



UN ARMENIA COUNTRY TEAM COVID-19 RESPONSE 20 August 2020

Armenia COVID-19 situation overview

Key statistics as of 20.08.2020

42,319

POSITIVE

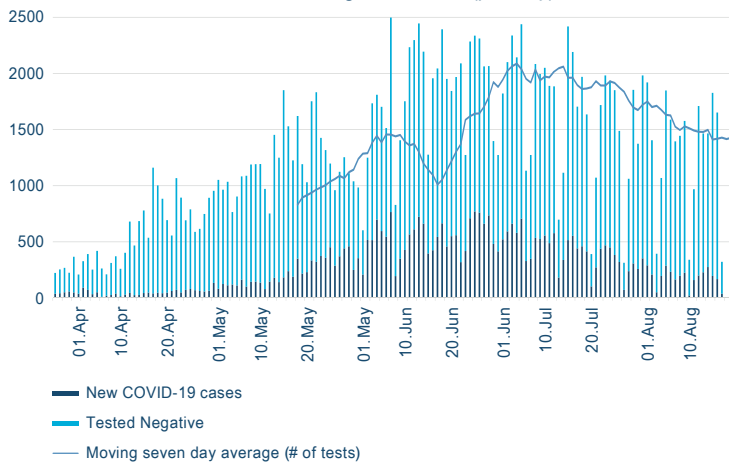
35,476

RECOVERED

836

DEATHS

COVID-19 Testing in Armenia (per day)



Mitigation of socio-economic effect



HEALTH

Leading agencies:

WHO, UNICEF

Participating agencies:

WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS

- WHO delivered an initial 2000 tests and personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 response in the early days of the pandemic. New types of COVID-19 testing using GeneXpert machines were procured to scale up testing. New equipment and supply forecasting tool were introduced to the Ministry of Health to ensure more accurate calculations and timely procurement of supplies and equipment.
- WHO provides continuous technical support to the Ministry of Health since the end of January to scale up preparedness of the healthcare system, including several expert missions to prepare laboratories, hospitals and points of entries.
- WHO, as part of a flagship regional partnership with the European Union, provided an additional 28,000 medical gowns and 20,000 N95 medical respirators for the healthcare workers, along with 10,000 test kits, to the Ministry of Health.
- International WHO classified Emergency Medical Teams from several EU member states, with support from the European Union, provided urgent training and direct capacity support to the Armenian health care system.
- UNDP has procured over \$1.5 million worth of ventilators, PPE, and other medical equipment for the Ministry of Health as part of the emergency response. The 50 ventilators were financed under a World Bank loan.
- UNDP is working with WHO, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Emergency Situations to assess and improve crisis management preparedness of hospitals in small cities, and to propose mobile ambulatory solutions.
- UNICEF, with the support of USAID and ADB, procured a large number of PPE and 10,000 test kits. 40 oxygen concentrators were shipped to the country from UNICEF's global Supply Division. A large quantity of dispensers is being procured to be provided to all health facilities in 6 regions.
- UNICEF, in partnership with USAID, procured diagnostic equipment, including X-rays and required laboratory equipment for establishment of a new laboratory for COVID-19.

UN Armenia COVID-19 response infographics

Personal Protective Equipment

947,775 units



206,970
masks



347,285
gloves



46,000+
protective gowns

Medical Equipment and Test kits

106,215 units



26,980
respirators



250
ventilators



76,040
test kits

Education

781 units



300
tablets
for distance
learning



400
lessons
produced for
online delivery



2
pavilions
for shooting
online lessons

Click [here](#) to access UN Armenia's COVID-19 response full infographics.



