

# SECONDARY DATA REVIEW (SDR) MATRIX

## Context

A year has passed since the outbreak of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) conflict in September 2020, which left over 90,000 people of NK displaced from their homes and relocated to Armenia. As of May 2021, the majority of these people have returned to NK<sup>1</sup>, and those who remain (approximately 28,719 people<sup>2</sup>) are expected to stay for the longer term, due to the movement of their areas of origin (AoO) under Azerbaijani control and other factors (such as security concerns and socio-economic challenges) that increase their vulnerability.

Additionally, the movement dynamics are still changing, though much slower than at the onset of the conflict outbreak and displacement to Armenia. Most of the refugee-like population has settled in Yerevan, which hosts larger livelihood opportunities, in Syunik, which is the closest marz to Nagorno Karabakh, and which hosts the vital route connecting Armenia to NK, and in marzes adjacent to Yerevan, such as Kotayk, Ararat and Armavir. Relatively smaller shares of the refugee-like population remained in the other marzes – Lori, Shirak, Tavush, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor.

According to the latest data<sup>3</sup>, most of the refugee-like population rents an apartment and a smaller share of the population lives with a host HH or in an own apartment. Nevertheless, there is still a share of the remaining refugee-like population living in collective centres/sites<sup>4</sup>, conditioning these groups being among the most vulnerable. Given the continued presence of refugee-like population, there is a need to make a shift to early recovery programming and development response after the completion of immediate emergency assistance, especially as the Inter-Agency Response Plan (IARP) is being updated for the duration till the end of 2021. An understanding of continuing conflict and displacement-related needs, and the data challenges in assessing them, must be considered in longer-term.

1 UNHCR Operational Data Portal, "[Armenia: MSNA 2nd round Full Report](#)", June 2021

2 UNHCR Operational Data Portal, "[Armenia: Population Data Tables by Marz](#)", October 2021

3 According to the [UNHCR Protection Monitoring data \(July – August 2021\)](#), 54% of the assessed refugee-like population in Armenia live in a rental apartment or house, 31% stay in a hosted arrangement, 10% - owned apartment or house, 2% - collective accommodation.

4 According to the [UNHCR Protection Monitoring data \(July - August 2021\)](#), the share of people residing in collective/transitional shelters dropped from 4% in the previous round to 2%.

## Overview of the SDR

As the humanitarian coordination structure prepares to disengage at the end of 2021, in the frames of the **"REACH: Support to the Coordination Steering Group" project funded by UNHCR**, REACH Initiative (IMPACT Initiatives) conducted this SDR matrix aiming to identify existing data sources and the remaining gaps important to consider to address immediate and longer-term needs of this particularly vulnerable population within the context of a transitioning humanitarian response.

Some of the priority areas to which this secondary data review was anticipated to contribute were food security, shelter, cash and livelihoods from the perspective of transition to early recovery activities.

Based on the secondary data review a matrix of data sources was prepared, analysing data gaps therein, such as the UNDP Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) conducted by AGORA Initiative (IMPACT Initiatives), REACH's (IMPACT Initiatives) Economic Resilience Assessment, UNHCR's Protection Monitoring, other governmental and I/NGO assessments/surveys.

For the purpose of this SDR, assessments and surveys targeting the refugee-like population and the host communities and implemented during the year of 2021 were taken into consideration. The repository of the UNHCR data portal and specifically the Assessment Registry on the portal was consulted to identify relevant data sources. Wherever necessary, additional information was received through bilateral requests to the relevant actors or through queries during Working Group meetings.

The existing data sources face several limitations, such as related to methodology, geographical coverage, scope of areas and population groups assessed, as well as time relevance, which, if combined, highlight the data gaps and necessitate actions to cover those gaps in support of transition to early recovery and development nexus.

The current SDR presents the reviewed data sources, their main findings and major data challenges or limitations, and is followed by general conclusions on the prevalent data gaps.

## ECONOMIC RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT (ERA)

**Organisation:** REACH Initiative (IMPACT Initiatives) / Funded by ECHO

**Date of data collection:** July - August 2021

**Date of report publication:** September 2021

**Geographic coverage:** Syunik, Kotayk, Ararat, Lori marzes and Yerevan

**Data collection methodology:**  
Focus Group Discussions

**Population groups:**

-  Refugee-like population | 118 ppl
-  Host communities | 42 ppl
-  Employment and social service providers | 18 ppl

### Thematic coverage

-  Housing
-  Livelihood
-  Employment
-  Social and employment services

**Objectives:** The objective of this assessment was to identify the main obstacles for the defined population groups in terms of getting a job/finding an income-generating activity, their intentions related to livelihood development and self-reliance, and possible support (assistance, training, etc.) needed in this regard in five marzes in Armenia.

