

UPDATE 2021



ARMENIA
INTER-AGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

OCTOBER 2020 - DECEMBER 2021

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

A displaced mother and daughter at the distribution point for food and non-food items in Goris, Syunik Province, Armenia. ©UNHCR/Anahit Hayrapetyan

Contents

Introduction	4
Situation Update	5
Updated Beneficiary Population	8
Inter-Agency Response	9
Updated Inter-Agency Coordination Model	9
Ongoing Response: IARP Partners' Achievements	10
Response Strategy and Priorities	13
Revised Response Activities	14
Updated Financial Requirements	21
Funding Information	22

For more information

The initial Inter-Agency Response Plan (IARP) covering the period October 2020 – June 2021 can be found [here](#).

INTER-AGENCY PLANNED RESPONSE

OCTOBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2021

36,989 as of June 2021
REFUGEE-LIKE POPULATION

US\$ 49.3 M
REQUIREMENTS

36
PARTNERS INVOLVED



Map source: UNHCR. Note: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Introduction

The initial [Inter Agency Response Plan \(IARP\)](#) was for a period of nine months (October 2020 – June 2021) to coordinate the response to meet the needs of 90,000 persons in a refugee-like situation who arrived in Armenia as a consequence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Since then, many of these individuals have returned and, as of 1 June 2021, 36,989 individuals remain in a refugee-like situation¹ in the ten regions of the country² and Yerevan. IARP partners have therefore updated their operational approach based on the remaining refugee-like population as well as their newly identified needs and are enhancing the multisectoral response required to provide the necessary assistance to the estimated remaining 37,000 individuals in refugee-like situation as well as the host community in Armenia. With this updated interagency plan, which covers the period from July to December 2021, a total of 15 IARP partners are appealing for **US\$ 20,233,689**.

¹ The category of people in a refugee-like situation is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people who are outside their country of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

² Aragatsotn, Ararat, Armavir, Gegharkunik, Kotayk, Lori, Shirak, Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor.

Situation Update

While the ceasefire agreement is still holding, concerns have emerged in recent months following reports of sporadic incidents of intimidation or violence that have prompted questions around security conditions in areas of origin, impacting the willingness or capacity of some people to return.

According to the protection needs assessments³ conducted by UNHCR and its partners in July-August 2021, 94 per cent of respondents declared that they preferred to remain in Armenia or were unsure about their prospects for return. These intentions had already been captured by other Protection Needs assessments conducted earlier during the year and also confirmed by the Multisectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) carried out in March-April, in which 94 per cent of interviewees confirmed their intention not to move or were undecided.

Since the onset of the emergency in the fall of 2020, the Government of Armenia, at both the national and local levels, has provided critical support to the new arrivals, including space in communal shelters and 18 different cash assistance programmes. Host communities also played a critical role in welcoming the refugee-like population, sharing their housing, food and other resources. However, the conflict severely impacted the displaced and host community populations in Armenia, with a notable increase in reported physical, social and mental trauma, as well as financial challenges. In this context, the Government and civil society faced increasing difficulties in coordinating, financing and addressing essential needs.

Acute protection risks were identified, especially among the most vulnerable individuals, those with specific needs, such as older persons without support, persons with disabilities and pregnant women, who require special attention and assistance. Key findings of the monitoring exercises also indicated the need for continuous awareness-

raising among the refugee-like population about their access to rights, public services and other assistance programmes.

Access to information remains vital as people need to know how to apply for and where to access services, including health care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), documentation, and other social protection services.⁴ The refugee-like population continued to report lack of information among the main reasons for not approaching the authorities to report missing documents or not accessing appropriate health care.⁵ MHPSS also remains one of the gaps highlighted by the protection needs assessments: 72 per cent of persons in a refugee-like situation reported a relative showing signs of stress and 52 per cent noticed that their children showed signs of stress and behavioural change. Interviewees referred to their inability to return home, loss of property, and loss of hope for the future as the top three sources of anxiety.

Shelter support remains the top priority cited by the refugee-like population, according to the most recent humanitarian needs assessments.⁶ Lack of space, inadequate water or bathroom facilities, and lack of heating were the top three shelter-related concerns raised by the refugee-like population; whereas host families raised issues around lack of privacy/dignity and the need to address deteriorating infrastructure and support to cover utility costs.⁷ Compared to December 2020, the proportion of persons in a refugee-like situation paying rent increased, reaching 95 per cent by August 2021, while 2 per cent of the refugee-like population continues to be hosted in collective shelters, suggesting a need for further shelter support.⁸ Non-food items (NFIs), especially clothing and household items such as bedding and cooking utensils, will also still be required in the coming months, as well as additional support to address specific winter-related needs.⁹

³ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/87742>

⁴ Persons in a refugee-like situation can access several hotline numbers for information, feedback or complaints. UNHCR's hotline number is +37491415387, and the Armenian Red Cross Society's is 8184. MHPSS information was also made available through social media - <https://www.facebook.com/ankeghts.asats/>

⁵ Source: [Protection Monitoring Report #5 July-August 2021](#)

⁶ Please refer to Protection Monitoring Reports available on the UNHCR data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/arm/581?secret=unhcrestricted>

⁷ Source: MSNA Key Findings, REACH, May 2021.

Access to education has stabilized since the onset of the emergency: formal education is now available to 80 per cent of the refugee-like population close to their places of residence. Around 94 per cent of households in a refugee-like situation have school-aged children attending formal education programmes.¹⁰ Both refugee-like and host communities have similar levels of access to education, mostly thanks to the integration of all children living in a refugee-like situation in public preschool, secondary and higher education. However, IARP partners need to continue supporting the capacity of the education sector and ensuring continuity of education by providing relevant assistance. This will enable all children to attend school during their displacement and provide a sense of stability, structure and hope for the future.

