

BACKGROUND

Since September 2023, over 115,183 refugees (as of February 2024) arrived in Armenia from Karabakh region. They have been recognised as Refugee under the Temporary Protection regime of the Law on Refugees and Asylum (2008) of the Republic of Armenia. Temporary protection has been granted for a duration of one year, beginning 28 October 2023, with the possibility of extension based on the Government's decision. Thus far, over 70,000 have been issued with refugee documentation and over 1300 have applied for naturalisation.



UNHCR in collaboration with Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS) developed information material to raise awareness amongst refugees on their legal status, rights, and obligations. Refugee status provides guarantees applicable under national and international law, both within and outside the territory of Armenia.

LEGAL AWARENESS SESSIONS CONDUCTED



Over 17,500 refugees have been reached through legal awareness sessions, community outreach and Hotline information sharing services. The legal awareness sessions have so far been conducted by mobile legal teams in 15 municipalities covering 287 settlements accompanied by United Social Service (USS) workers, UNHCR and municipality staff. Additionally, community outreach is done directly by UNHCR and partners and Hotline information sharing services are also conducted by UNHCR partners.

During these visits, refugee communities shared that such sessions have been useful to them, as it provides them with a platform to clarify questions and better understand their legal status. Varied questions were raised during these sessions, largely on access to services, documentation, naturalisation processes, employment and livelihood opportunities, access to housing and land, prospects for the future, higher education possibilities, cash programmes and financial inclusion.

UNHCR and partners will continue these sessions including joint sessions with the Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure refugees have access to comprehensive information, legal support, and referrals.