### Main findings:

- ◇ Basic housing and livelihood challenges (connected to the ability to pay rental or utility costs, ensure food security, cover basic education and healthcare costs) faced by the refugee-like population also impact their capacity for longer-term planning and attempts of ensuring self-reliance.
- ◇ These challenges expected to aggravate with the termination of the state-provided monthly allowances from August 2021.
- ◇ The findings further indicate lack of significant gaps in terms of employment barriers faced by the refugee-like population and host communities, and only a few of the reported barriers were specific to the refugee-like population such as discrimination based on belonging to the refugee-like population, bureaucratic barriers, and lack of clarity on the future.
- ◇ Overall, major barriers identified by the FGD participants were: **1)** lack of job opportunities, **2)** low wages, **3)** work environment and conditions, **4)** lack of work experience, **5)** lack of skills and education, **6)** nepotism and unfair hiring, **7)** discrimination based on belonging to the refugee-like population,



### Links:

- [Report](#)
- [Qualitative Data Saturation and Analysis Grid](#)
- [Secondary Data Review](#)

- ◇ **8)** care responsibilities (mostly identified by female participants), **9)** age (applied not only to the elderly participants but also middle-aged participants), **10)** lack of clarity on the future as an obstacle for long-term planning, **11)** barriers to launching agricultural activities, **12)** bureaucratic barriers for the refugee-like population not being considered eligible for some employment and other support programmes, **13)** health-related issues, **14)** lack of working tools, **15)** lack of awareness on support programmes and lack of knowledge on to who, where and how to apply.

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Methodological limitations:** Given the qualitative nature of this assessment and, respectively, nonprobability sampling, the findings should be considered as indicative only, and not representative of the general refugee-like population or the host communities.
- **Limited geographical coverage:**
  - Only 5 marzes (selected based on the high numbers of refugee-like population) targeted by the assessment.
  - Limited representation of Northern marzes in the FGDs with Employment and Social service providers leading to lack of perspective from Northern marzes (which also have one of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in Armenia).
- **Possible respondent bias**
  - Shock of conflict and displacement still fresh in the minds of the refugee-like population, leading to elusive answers and potential under-reporting of some issues.
  - Culture of shame: difficulties openly discussing financial or material challenges which might lead to under-reporting of these issues.

**In terms of the transitioning of response to early recovery and development nexus, there is a need for a more in-depth quantitative assessment on the job search, employment barriers and expected modalities of assistance.**

## CAPACITY AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT (CVA)

**Organisation:** AGORA Initiative (IMPACT Initiatives) / Funded by UNDP

**Date of data collection:** May - June 2021

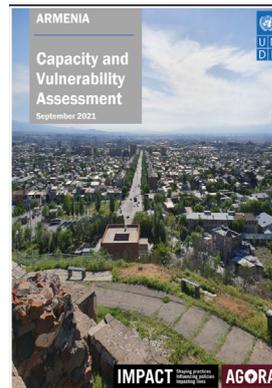
**Date of report publication:** September 2021

**Geographic coverage:** Syunik and Kotayk marzes, and Yerevan

**Data collection methodology:** Household surveys and Key Informant interviews

### Population groups:

-  Refugee-like population | 605 HHs
-  Host communities | 1,202 HHs
-  Providers of essential services across 11 thematic areas | 318 ppl



### Links:

- [Presentation](#)
- [Factsheet](#)
- [Report \(pending publication\)](#)

### Thematic coverage

-  Housing
-  Energy and utilities
-  Waste management
-  Education
-  Employment
-  Healthcare

-  Administrative services
-  Social services
-  Security and justice services
-  Emergency services
-  Social cohesion and peacebuilding

**Objectives:** The aim of the assessment was to inform cross-sectoral programming, facilitate recovery along the humanitarian-development nexus in line with recovery needs, and synthesise longer-term relationships with decision-makers in Armenia's service provision infrastructure.