Following a ground-breaking decision by the Government, primary health services are provided free of charge to all citizens of Armenia, including the refugee-like population. This decision enabled them to access primary health facilities in their area of temporary residence and immediate medical care without special registration procedures. Multiple health partners provided significant quantities of medication and supplies during the first nine months of the response, which helped adequately meet health-related needs. Yet, it remains essential to ensure, in coordination with the Government and IARP partners, that medical supplies are efficiently distributed at primary health centres (PHCs), and that overall access and quality of services, especially in rural PHCs, are improved.

Regarding food security, only 1 per cent of the refugee-like population is still severely food insecure, while 15 per cent is moderately food insecure, according to the latest assessments. Food ranks fifth among priority needs identified in the July-August Protection Needs Assessments. As the price of a basic food basket continues to rise, and given the challenging economic context, food insecure persons in a refugee-like situation and

those at risk of food insecurity still need support, especially individuals with specific nutritional needs, including women of childbearing age and infants.¹¹ Specific nutrition support must also be provided to prevent micro-nutritional deficiencies, which would otherwise negatively impact development and health.

The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and the aftermath of conflict have affected economic activity in several communities.¹² The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resulted in damage to infrastructure, disruption of markets, lack of access to farmland, loss of assets and displacement, which have collectively impacted the lives of both the displaced population and host community. The socioeconomic situation in Armenia was already fragile prior to the conflict and continues to be so nine months after the arrival of the refugee-like population, compounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Available resources have been further stretched, as have livelihood and employment opportunities in the cities and towns where the displaced population has settled.

Of high concern is also the increasing debt burden observed between December 2020 and March/April 2021, which is impacting local communities' ability to host the refugee-like population. According to the second round of the MSNA, 59 per cent of host households reported having debts averaging AMD 1 million (approximately US\$ 1,920). Similarly, the Protection Needs Assessments indicated that in March-April 2021, 32 per cent of refugee-like households reported having generated debts, compared to 8 per cent in December 2020.

Protection Needs Assessments findings also indicate that 76 per cent of respondents in a refugee-like situation were unemployed during the previous six months. Targeted early recovery and livelihood interventions that promote long-term self-reliance are therefore essential to gradually phase-out the humanitarian response and mainstream

⁸ Source: [ibid Protection Monitoring Report, UNHCR, July-August 2021](#). See as well: [Protection Monitoring Report Mid-Year \(January -June 2021\)](#)

⁹ Source: MSNA Key Findings, REACH, May 2021. [ibid](#)

¹⁰ Source: [ibid](#)

¹¹ Source: WFP's mVAM report, April 2021, cost of basic food basket to meet monthly minimum caloric intake of an adult increased from AMD 11,531 (approximately USD 23.5) in September 2020 to AMD 12,402 in February 2021 (approximately USD 25.3). The basic food basket for Armenia consists of pasta (5.7kg), buckwheat (3.6 kg), lentils (2.7 kg), milk (3 litre), vegetable oil (1 litre), and salt (0.15 kg)

¹² To address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Country Team in Armenia concurrently implements the "COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan for Armenia".

A young mother helps her children put on donated warm clothes before going for a walk in the yard of their rented accommodation.
©UNHCR /Anahit Hayrapetyan




development assistance to the refugee-like population likely to remain in Armenia.

It is crucial to further support and protect the income-generating assets of the refugee-like population, including their livestock and poultry, for them to reduce reliance on food assistance and humanitarian aid, curb the recent trend of increasing debt, generate income and develop a buffer against potential future shocks.

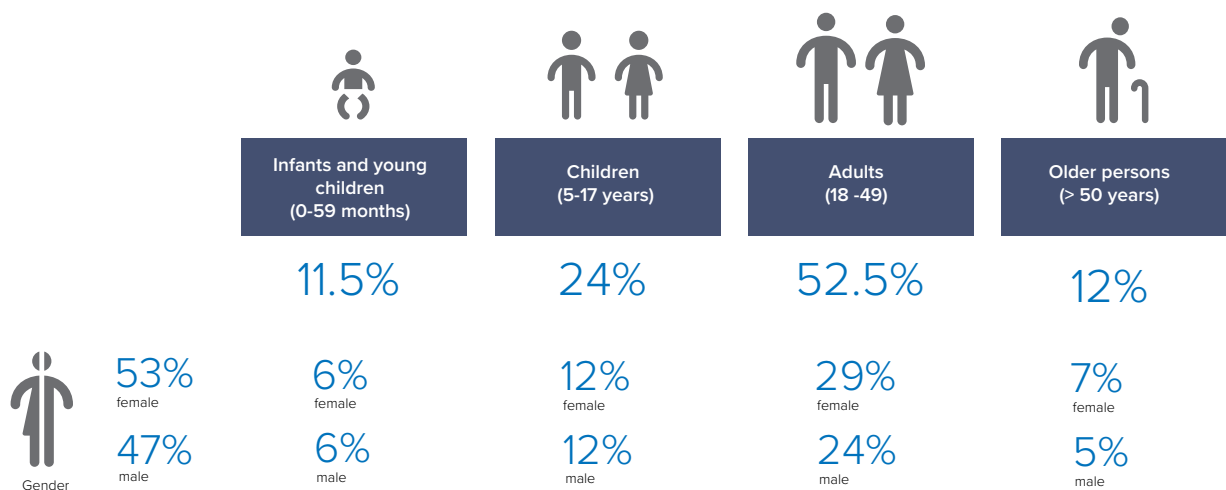
According to the April vulnerability assessment, more than 50 per cent of the refugee-like population used crisis coping mechanisms to overcome shocks from the effects of displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic by reducing their expenses on health and education, selling productive assets, and becoming dependent on support from aid agencies or neighbours.

In particular, livelihood/income generating interventions are needed for the refugee-like population, especially those who are severely or moderately food insecure or those at risk of food insecurity, to reduce their dependence on food assistance and develop a buffer against additional shocks.

