

Armenia

February 2021

Promoting the **Global Refugee Compact**, UNHCR supports Armenia in improving refugee reception and protection mechanisms, statelessness related policies, and refugees' inclusion in ongoing national reforms.

Nagorno-Karabakh (NK): Jointly with the UN RC Office, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance to the **refugee-like population** displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and residing across the country.

Inter-Agency Response: Under the joint leadership of the UN RC and UNHCR, the UN Country Team launched **Armenia Inter-Agency Response Plan** and presented to the Government on 28 January 2021.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	3,366
Asylum-seekers	151
Persons in refugee-like situation	104,551
Stateless people	1,000
Total	109,068

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 Annual Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocates together with WHO and UNICEF, for the inclusion of persons of concern in the national vaccination programme.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR's collaboration with host communities and persons of concern is successfully 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, distributes face masks and other protective tools to municipalities and collective shelters. To bridge the gap, UNHCR supports the State by providing medication and counselling to the most vulnerable persons of concern.

HIGHLIGHTS

325 protection monitoring interviews were conducted in Armenia as of 28 February 2021 with the refugee-like population displaced from NK.

60,000 pieces of winter clothing

were donated in January by Gap Inc, UPS Foundation, UPS Airlines and Good360 for persons in a refugee-like situation.

USD 2 million of emergency funding

were released in February by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance to people displaced from NK.

Emergency training

for 52 representatives of UNHCR and partner agencies conducted within Situational Emergency Training by UNHCR Armenia in February 2021.



Children from Nagorno-Karabakh in Armenia

Visit [UNHCR Armenia Facebook](#) page to find out more about the displaced families' lives.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** Along with protection monitoring activities, UNHCR supports the Government to enhance reception conditions and address basic needs of the most vulnerable persons of concern; monitors reception facilities and provides individual legal, psychological, medical, and social assistance to persons with specific needs. Around 900 individuals displaced from NK were referred through protection monitoring to receive non-food items from UNHCR. Systematic border monitoring is conducted to ensure access to territory and the asylum system. Capacities of border guards and staff of penitentiary institutions are enhanced through awareness raising and training.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR systematically monitors the points of entry to ensure that asylum-seekers can access the territory and national asylum procedure without hindrance; supports the building of national capacities in the area of asylum and migration, 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; assists 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 in Armenia. Parallel to psychosocial, legal and medical assistance, refugees benefit from vocational and language courses, and livelihood projects with income generation tools. Partnered with MADE51, displaced women entrepreneurs are engaged in production of traditional handicraft, souvenirs, 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, line ministries and the judiciary, the Parliament, Police, regional governors' offices and municipalities, civil society, mass media, and academia.

- **External Engagement:** Key activities included: enhancing public awareness on the plight and challenges faced by persons of concern; educating the latter on their rights and responsibilities, in line with the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees (including through the newly launched [UNHCR HELP Armenia website](#)).

Nagorno-Karabakh Response

- According to the Migration Service, some **68,050 persons** were still in a **refugee-like situation** in Armenia as of February 2021. The vast majority (85%) are women and children.
- Together with the UN RC's Office, UNHCR leads the **coordination mechanisms** for the response to the humanitarian needs of persons displaced from NK due to the armed conflict that erupted in September 2020.
- UNHCR is closely engaged in **protection monitoring** activities (including departure and return monitoring) to effectively identify and respond to the protection needs of the vulnerable displaced persons across Armenia.
- Some **4,950 persons** from the refugee-like population from NK received hygiene kits; **479** received bedding sets; **16,500** received winter clothes. In addition, **234** households were provided with non-cash assistance.

Statelessness

- Armenia acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. In promotion of #IBELONG campaign to end statelessness, UNHCR supports 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:

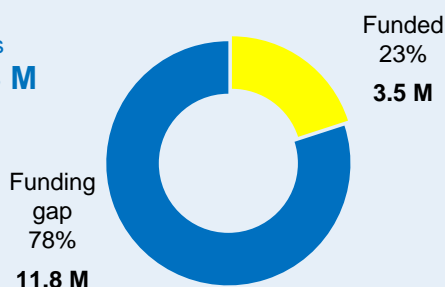
25 National Staff
9 International Staff

Offices:

1 Field Office in Yerevan

Financial information (28 February 2021)

Financial requirements
USD 15.3 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

* Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.

UNHCR Armenia is also grateful for 2021 contributions from the following donors (as of 28 February): Japan, CERF, Armenia.

European Union | Germany | France | Norway | Unilever (UK) | Slovenia | Private donors