

Armenia

July – September 2021

UNHCR continues its response to meet the needs of persons displaced during the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**, in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the Government of Armenia.

UNHCR launched a new **Protection Hotline in August 2021**. Through more than 200 calls, persons of concern raised a number of issues, in particular over access to social assistance.

UNHCR continues **capacity-building activities** for key stakeholders. Around 40 public defenders were trained on the provision of legal aid to refugees and asylum-seekers.

KEY INDICATORS

9,875 displaced individuals

by the NK conflict were reached through 2,017 protection monitoring interviews from July to September 2021. Some 340 displaced persons were identified for referrals for additional assistance and access to services.

14 Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs)

and 5 projects supporting community-based organizations were finalized during the reporting period. The PCPs included provision of technical assistance, construction of children's playgrounds and sport pitches.

About **200 displaced women and children** benefited from the support of community-based organizations.

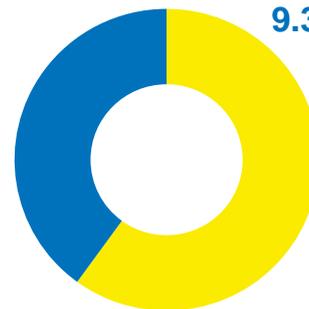
FUNDING (AS OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 15.4 million

Funded
60%

9.3 million



Funding gap
40%

6.1 million

POPULATION OF CONCERN* AS OF JULY 2021

Refugee-like population** 42,023

Refugees 3,401

Asylum-seekers 144

Stateless 892



A refugee from Côte d'Ivoire coaching his team of young footballers in the host community of Dillijan in northern Tavush province. August 2021 © UNHCR / Anahit Havrapetvan

* Source: UNHCR mid-year statistical report, July 2021
** Including 36,989 persons in a refugee-like situation as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and 4,461 Syrian-Armenian persons in a refugee-like situation living in Armenia, assisted by UNHCR

Operational Context

On 27 September 2020, clashes broke out along the line of contact and expanded to other areas until a ceasefire statement was signed ending the Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) conflict on 9 November. Some **90,000 people** displaced by the conflict fled to Armenia. It is estimated that some **36,989** persons remained in a refugee-like situation in Armenia as of July 2021. UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of the displaced people in cooperation with the Government of Armenia, also in the framework of the [Inter-Agency Response Plan](#).

From January to September 2021, 151 asylum-seekers from Iran, Syria, India, Iraq, Jordan and other countries have applied for protection in Armenia. Documentation, housing, decent employment and livelihood opportunities remain the most pressing needs of asylum-seekers and refugees. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the escalation of the conflict, has aggravated the challenges associated with their difficult economic situation in Armenia.

UNHCR and partners are working toward enhancing the protection environment while providing assistance to those most at risk. UNHCR continues advocating for inclusion of persons of concern in national response plans, including COVID-19 recovery and vaccination plans and other legislative and administrative reforms.



Children displaced by the NK Conflict play with local children on their new playground constructed by UNHCR. Goris, Syunik Province, September 2021 © UNHCR / Anahit Hayrapetyan

Update on Achievements

Achievements from July – September 2021



In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in August 2021, 54 households were provided with cash assistance to cover housing rental expenses as of September.



2,073 displaced persons benefitted from social welfare services provided by UNHCR's partner - Mission Armenia NGO (522 persons displaced by the NK conflict and 1,551 other persons of concern).



587 displaced persons received health care services from UNHCR's partner - Mission Armenia NGO.



116 displaced persons received legal counselling and assistance from UNHCR's partner - Mission Armenia NGO.



10,559 persons displaced by the NK conflict received in-kind assistance for basic needs, including hygiene-related needs.



PROTECTION

- **41 displaced children** were provided specialized case management by UNHCR's partners - the Armenian Red Cross Society and World Vision Armenia.
- **154 elderly persons and individuals with specific needs** were assisted by UNHCR's partner - World Vision Armenia.
- Following the entry into force of **legislative amendments accelerating the asylum procedures for applicants who have crossed the border irregularly**, user-friendly information materials were prepared for dissemination among displaced persons, relevant state agencies, the Office of the Public Defender and other UNHCR partners.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

- **Among 28 selected collective accommodation centres** hosting persons displaced by the NK conflict, 11 were renovated/upgraded so far this year. The rest of the renovations funded by the United States of America, Japan and the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) are expected to be finalized in the next quarter. Some 980 persons of concern were reached through these shelter-related interventions.

Working in Partnership

- UNHCR Armenia, operating within the UN Country Team, cooperates with state and non-state stakeholders. UNHCR is a member of UN inter-agency coordination platforms and mechanisms. Jointly with the UN Country Team, it promotes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in Armenia through UN SD Cooperation Framework 2021-2025.
- Following the 2020 mass influx of people displaced by the NK conflict, the UN Country Team in Armenia has established a flexible coordination structure under the co-leadership of UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The coordination structure is centred around four humanitarian Working Groups (WGs), as well as a fifth WG on Early Recovery, to strengthen the resilience capacity of both the refugee-like population and host communities. UNHCR leads the Protection WG and the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) WG and co-leads the Sub-WG on Cash Assistance.

Financial Information

In 2021, UNHCR Armenia is seeking **USD 15.4 million** to respond to the needs of people in a refugee-like situation and to cover the regular annual programme. The **Inter-Agency Response Plan's** financial requirements stand at **USD 62.1 million**.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who contributed to support its programmes in Armenia in 2021:

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Unearmarked contributions are funds without restrictions that allow UNHCR critical flexibility to reach populations of concern in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

For more information, please visit [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#)

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