Updated Beneficiary Population

	Population as of October 2020	Population as of July 2021	Expected population as of December 2021
Refugee-like population	90,000	36,989	28,000
Host community population	18,000	7,500	4,500

Refugee-like population in June 2021 (disaggregated data)



Inter-Agency Response

The initial **Inter-Agency Response Plan** outlined a multi-agency comprehensive response strategy and related financial requirements, involving 36 IARP partners who supported the Government in providing the first phase of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection services to 90,000 individuals in a refugee-like situation in Armenia from October 2020 to June 2021.

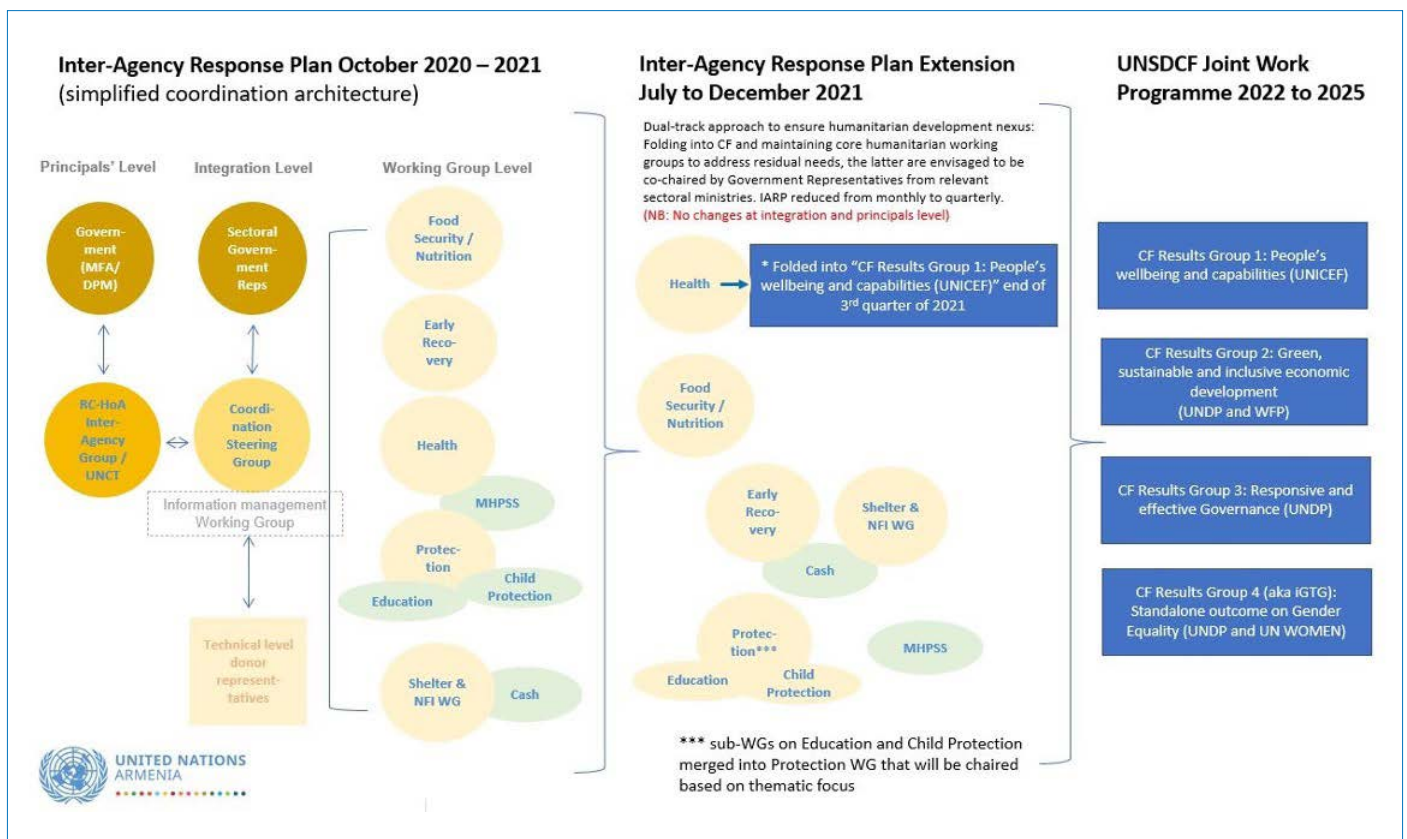
Nine months after the beginning of the emergency, after a phase of returns, some 37,000 of the 90,000 individuals who originally fled into Armenia are still living in a refugee-like situation in the country and need assistance.

In light of the remaining humanitarian needs and parallel efforts undertaken to align humanitarian

assistance with longer-term development objectives, the 14 IARP partners and the Government of Armenia remaining engaged in the response agreed to extend the Plan for six more months, until December 2021, to continue providing assistance to the refugee-like population in the country.