### Main findings:

- ◇ Overall, the CVA's findings suggest that Armenian service infrastructure, despite having been challenged by the double shocks of 2020, has largely remained resilient; host and refugee-like HHs commonly reported having experienced continued access to utilities and services throughout the double shocks.
- ◇ The administrative, social, and security and justice sectors appeared to have experienced the lowest impact on HHs' ability to access services, with almost all HHs reported that their access to such services had not been affected.
- ◇ Findings indicate particular challenges in the education and healthcare sectors. In the education sector, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the learning process of host HHs, while refugee-like HHs reported enrolment challenges upon their arrival to the RA.
- ◇ In the healthcare sector, the double shocks notably affected services across the three regions, with service providers reporting their main challenges being a lack of doctors and medical personnel.

- ◇ In the employment sector, both host and refugee-like HHs reported high unemployment rates among HoHHs, and refugee-like HHs particularly reported that their employment access was negatively impacted by the hostilities in and around NK.
- ◇ In the social cohesion sector, for both the host HHs and refugee-like HHs, as well as the interviewed service providers, the need to enhance participatory planning and community engagement mechanisms emerged as a key finding in the CVA.

### Data challenges / limitations:

- **Methodological limitations:** While the HH surveys are generalizable, key informant interviews were aggregated based on cross-sectoral questions which were asked to all research participants across sectors, as well as the sector-specific questions..
- **Time relevance:** The primary data collection was conducted in May - June 2021, and since then the needs identified by the assessed vulnerable groups of population might have changed, especially given the winter season approaching and the potential emergence of seasonal needs and challenges.
- **Limited geographical coverage:** The assessment targeted three marzes - Kotayk, Syunik and Yerevan (capital), therefore there is no representation of the population groups in the remaining marzes.

## MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA) / 2nd ROUND

**Organisation:** REACH Initiative (IMPACT Initiatives) / Funded by ECHO

**Date of data collection:** March - April 2021

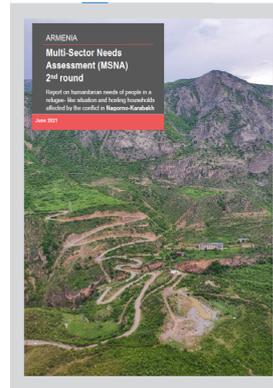
**Date of report publication:** June 2021

**Geographic coverage:** National coverage (including capital Yerevan)

**Data collection methodology:** Household surveys

**Population groups:**

-  Refugee-like population | 414 HHs
-  Host communities | 249 HHs



**Links:**

- [Report](#)
- [Presentation](#)
- [Displaced HH analysis](#)
- [Host HH analysis](#)
- [Dataset](#)

### Thematic coverage

-  Movement Dynamics
-  Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)
-  Protection
-  Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
-  Health

-  Livelihood
-  Food Security
-  Education
-  COVID-19
-  Accountability to the affected population and cross-cutting issues

**Objectives:** The second round of the MSNA was conducted to follow up on the findings of the first round in November-December 2020, to evaluate if and how core humanitarian needs have changed after the winter and to scope the intentions of people in a refugee-like situation in terms of durable solutions.

### Main findings:

- ◇ With regard to HHs' intentions to move or return to their area of origin, almost all (93.4%) HHs in a refugee-like situation expressed having no intentions to move (including those who would move only if it was safe to return home) or were unable to communicate their intentions.
- ◇ The share of unemployed HHs has tripled since the conflict, while the share of those who had permanent paid jobs has decreased twice.
- ◇ However, since the previous round of the MSNA in December 2020, an indicative but relatively positive trend has been observed in terms of engagement in income-generating activities for the HHs in a refugee-like situation since December 2020, although the proportion of HHs reporting this remains low. Similarly, the proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation with unemployed HH heads appears to have decreased slightly.
- ◇ Priority needs appeared to be similar to those reported in the previous round, with shelter, cash, and food remaining the main priority needs among the HHs in a refugee-like situation, and cash and food for host HHs.

- ◇ In case the HHs were to receive humanitarian assistance in the future, HHs most commonly indicated they would prefer receiving it in the form of physical cash (over 80%), and in some cases in-kind assistance such as food and shelter/NFIs. In a similar vein, cash and food were also identified as the kind of primary assistance that hosting HHs would need to continue hosting HHs in a refugee-like situation.

### Data challenges / limitations:

- **Methodological limitations:**
  - Discrepancies in general population figures from different official sources did not allow random stratified sampling method, limiting the generalizability of findings.
  - Limitations of comparison between the two rounds of MSNAs: While the first round of assessment applied random stratified approach, the second round of assessment employed a purposive snowball sampling method. Therefore, comparison of findings between both rounds is indicative only.
  - While quota sampling allows to generally compare between assessed groups and marzes, the comparisons should be considered indicative.
- **Time relevance:** The primary data collection was conducted in March - April 2021, and since then the needs identified by the assessed vulnerable groups of population might have changed, especially given the winter season approaching and the potential emergence of seasonal needs and challenges.

