10,709** individuals in a refugee-like situation received in-kind assistance to cover basic needs. Some **14,000 people in a refugee-like situation** received one-time cash assistance in July 2021. As per the Memorandum of Understanding with authorities, **655 families** will receive a rental subsidy as they move from collective shelters to private accommodation.

Statelessness

- Armenia has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions. Promoting the #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness, UNHCR supports the Government's efforts in assuring statelessness-related legal policies and procedures.
- UNHCR promotes introduction of the 1954 Convention travel documents for stateless persons compatible with the International Civil Aviation Organization standards.

UNHCR Presence in Armenia

Staff:

31 National Staff
8 International Staff

Offices:

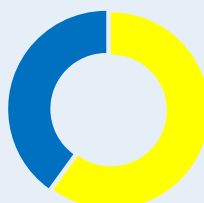
1 Country Representation Yerevan

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 15.4 M

Funding gap
40%
6.1 M



Funded
60%
9.3 M

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