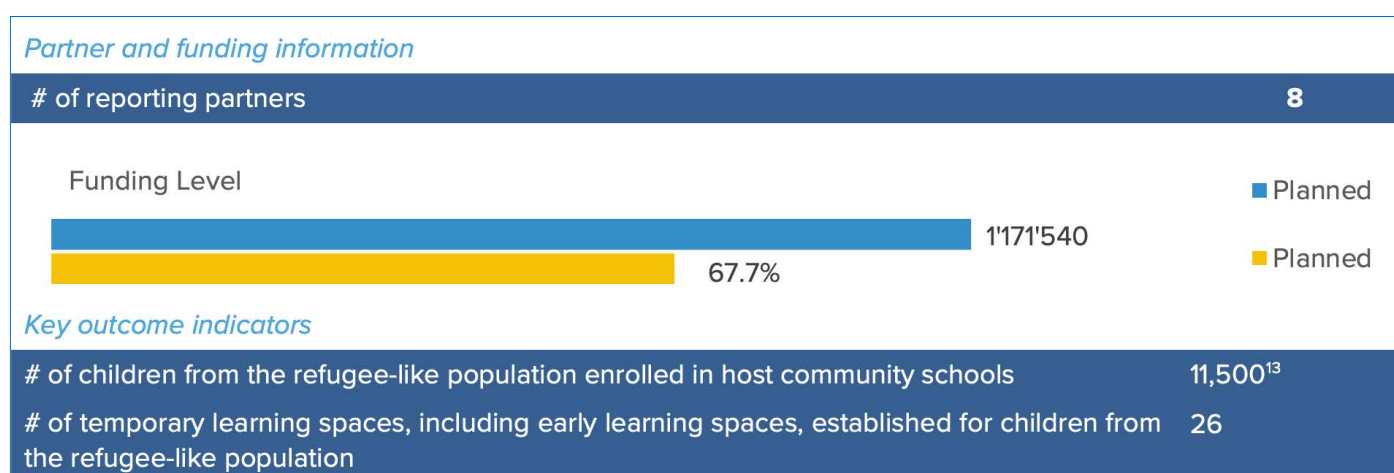
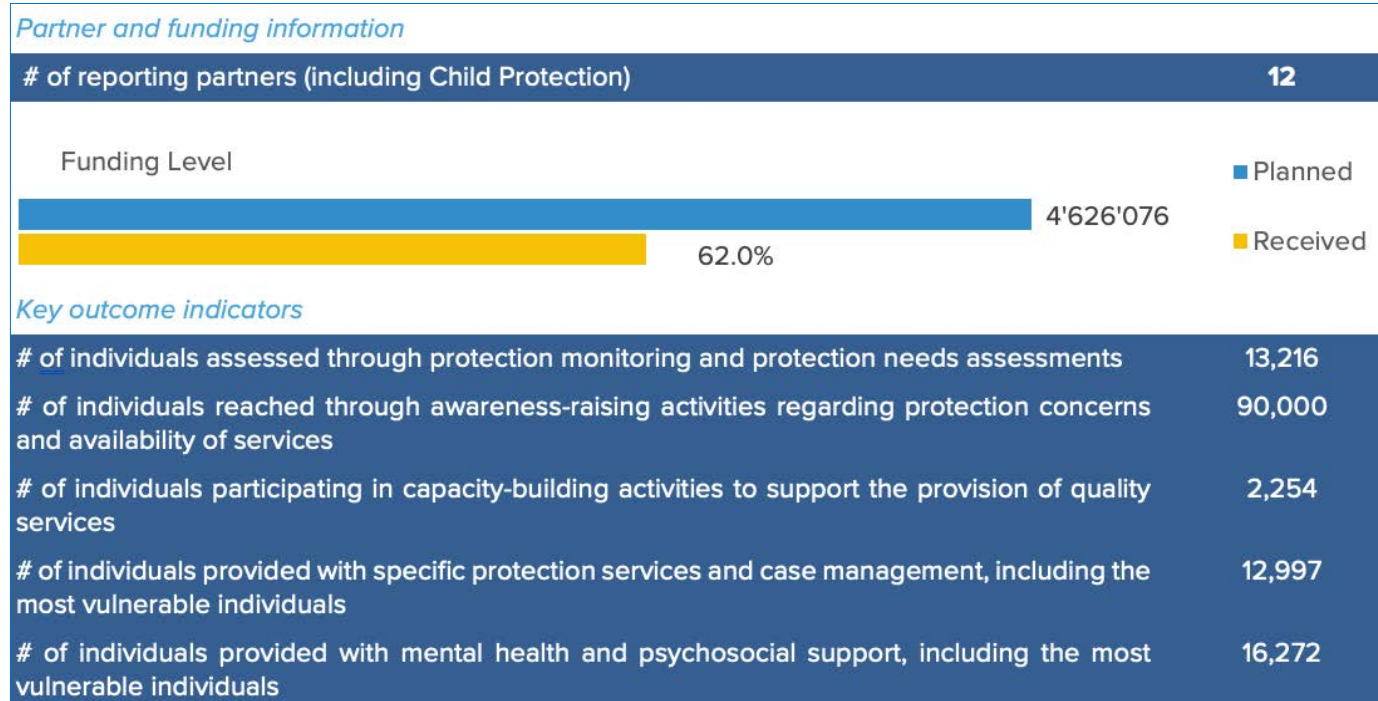
During its initial phase from October 2020 to June 2021, the response also targeted some 18,000 members of the affected host community. In light of current needs, this IARP Update foresees assistance to some 7,500 individuals from the host community, to strengthen social cohesion within and between the host and refugee-like populations, and to contribute to a peaceful environment.

Updated Inter-Agency Coordination Model



* Since July 2021, the coordination structure has been simplified based on the results of the first nine months of response and in line with Government of Armenia's policy aimed at ensuring access of the refugee-like population to existing services. The Child Protection and Education Sub-Working Groups (WGs) will be merged and included within the overall Protection WG. The coordination structure will be revisited in December 2021 and a final review will inform alignment with UNSDCF Results Groups.

Ongoing Response: IARP Partners' Achievements



¹³ Data as of November 2020. Source: Education Management Information System (EMIS) registry, under the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS).