EDUCATION CONTINUITY

Leading agencies: UNICEF

Participating agencies: UNIDO, ILO, UNFPA, UNDP, RCO, UNHCR and others

- UNICEF reinforced the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports' efforts on education continuity through provision of technical equipment to the National Center for Education Technologies for accelerating the production of video-lessons. Around 400 lessons were produced with recorded 455,571 views by the end of May. Some video-lessons were supported with Armenian sign language interpretation ensuring accessibility for children with disabilities.
- UNICEF provided 200 and UNFPA 100 tablets to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports for the distribution to children from disadvantaged groups to ensure their participation in distance learning.
- UNDP, in partnership with UNICEF, launched an online accelerator on IT skills for Girls and Young Women - covering the vulnerable rural communities.



SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Leading agencies: UNICEF

Participating agencies: RCO, UNFPA, UNDP, IOM, UNHCR, ILO, WFP, FAO, WB, ADB, humanitarian NGOs

- UNDP supported the care institutions, like orphanages and elderly houses, with PPEs and disinfection services in institutions where the cases of COVID-19 contraction were registered.
- UNHCR, through partner NGO, provided psycho-social support to refugees and displaced persons.
- UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and ADB reacted to the call of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and collectively provided 11 residential care institutions with basic hygiene items and protective equipment, including 800 hand sanitizers, 1600 boxes of wet tissues, 32 pulse oximeters, 5,600 garbage bags, 14,000 covers for shoes, 280 face shields, 23,000 medical masks, disinfection of two institutions, as well as informative posters on hand washing and COVID-19 hygiene.



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COMMUNICATIONS

Leading agencies: UNDP
Participating agencies: SDG Lab, RCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO

- UNDP's SDG LAB developed behaviorally informed videos, including 4 human stories of COVID-19-positive people; 3 stories of essential workers; 3 rational and pragmatic videos about the ways the virus spreads in daily life and how to decrease the spread. All 10 videos were circulated through social media and TV channels.
- UNDP provided strategic communications support to the Government in popularization of 20 economic and social protection measures designed in response to COVID-19. The support included visualization of the measures and their adaptation into user-friendly language. UNDP has also provided assistance in translation of key legal documents and Commandant's decrees, as well as technical boost and promotion of social media content on Government measures.
- UNICEF launched a dedicated landing page on COVID-19 in Armenian, which is updated daily with new information since 16 March. The page targets parents, practitioners (social workers, employers, healthcare workers, teachers), as well as children and young people with behaviorally informed risk communication and positive role modeling during the pandemic. Risk communication through UNICEF channels (social media accounts, UNICEF website, Babycef parenting website) has galvanized 3,392,582 impressions since March with 760 COVID-19 related media mentions in the Armenian mass media.
- UN Armenia launched a dedicated bilingual landing page on COVID-19 and UN Armenia's response which is updated regularly. The page targets a broad population, providing accurate information on the pandemic, preventing measures, actions to be taken, as well as UN Armenia's support provided to the Government and the Ministries in the fight against the pandemic.
- UNICEF, together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, has produced COVID-19 related posters on handwashing, hygiene and virus prevention, and disposal of masks. The

posters were distributed to the residential institutions, the healthcare and educational facilities.

- UNICEF, with the support of Mrs. Nouneh Sarkissian, Wife of the President of Armenia, has launched a digital campaign, entitled #LearningfromHome, that encourages parents of children aged 0-5 to spend quality time with their children to support early learning and development, positive parenting and positive coping mechanisms with the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNHCR supported partners (the Migration Service, NGOs) with translation and distribution of WHO's COVID-19 information materials and Government messages in refugee languages, coupled with information sessions. The agency also launched a multi lingual information channel (<https://t.me/RefugeeInfoArmenia>).
- IOM launched health related social media campaign targeting migrants and population at large.
- UNHCR initiated a 24/7 help lines for persons who have concerns related to COVID-19 to facilitate information sharing and support with refugee languages. Two helplines currently work - one operated by UNHCR and one by Mission Armenia NGO to complement Migration Service's and the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs' phone lines.



