

# Armenia

February 2022

UNHCR launched a new **Protection Strategy** in December 2021, which will guide the Office's protection interventions and overarching operational deliverables for 2022.

In 2022, UNHCR expanded its **protection monitoring** activities, from refugee-like population to all categories of UNHCR's persons of concern, including asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons.

In coordination with State agencies, UNHCR and partners provide humanitarian assistance to **persons in a refugee-like situation** in Armenia who were displaced as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh (NK)

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>3,401</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>127</b>
Persons in refugee-like situation**	<b>42,023</b>
Stateless people	<b>892</b>
Total population of concern	<b>46,460</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

	Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Azerbaijan	<b>1,212</b>	Iran <b>52</b>
Iraq	<b>1,092</b>	Cuba <b>22</b>
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>744</b>	Syria <b>19</b>

\*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and [data finder platform](#) / Government of Armenia

\*\*Includes people displaced as a result of the NK conflict

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Protection Monitoring

In 2021, UNHCR conducted 5,804 interviews covering 25,746 persons in communities with a high concentration of people in a refugee-like situation. In 2022, key informant interviews along international borders will be arranged with the aim of strengthening community networks, early warning systems and emergency preparedness.

### Protection Hotline

UNHCR continues operating a hotline to ensure consistent communication and a feedback mechanism with persons of concern. Between September 2021 and January 2022, the hotline received 1,317 calls from persons of concern.

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF advocate for the inclusion of all 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, the UNHCR Armenia [Facebook page](#), "Refugee Info Armenia" Telegram channel, and [UNHCR Armenia Help website](#).

**Prevention:** UNHCR and partners disseminate WHO information leaflets and posters on COVID-19 prevention and distribute face masks and other personal protective equipment to municipalities and collective shelters.



A displaced woman bakes bread for her large, multi-generational family in Getahovit village near Ijevan, Tavush Province, Armenia, February 2022. ©UNHCR/Areg Balayan

## 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 systematically monitors points of entry to ensure that asylum-seekers can access the territory without hindrance, supports the building of national capacities in the area of asylum, and assists in institutionalization of refugee law courses for border guards and entry officials.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR, in partnership with Mission Armenia NGO, monitors administrative and judicial asylum procedures and assists the Government in enhancing the quality and efficiency of asylum procedures. In 2022, UNHCR is commissioning a comprehensive assessment of the capacity gaps and needs in Armenia's asylum system.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR provides targeted assistance to persons of concern to facilitate their integration in Armenia. Along with psychosocial, legal and medical assistance, refugees benefit from vocational and language courses and livelihood and income-generation projects. Through partnership with MADE51, displaced women entrepreneurs are engaged in production of traditional handicraft, souvenirs and masks.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with State and non-government stakeholders, including the Migration Service, the Human Rights Defender's Office, Public Defender's Office, Border Guards of the National Security Service, line ministries and the judiciary, the Parliament, Police, regional governors' offices and municipalities, civil society and mass media.

- **External Engagement and Communication with Communities:** Key activities include enhancing public awareness of the plight and challenges faced by persons of concern and educating the latter on their rights and responsibilities, including through the [UNHCR Armenia help website](#).

## Response to the NK Conflict

- As of June 2021, **36,989 persons** were in a **refugee-like situation** in Armenia as a result of the NK conflict. The vast majority were women and children.
- In October-December 2021, around **1,100** households in a refugee-like situation received winterization assistance. As per the MoU signed with the Armenian authorities, **118 households** received a rental subsidy in conjunction with their agreement to move from sub-standard collective shelters to private accommodation. Some **100 of these households** had received cooking utensils, hairdressing equipment and other income-generating materials as livelihood support as of December 2021. Over **16,000 households** were supported with in-kind assistance to address basic needs in 2021.

## Statelessness

- Armenia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.
- In line with its pledge made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness, the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia recently adopted long-awaited amendments to the Citizenship Law, which will allow stateless refugees from Azerbaijan to benefit from a simplified naturalization process until the end of 2023.

## UNHCR Presence in Armenia

### Staff:

31 National Staff  
6 International Staff

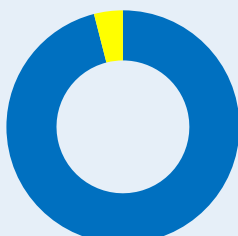
### Offices:

1 Country Representation in Yerevan  
1 Field Unit in Goris

## Financial information (22 February 2022)

**Financial requirements**  
**USD 12.7 M**

**Funding gap**  
**96%**  
**12.1 M**



**Funded**  
**4%**  
**0.6M**

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