SHELTER & NFIS

Partner and funding information

of reporting partners 18

Funding Level



Key outcome indicators

# of individuals receiving in-kind assistance for basic needs	71,218
# of individuals receiving seasonal assistance	45,440
# of collective shelter sites/centres receiving multiple improvements/maintenance	24
# of individuals benefiting from improvements to/maintenance of collective shelter sites/centres	1,242



FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

Partner and funding information

of reporting partners 10

Funding Level



Key outcome indicators

# of individuals who receive monthly food assistance	20,784
# of individuals who receive nutritional support activities in a given month	405
# of individuals who benefited from having their means of subsistence protected, reconstituted or created	2,043



HEALTH

Partner and funding information

of reporting partners 9

Funding Level



Key outcome indicators

# of individuals referred to primary and secondary health care through interventions of health partners	8,897
% of target population receiving medical supplies	100 %



EARLY RECOVERY

Partner and funding information

of reporting partners

9

Funding Level



Key outcome indicators

# of individuals supported through cash-for-work-related interventions or other employment-related assistance	214
# of individuals benefiting from vocational or business trainings or supported in establishing or scaling up Small Business Enterprises	3,028
# of individuals benefiting from construction/rehabilitation of basic community and social infrastructure	9,086



CASH

Partner and funding information

of reporting partners

Key outcome indicators

# of displaced persons supported through humanitarian cash-based interventions (disaggregated by age, gender, location, programme – where possible)	34,735 ¹⁴
# of host families supported through humanitarian cash-based interventions	6,586 ¹⁵

¹⁴ The total number of unique beneficiaries was calculated using the highest figures for the number of beneficiaries supported through a cumulative number of programmes, such as the AMD 68,000 programme (approximately USD 139), for utility payments, cash for work, etc. Some duplication may have occurred in the figure presented due to complexity of the data on hand. The cash assistance programmes do not systematically list beneficiaries using a unique identifier. The total number of transactions for the refugee-like population was 78,566.

¹⁵ The same applies to the total number of host families, which was calculated using overall figures of supported host families. Double counting may have occurred in the figure presented due to complexity of the data on hand.

Response Strategy and Priorities



A mother and daughter in a refugee-like situation preparing morning coffee in their rented apartment in Jermuk, Vayots Dzor Province. ©UNHCR/Areg Balayan

Strategic Objective 1: Assist the Government of Armenia in providing gender-sensitive protection support to the refugee-like population, particularly the most vulnerable, and enable them to enjoy their rights equally and efficiently, including through the provision of legal assistance and counselling.

Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen inclusive access of the refugee-like population to dignified living conditions, including access to decent shelter, non-food items, food security and basic services (including social protection, health care and education).

Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen resilience of the refugee-like population in Armenia, as well as the host community, until adequate conditions are met to facilitate dignified returns.

Strategic Objective 4: Achieve an effective transition from humanitarian-focused activities to longer-term development strategies, by ensuring that refugee-like populations - and the sectoral response to their needs – are primarily integrated into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF - which will govern the work of the UN in Armenia from 2021 to 2025) and other relevant development frameworks.

Foot note 1: While most of the Working Groups are expected to be transitioned into the UNSDCF, protection and targeted assistance will likely need to continue as some persons in a refugee-like situation are likely to remain into 2022 in Armenia.

Revised Response Activities



Protection needs of the refugee-like population continue to evolve. While displacement dynamics did not significantly change during the first nine months of the response, more recent sporadic incidents near border areas and the line of contact, especially in Ararat, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor Provinces, suggest a need for continuous monitoring.

In line with the updated needs, IARP partners will ensure that i) the refugee-like population, particularly the most vulnerable, continue to have equal and effective access to rights and services and receive assistance and support; ii) communities, humanitarian actors and relevant national authorities have the capacity to assess, analyse, prevent and address protection risks and needs; and iii) social cohesion and resilience of the refugee-like population is enhanced and maintained.

In terms of priority activities, IARP partners will continue to strengthen protection monitoring and protection needs assessments to assess the refugee-like population's needs, capacities, opportunities and vulnerabilities. This will be done incorporating protection principles, ensuring collection of disaggregated data (according to age, gender, specific needs), and promoting the access, safety, dignity, accountability, participation and empowerment of all, especially women, children and vulnerable groups, in every implemented project. Protection needs assessments will also facilitate evidence-based advocacy to strengthen protection for persons in a refugee-like situation and to provide effective, efficient and targeted assistance through relevant referrals to other humanitarian response programmes.

Communication with communities and community-based protection mechanisms will be strengthened to enhance identification of the most vulnerable individuals. Community-based programmes will focus on improving protection conditions and providing capacity-building support to formal and informal community representatives and organizations, as well as to state service providers. Protection actors will also continue to raise awareness and disseminate information to enhance access to services from state and humanitarian actors related to gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and free legal aid. A dedicated hotline funded by UNHCR¹⁶ is in place to receive feedback and complaints from beneficiaries as part of the commitment to ensure Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). In addition, an outreach volunteers programme will help maintain and reinforce two-way communication with beneficiaries and the host community, thereby further strengthening the accountability of IARP partners.

Partners will promote the specific Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and complaints mechanisms currently in place. Trainings and capacity-building of all IARP partners will continue in order to maintain an environment that prevents SEA and promotes implementation of their code of conduct.

It will be crucial to continue enhancing the MHPSS capacities of social service personnel (including professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteers) and to strengthen access to specialized services while supporting the mental well-being and resilience of children, parents and caregivers. In this regard, IARP

¹⁶ The dedicated hotline can be reached at: +374 (0) 0000025

partners will revitalize work with local and national authorities to maximize the effectiveness of the response and ensure its sustainability.

Protection activities post-June 2021 will also address the need to reinforce resilience and support durable solutions.

IARP partners will work toward strengthening national Child Protection (CP) systems and focus on providing safe and secure access to education in response to the needs of children living in a refugee-like situation and in host communities, particularly in border areas. Specific activities include creation of safe additional space, provision of IT equipment and renovation of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in schools. Catch-up classes for refugee-like students, provision of school supplies,

capacity-building of teachers in areas such as Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), basic psychological support, and awareness-raising on International Humanitarian Law and the Safe School Declaration are also planned by education partners.



Children in a refugee-like situation playing hide-and-seek at a reception centre in Yerevan. ©UNHCR/Anahit Hayrapetyan



SHELTER & NFIS

IARP partners will continue working in close coordination with national and local authorities and other stakeholders, including the refugee-like population and host families toward achieving the following main objectives: i) improving adequate and safe access to shelter and provision of basic household items such as hygiene kits for vulnerable members of the refugee-like and host populations; ii) enhancing advocacy and the search for sustainable shelter solutions for the refugee-like population; and iii) ensuring support for winterization, among others.