## UNHCR PROTECTION MONITORING | SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER SNAPSHOT

**Organisation:** UNHCR

**Date of data collection:** September-October 2021

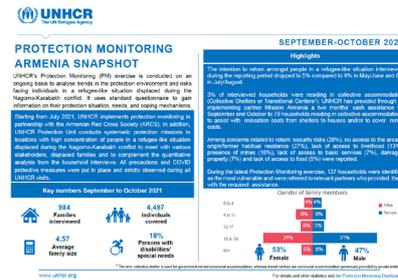
**Date of report publication:** November 2021

**Geographic coverage:** National coverage (including capital Yerevan)

**Data collection methodology:** Household interviews

**Population groups:**

 Refugee-like population | 984 HHs (4,497 ppl)



**Links:**

- [Snapshot](#)
- [Protection Monitoring Dashboard](#)

### Thematic coverage

-  Documentation
-  Housing
-  Priority needs

-  Areas of origin and return intentions
-  Sources of income

**Objectives:** UNHCR's Protection Monitoring (PM) exercise is conducted on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing individuals in a refugee-like situation during the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. It uses standard questionnaire to gain information on their protection situation, needs, and coping mechanisms.

### Main findings:

- ◇ The intention to return amongst people in a refugee-like situation interviewed during the reporting period dropped to 5% compared to 9% in May/June and 6% in July/August.
- ◇ At the same time, the number of interviewed HHs who were uncertain about their return intentions or did not know has been steadily rising over the course of the reporting period since January 2021, reaching 68% during this reporting period. Only 1% reported wishing to go to a third country.
- ◇ Among concerns related to return: security risks (29%), no access to the area of origin/former habitual residence (27%), lack of access to livelihood (13%), presence of mines (10%), lack of access to basic services (7%), damaged property (7%) and lack of access to food (5%) were reported.
- ◇ 3% of interviewed HHs were residing in collective accommodation (Collective Shelters or Transitional Centers).
- ◇ Individuals interviewed expressed five priority needs: cash, shelter, food, employment and household items.
- ◇ During the reporting period, 77% of interviewed individuals reported that they needed food assistance.
- ◇ 89% of respondents reported missing no documentation (property ownership documents, marriage/divorce certificates, diplomas, birth/death certificates, residency card, etc.).

- ◇ 45% of respondents indicated employment as their main source of income. Compared to previous reporting period there is a rise in the number of respondents mentioning pension as the main source of income (from 16% during the last reporting period to 25%), while the number of those reporting having absolutely no income to rely on increased from 7% to 10%.
- ◇ There is a drop in the number of respondents reporting humanitarian assistance as their main source of income (from 37% to 18%). These significant changes in sources of income might be explained by the temporary delay of the provision of the Governmental financial assistance during the reporting period.
- ◇ 81% of interviewed households reported feeling safe at their current location in Armenia.
- ◇ 4% of interviewed HHs reported their children not attending school (triple decrease from 12%) over the course of 8 months).

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Limited scope:** While the monitoring collects detailed information about the priority needs and protection-related situation and concerns among the refugee-like population, the long-term livelihood and employment aspects have a limited coverage, and therefore provide limited insights for the planning and implementation of longer-term interventions and development programmes.
- **Time relevance:** While the snapshot provides most up-to-date overview of the situation in the protection environment and needs of the refugee-like population, it should be noted that the Protection monitoring exercise is ongoing and the information is updated on the regular basis.

# UNHCR PROTECTION MONITORING | JULY-AUGUST SNAPSHOT

**Organisation:** UNHCR

**Date of data collection:** July - August 2021

**Date of report publication:** September 2021

**Geographic coverage:** National coverage (including capital Yerevan)

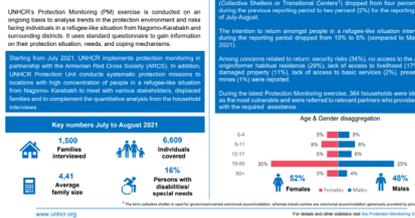
**Data collection methodology:** Individual/household interviews

**Population groups:**

 Refugee-like population | 1,500 HHs (6,609 ppl)



## PROTECTION MONITORING ARMENIA SNAPSHOT



**Links:**

- [Snapshot](#)
- [Protection Monitoring Dashboard](#)

### Thematic coverage

-  Documentation
-  Housing

-  Areas of origin and return intentions
-  COVID-19

**Objectives:** UNHCR's Protection Monitoring (PM) exercise is conducted on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing individuals in a refugee-like situation from Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding districts. It uses standard questionnaire to gain information on their protection situation, needs, and coping mechanisms.