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Leading agencies: WFP, FAO
Participating agencies: UNIDO, UNICEF, UNDP

- WFP adjusted the school feeding programme to a shock responsive modality reaching around 29,000 children.
- UNDP, in consultation with ADA, as part of the Green Agriculture programme, has put a significant part of 2020 resources to support rapid upscaling of agricultural production in 3 northern regions of Armenia. The agency also provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Economy on implementation of Government support schemes through provision of consultancy and supporting the farmers and agribusinesses to increase the uptake of the Government support measures as well as to increase production volumes.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND EARLY RECOVERY

Leading agencies:
UNDP, UNIDO

Participating agencies:
WB, ADB, RCO, IOM, ILO

- UNDP distributed emergency packages for remote border village vulnerable families – 1600 elderly, living alone in more than 100 settlements as focus.
- UNDP, via Green Agriculture project, provided about 20 tons of high quality elite type of legume seeds to 212 farmers from Shirak, Lori and Tavush regions. The agency also provided technical support to farmers by agricultural experts, who are equipped with communication devices to answer the inquiries that come from farmers and agribusinesses by backing up the Ministry of Economy hotline. The experts also provide intensive training to agricultural extension experts and agricultural departments of the regions through webinars.
- ILO provided relevant materials and knowledge products with the constituents, including guidelines for the employers in COVID-19 response, guidelines on COVID-19 response on safety and health of workers, and information on initiatives undertaken by the European countries to respond to the crisis.
- ILO conducted series of webinars for its constituents, including Armenian Government on employment and labour market in COVID-19, extending social security coverage for workers in informal economies, supporting enterprises for rapid economic recovery etc.
- ILO provided Business Continuity Plan video and Business Continuity Plan training to enterprises.



HUMAN RIGHTS

Leading agencies:
UNDP, RCO

Participating agencies:
UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP,
ILO, IOM, WHO

- UN Armenia re-activated its Human Rights Working Group that aims to provide coherent and effective guidance and support to the Human Rights agenda in the country since the COVID-19 pandemic is a human crisis with severe health and socio-economic consequences, as well as negative impact on a range of human rights requiring rapid response.
- UNHCR is working with the Government and NGO partners to ensure facilitation of mainstreaming of refugees and displaced persons in COVID-19 national response plan, as well as to ensure that a rights based approach is respected in the response plan.
- UNHCR provided support to the authorities to ensure continuity of the asylum process through training and technical assistance.
- UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union, procured personal protective equipment for the staff of the Human Rights Defender's Office to facilitate safe and uninterrupted work of the institution, interaction with citizens and visits to closed institutions.



SUPPLY CHAIN, PROCUREMENT, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT

• Leading agencies: WFP, WHO	• Participating agencies: UNFPA, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF
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- WFP's first humanitarian passenger service flight landed in Armenia on 24 June.
- RCO and WFP, in partnership with the European Union and UNDP, supported the development of an innovative digital platform that integrates the Government requests and the support from donors.
- WFP procured health items, including gloves, medical gowns and medical suits, face shields, finger pulse oximeters etc., for around US\$1 million on behalf of World Bank and Diaspora organisations responding to the Ministry of Health requirements.
- UNDP procured 15 laptops and 7 multifunction printers to support the staff of the Health and Labor Inspection Body of the Government at border crossing points.
- UNFPA delivered personal protective equipment and other COVID-19 related supplies to the Ministry of Health (for healthcare providers including at the maternity hospitals), Republican Institute of Reproductive Health, Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology (for healthcare providers to pregnant women), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (for staff of orphanages and elderly houses, as well as social workers who work with elderly people), the Post Office of Armenia (for delivering pensions to elderly people), the Disaster Risk Reduction National Platform, Women's Support Center (for shelters for victims of gender based violence and domestic violence), and Partner NGOs.

COVID-19'S DOUBLE BURDEN ON DISPLACED SYRIANS IN ARMENIA



“Life was going on quite well for a displaced Syrian family living in Armenia when COVID-19 outbreak emerged within the country. Now, the family of George and Ani Hakobean is striving to make ends meet, choosing between paying for rent and buying groceries to feed their 12-year-old twins, Salpie and Sahag.” Read Hakobeans family story and UNHCR Armenia’s assistance [here](#).