IARP partners aim to reach approximately 14,000 persons in a refugee-like situation and 2,000 persons from the host community.

Among projects prioritized for the remainder of 2021, IARP partners will repair eight collective accommodation centres sheltering 907 persons in a refugee-like situation. This includes establishing social housing for older persons and single mothers by renovating and furnishing existing buildings. Monthly cash and voucher assistance will be distributed to 200 persons with a focus on support for families hosting refugee-like persons. IARP shelter partners also envisage support to cover the rental and utility costs of the most vulnerable individuals in a refugee-like situation.

While the host community and Government continue to generously provide accommodation to the refugee-like population, most solutions offered to date are short-term. IARP partners will continue advocating for long-term solutions, including social housing initiatives, in close coordination with development actors in the transition to early recovery.

NFI interventions will include provision of personal hygiene kits and domestic items such as bedding to 6,000 persons in a refugee-like situation. Winterization support will be extended to 14,000 persons in a refugee-like situation in the form of seasonal multi-purpose cash assistance for three months to help protect them from the harsh Armenian winter.

In addition, multipurpose cash and voucher assistance is planned for some 9,800 vulnerable persons, including children in a refugee-like situation.

Partners will conduct systematic post-distribution monitoring taking into account gender-specific needs to ensure that interventions continue to address the priority needs of populations and are tailored to feedback received.



A woman in a refugee-like situation in Goris, Syunik Province receiving a coat and other warm clothing to survive the cold winter.
©UNHCR/Anahit Hayrapetyan

From October 2020 to June 2021, IARP partners targeted some 50,000 persons in a refugee-like situation and 18,000 host community members with NFI distributions and shelter interventions. From July 2021 to December 2021, shelter and NFI activities will prioritize provision of basic household items such as hygiene kits, rental support, advocacy for longer-term housing solutions and support for winterization, in the form of seasonal multipurpose cash assistance where possible.



FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

At the onset of the emergency, IARP partners provided life-saving food and nutrition services to the refugee-like population and host community in line with standards agreed at the technical level around three priority areas: providing food support to food insecure persons; ensuring adequate nutrition for at-risk groups, including pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and children; and protecting, reconstituting or creating the means of subsistence of refugee-like and host communities in fragile environments.

Through the end of December 2021, planned activities fall under the following outcome areas:

Objective 1: *Ensure and sustain the timely provision of life-saving food assistance for 27,200 persons from the refugee-like and host community populations.*

IARP partners will target 24,000 individuals, including a mix of cash and in-kind support for persons in a refugee-like situation and cash support for host community members. In addition, 3,200 persons from households in a refugee-like situation with children under the age of two will be targeted for food support.”

Objective 2: *Ensure adequate nutrition for at-risk groups, including pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children, targeting 14,505 persons.*

IARP partners will continue to support 405 individuals through a nutrition programme launched in April 2021. They will prioritize infant and young child feeding support to prevent malnutrition and guide parents on best practices for infant and young child feeding during emergencies. Counselling and education sessions for parents and caregivers of young children and for pregnant women on essential childcare and nutrition principles will be conducted in five Provinces: Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk, Syunik and Vayots Dzor. Mobile paediatric teams will conduct screenings of children, and frontline health specialists will provide trainings in the same five Provinces. Overall, 10,000 individuals will be targeted, including 6,000 persons in a refugee-like situation and 4,000 from the host community.

A voucher project is planned to target 3,900 persons in a refugee-like situation, and 200 individuals from households hosting persons in a refugee-like situation. As a one-off, each person will receive a voucher worth AMD 12,000 that they can use in participating supermarkets.

Objective 3: *Build resilience among affected populations through enhancing access to livelihood support opportunities for 2,826 persons.*

IARP partners have planned to provide livelihood support to 1,200 persons from the refugee-like and host community populations from border areas. Members take a combined approach to increasing access to livelihoods, including by making cash-for-work opportunities available, increasing the capacity of local businesses to recruit new employees, building skills among affected populations, and generating employment opportunities.

IARP partners plan to launch a pilot programme on social inclusion to strengthen the capacity of 21 employees of the State’s Integrated Social Services in seven branches across Yerevan City in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Emergency feeding for livestock and distribution of poultry are also planned to cover 1,605 refugee-like persons and host community households in border areas in Syunik and Gegharkunik Provinces.



Two mothers from families in a refugee-like situation learn together to prepare nutritious complementary food for their children. ©AAH/Davit Jotyan



For the first nine months of the response, IARP partners primarily supported the provision of medical supplies, equipment and medical assistance based on needs assessments and other information from the Ministry of Health (MoH). This included delivery of health kits with essential medicines for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) covering 10,000 people for three months. In addition, mobile clinics and outreach services were provided to increase access to primary and secondary health care for almost 10,000 persons through primary health consultations, referrals to higher-level care, and provision and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) paired with health promotion activities, covering NCDs and COVID-19.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is cross-cutting under the Health and Protection sectors. Within the Health sector response, MHPSS will be provided through clinical support and therapy by specialized and non-specialized health care providers. IARP partners have established a coherent coordination mechanism for MHPSS activities to facilitate an integrated, strengthened approach to address the most urgent mental health and psychosocial support needs.

1,278 people have benefitted from a range of specialized MHPSS services such as Group/Family and Individual Therapy, Drama/Play Therapy, Psychoeducation sessions and Psychiatric consultation.

IARP partners also operate a hotline to provide MHPSS and psychological first aid (PFA) assistance to the public and facilitate referrals.¹⁷ Interdisciplinary psychosocial mobile teams (PMTs) will be deployed in the field at community level to provide mental health and psychosocial support using a community-based approach.