### Main findings:

- ◇ The number of interviewed households residing in collective accommodation (Collective Shelters or Transitional Centers) dropped from 4% during the previous reporting period to 2% for the reporting period of July-August.
- ◇ 95% of interviewed households live in rental accommodations, and very often lack basic household items (cooking sets, stoves, etc).
- ◇ With 6% of respondents reporting intention to return during the latest reporting period, 61% of interviewed households were uncertain and did not know, 31% were planning to relocate within Armenia, and 1% wanted to go to a third country.
- ◇ The intention to return amongst people in a refugee-like situation interviewed during the reporting period dropped from 19% to 6% (compared to May-June 2021). Among concerns related to return: security risks, no access to the area of origin/former habitual residence, lack of access to livelihood and damaged property, lack of access to basic services, presence of mines were reported.
- ◇ Individuals interviewed expressed five priority needs: shelter, cash, household items, employment, and food.

- ◇ 37% of respondents relied on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income; 35% of respondents indicated employment; 16% mentioned pension, 7% shared having absolutely no income to rely on. Remaining respondents reported support from family abroad or other sources of income.
- ◇ During the reporting period, 82% of interviewed individuals reported that they needed food assistance.

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Limited scope:** While the monitoring collects detailed information about the priority needs and protection-related situation and concerns among the refugee-like population, the longer-term livelihood and employment aspects have a limited coverage, and therefore provide limited insights for the planning and implementation of longer-term interventions and development programmes.
- **Time relevance:** While the snapshot provides most up-to-date overview of the situation in the protection environment and needs of the refugee-like population, it should be noted that the Protection monitoring exercise is ongoing and the information is updated on the regular basis.

## UNHCR PROTECTION MONITORING | MID-YEAR REPORT

**Organisation:** UNHCR

**Date of data collection:** January - June 2021

**Date of report publication:** July 2021

**Geographic coverage:** National coverage (including capital Yerevan)

**Data collection methodology:** Individual/household interviews, Key informant interviews, Observations, Focus Group Discussions and Technical assessments used to validate some findings  
\* Accounting for needs and information coming from other communication channels, including self-referral through the UNHCR-operated hotline, among others.

### Population groups:



Refugee-like population | 2,389 HHs (around 10,880 ppl)

Key informants (community volunteers, humanitarian workers, representatives of the local authorities, and site management | 123 ppl)

**Objectives:** Protection monitoring is defined as a systematic and regular collection, verification, and analysis of information over an extended period to identify violations of rights and/or protection risks/priorities/needs for populations of concern. The results can be used to achieve coherent and evidence-based community focused response and advocacy.

### Main findings:

- ◇ Main priority needs reported: shelter, cash, household items and access to employment.
- ◇ 54% of the interviewed KI rated the accessibility of "Shelter" (finding accommodation) in their community/collective shelter as bad or insufficient, 32% as sufficient and only 5% as good or very good.
- ◇ 49% of the interviewed population reported that they were unemployed during the previous months. The highest numbers of unemployed individuals interviewed in the previous months were reportedly in Armavir, Kotayk, Tavush, and Yerevan, while the smallest numbers of unemployed individuals were in Shirak, Aragatsotn and Ararat.
- ◇ With regards to the intentions to return, 14% of interviewed households expressed their wish to return, 51% did not know, 33% were planning to relocate within Armenia and 2% wanted to go to a third country.
- ◇ Among concerns upon return the following were reported: security risks, no access to the area of origin/former habitual residence,



### Links:

- [Report](#)
- [Protection Monitoring Dashboard](#)

### Thematic coverage



Documentation



Housing and access to shelter



Livelihood



Movement dynamics and return intentions



Access to services



Accessibility of water & sanitation



Accessibility of public transportation



Social cohesion

- ◇ damaged property and lack of access to livelihood, presence of mines, lack of access to food.
- ◇ 21% of interviewed individuals said they had reduced the quantity or quality of food, 12% had to borrow money to purchase food or basic goods, 11% sought or relied on aid from humanitarian agencies or NGOs, another 11% had to restrict food consumption of adults to benefit small children,
- ◇ Vast majority, 85% of the interviewed households mentioned that they needed food assistance and 87% of such households reported having received food assistance after displacement.