Beyond June 2021, moving on from the emergency phase, the health response will transition toward more sustainable provision of affordable care for all. The overarching coordination body for health, the Technical Health Working Group (THWG), is therefore transitioning toward UNSDCF Results

Group 1. The newly established health taskforce, chaired by the WHO and MoH, will adapt its response strategy to focus on transition, early recovery, and strengthening health system interventions based on response, recovery, prevention and system development needs beyond 2021.

In addition, a coordination platform for rehabilitation services was recently established.

IARP partners will prepare two intervention guides available in the Armenian language to facilitate the introduction of the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP), a practical tool to support general health facilities in humanitarian emergencies in assessing and managing acute stress, grief, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, psychosis, epilepsy, intellectual disability, harmful substance use, and risk of suicide. The mental health Gap Analysis Programme will strengthen provision of MHPSS services at primary health centre level with a focus on refugee-like and host populations in some 40 health care facilities. Its capacity-building component will be used as a tool and evidence-based approach to increase mental health-related competencies of health care workers. Médecins du Monde (Mdm) will translate and produce tool kits on GBV and provide trainings for social workers and psychologists on GBV and MHPSS.

In coordination with the MoH, other IARP partners will carry out periodic visits to screen children's health, nutrition, growth and development status, and provide consultations to parents and caregivers, including referrals, as needed.

IARP partners will continue engaging frontline health specialists and medical NGOs in capacity-building and providing health facilities with required equipment and supplies.

In addition, IARP partners will pilot a mobile laboratory and instrumental diagnostic and sampling service, which will collect and transport biological samples (blood and urine) as well as perform 3/12 channel echography with interpretation and ultrasound.

¹⁷ +88184 or +37460627070



EARLY RECOVERY

IARP partners will work closely with the Government and local actors to ensure a holistic, system-wide response along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, targeting people affected by the conflict. IARP partners aim to accelerate early recovery by reducing dependency on humanitarian aid and supporting the transition from humanitarian response to sustainable development.

Response activities for the first nine months of the response included livelihood grants to support micro- and small businesses and self-employment income-generating activities. IARP partners also focused on providing vocational and entrepreneurship training and strengthening capacities to improve employability and entrepreneurial opportunities for persons in a refugee-like situation and the host community. A needs assessment was conducted on key aspects of early recovery, with a focus on capacity and vulnerabilities in relation to services.

In the second half of 2021, IARP partners will continue implementing early recovery activities initiated during the first stage of the response, with a focus on support for livelihoods and businesses; restoration of social infrastructure and public services; needs assessments and evaluations; capacity-building related to community resilience, social cohesion, peacebuilding, and leadership; and veteran support.

Regarding livelihoods and business support, IARP partners will provide grants to micro- and small businesses, prioritizing women-led enterprises. Other activities include continuing cash-for-work support, vocational and entrepreneurship training and capacity-building; supporting economic and agricultural opportunities in border communities; helping local manufacturing companies participate in international trade shows to support their growth and resilience; and enhancing women's business skills and financial literacy' through the activities of safe spaces.

IARP partners will continue providing support to assist local communities repair and rehabilitate

damaged infrastructure according to current needs and to facilitate housing solutions beyond the recovery phase. IARP partners will work to strengthen communities' social cohesion and resilience by ensuring their access to sustainable resources, enhancing their ability to recover from shocks, and reducing immediate risks to border communities. Specific activities include improving communities' disaster preparedness and response capacity, raising their awareness of and capacity to use green energy, and providing energy efficient street lighting in border communities, all of which will help build resilience for the long-term.

IARP partners will continue identifying and analysing needs and potential gaps in the early recovery response. Once available, the results of the UNDP-commissioned Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment will help guide IARP partners in adjusting their initiatives and plans, if needed, and is expected to provide additional evidence of the need for ongoing and planned activities to accelerate short-, medium- and long-term recovery.

In terms of support for veterans, IARP partners will continue to provide mental health and psychosocial support and career guidance to service persons, including by raising awareness and capacity among relevant staff of the State's Integrated Social Services.

IARP partners will strengthen cooperation with the Government to enhance its involvement in planning and implementing early recovery measures, including in relation to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). IARP partners have suggested aligning their activities with those of the Government and transitioning from immediate to long-term recovery and development in line with the Government's Mid-Term Response Plan (MTRP), the new Government Programme approved in August 2021, and other planning frameworks.

MODALITY OF ASSISTANCE PROVISION

Cash has consistently been ranked as the second most urgent need by families in a refugee-like situation in various assessments, including the second round of the MSNA and Protection Monitoring/protection needs assessments, both conducted in March-April 2021. Key findings indicated that 31 per cent of families in a refugee-like situation reported being dependent on aid or remittances. Cash also remains one of the top priority needs of the host community given the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic combined with the arrival of the refugee-like population.

While most social assistance-type government-led cash programmes were set to end in June-August 2021, discussions are ongoing with the Government to extend or revise those programmes to address the current needs of the refugee-like population in Armenia. Sustainable solutions are also needed for those families who are unable to return, thus underscoring the need to gradually shift toward early recovery.

In agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the following needs have been identified:

1. cash for shelter, including rental subsidies and support to host families/entities;
2. cash and voucher assistance for food, including development of a food voucher system linked to the national social protection system;
3. cash-for-work, including employment, income-generating activities, skills-building initiatives and other activities aimed at creating dignified income security; and
4. cash for services, including increasing the volume or quality of services or establishing new ones, in collaboration with NGOs.

Cash will therefore continue to serve as an important assistance modality in the Updated Inter-Agency Response Plan as it is considered the most dignified, flexible and preferred way of providing support to affected families.



A three-generation family portrait in the community of Jermuk, Vayodz Dzor Province. Many families are hosting relatives and other people in a refugee-like situation. ©UNHCR/Anahit Hayrapetyan

Updated Financial Requirements

To implement the IARP, during the initial nine-month period from October 2020 through June 2021, 36 operational IARP partners sought **US\$ 62,122,194**. As of end of June 2021, the initial response was 47 per cent funded, with a total of **US\$ 29,055,389¹⁸** received. With this updated IARP, which covers the period July to December 2021, a total of 15 partners

are appealing for **US\$ 20,233,689**. This amount represents the revised amount that partners will need to continue to assist the remaining persons of concern who will continue their response activities to assist the remaining population among those persons of concern who fled to Armenia from the areas affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

REVISED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS (OCTOBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2021)

Organization	IARP Funding Received (Oct 2020 – Jun 2021)	IARP Funding Requested (July 2021 – Dec 2021)
ACTED	\$802,400	\$382,200
Action Against Hunger	\$1,501,709	\$587,000
Armenian Red Cross Society	0	\$480,000
Catholic Relief Services	\$700,000	0
Food and Agriculture Organization	\$350,000	\$350,000
International Committee of the Red Cross	\$5,231,094	0
International Labour Organization	\$50,000	0
International Organization for Migration	\$490,000	\$830,000
Mission Armenia	0	\$161,000
OxYGen Foundation	0	\$236,000
People in Need	\$2,270,000	\$800,040
PUI - Première Urgence Internationale	\$132,211	\$350,000
Save the Children	\$743,400	0
United Nations Children's Fund	\$1,527,600	\$1,100,000
United Nations Development Programme	\$1,915,266	\$1,910,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	\$9,263,742	\$5,654,036
United Nations Population Fund	\$404,460	\$100,000
World Food Programme	\$3,161,907	\$7,093,413
World Health Organization	\$500,000	\$200,000
Young Syunik NGO (Kapan Youth Center)/OSF	\$11,600	0
	\$29,055,389	\$20,233,689
GRAND TOTAL REVISED REQUIREMENTS		\$49,289,078

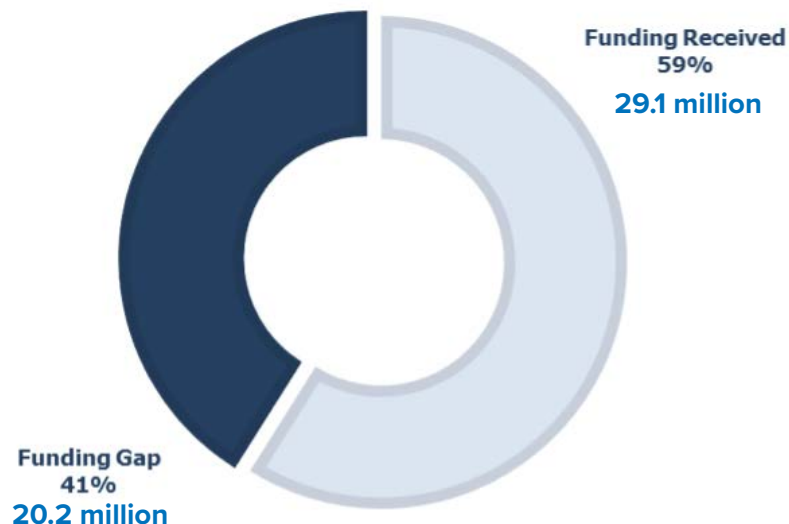
¹⁸ Some of the funds received by ICRC and reported into the [Refugee Funding Tracker \(RFT\)](#) were actually not strictly earmarked against activities listed into the initial IARP. For consistency purposes, these funds (US\$ 5,231,094) were factored in this total. In turn, the real level of funding of the response is proportionally lower than hereby reflected. The ICRC has actively been part of the humanitarian response for the refugee-like population in Armenia and participates in the working groups to ensure good coordination, either directly or through its partners. It should be noted however that the ICRC is independent and participates as an observer, and ICRC's received funding will, from now on, not be reported in the IARP nor in the RFT.

DETAILED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY SECTOR (JULY - DECEMBER 2021)

Organization	Protection	Shelter/NFIs	Health	Food and Nutrition	Early Recovery	TOTAL Planned by Partner
ACTED	\$238,000			\$99,200		\$382,200
Action Against Hunger				\$237,000	\$35,000	\$580,000
Armenian Red Cross Society			\$480,000			\$480,000
Food and Agriculture Organization					\$350,000	\$350,000
International Organization for Migration		\$170,000	\$210,000		\$450,000	\$830,000
Mission Armenia		\$161,000				\$161,000
OxYGen Foundation		\$236,000				\$236,000
People in Need		\$800,040				\$800,040
PUI - Première Urgence Internationale			\$350,000			\$350,000
United Nations Children's Fund		\$400,000	\$500,000	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$1,100,000
United Nations Development Programme					\$1,910,000	\$1,910,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	\$300,000	\$5,354,036				\$5,654,036
United Nations Population Fund					\$100,000	\$100,000
World Food Programme				\$4,856,713	\$2,236,700	\$7,093,413
World Health Organization			\$200,000			\$200,000
Total	\$300,000	\$7,404,076	\$1,740,000	\$5,342,913	\$5,446,700	\$20,233,689

USD 49.3M Revised Financial Requirements

(For the period October 2020 – December 2021)



IARP partners are grateful to donors who have provided generous and timely support to the refugee-like population in Armenia, including:

United States of America 10M | European Union 5M | Japan 4M | CERF 2M | Private Donors 1M | France 1M | Canada 1M

Armenia | Norway | Russian Federation | Sweden | UN Programme

For more information please contact:

UN Country Team Armenia

Mr. Shombi Sharp
UN Resident Coordinator
shombi.sharp@un.org

UNHCR Armenia

Anna-Carin Ost
UNHCR Representative
ost@unhcr.org

Emergency Coordination

Denise Sumpf
Head of RCO Office
sumpf@un.org

Frederic Cussigh
UNHCR Senior Emergency Coordinator
cussigh@unhcr.org