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Limited scope:** While the monitoring collects detailed information about the priority needs and protection-related situation and concerns among the refugee-like population, the longer-term livelihood and employment aspects have a limited coverage, and therefore provide limited insights for the planning and implementation of longer-term interventions and development programmes in this context.
- **Time relevance:** This monitoring report covers data collection from the period of the first six months of 2021, and has limited relevance for the ongoing planning of interventions. The latter should rather consult the following rounds of the protection monitoring results.

## WFP VAM | FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS AMONG DISPLACED PEOPLE

**Organisation:** World Food Programme (WFP)

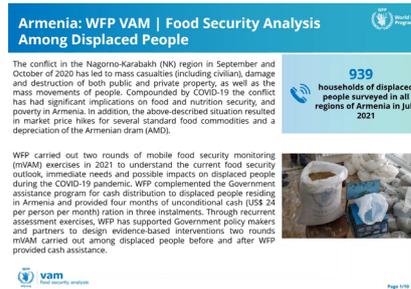
**Date of data collection:** July 2021

**Date of bulletin publication:** November 2021

**Geographic coverage:** National coverage (including capital Yerevan)

**Data collection methodology:** Computer-assisted telephone interviewing, HH interviews

 **Population groups:** Displaced people | 939 HHs



### Links:

Bulletin shared multilaterally during the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group meeting

### Thematic coverage

 Comprehensive food security  
 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

 Livelihood coping strategies  
 Income reduction

**Objectives:** WFP carried out mobile food security monitoring (mVAM) exercises to understand the current food security outlook, immediate needs and possible impacts of displaced people during the COVID-19 pandemic and post conflict situation.

### Main findings:

- ◇ In July 2021, 13 percent of displaced people were moderately or severely food insecure, compared to 15 percent reported in March 2021.
- ◇ In the same reporting period, 56% of displaced people were marginally food secure and 31% food secure compared to 69% and 15% respectively in March 2021.
- ◇ In July 2021, comprehensive food security among displaced people was similar per urban and rural locations, with the proportion of moderately food insecure people slightly higher in rural locations (15% vs 11% in urban locations).
- ◇ In terms of gender, no significant differences were recorded in the comprehensive food security among displaced people.
- ◇ 94% of displaced people in July 2021, as compared to 90% in March 2021, were found to have acceptable food consumption score.
- ◇ 47% among displaced people in July 2021, compared to 49% in March 2021, reported of the availability of staple food stocks.
- ◇ Among the latter, 22% reported that the food stock would last more than 1 month, 17% - 22-28 days, and for 25% food stock would last up to 7 days.
- ◇ In terms of primary source of income, only 21% of displaced people reported salaried work with regular income as a primary income source for the HH after the conflict, compared to 53% before the conflict. Similarly, while for 30% of displaced people agriculture/cattle breeding was reportedly primary income source before the conflict,

- ◇ only 1% reported this after the conflict. Furthermore, 56% of displaced people reported state social support programs (e.g. Paros, other assistance) being their primary income source after the conflict, compared to only 1% before the conflict.
- ◇ 66% of displaced people reported income reduction by 50% and more after the conflict, and 24% of displaced people - by less than 50%.
- ◇ More than half of the displaced people resorted to crisis coping strategies and approximately 22 percent had adopted stress coping strategies. Around 30% of displaced people resorted to high food-based coping strategies, and only 21% reported to not applying any food-based coping strategies.
- ◇ These figures do not differ much from the findings in March 2021, though it is alarming as the continuous application of negative coping strategies could bring severe consequences in terms of future social-economic conditions of displaced people.

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Methodological limitations:** The monitoring targeted HHs previously supported by WFP through unconditional cash-based transfer modality, therefore the population coverage is restrained by this specific criteria. While representative of the assessed population groups, it potentially excludes valuable insights from those HHs who have not received any assistance by the WFP.
- **Limited scope:** While the monitoring collects detailed information about the food security and consumption, and presents valuable insights on trends across a short time-span, the longer-term livelihood and employment aspects do not directly fall in this scope, have a limited coverage, and therefore provide limited insights for the planning and implementation of longer-term interventions and development programmes.

## FOOD SECURITY AND MARKET MONITORING

**Organisation:** World Food Programme (WFP)

**Date of data collection:** February - March 2021

**Date of report publication:** April 2021

**Geographic coverage:** National

coverage (including capital Yerevan)

**Data collection methodology:**

Phone-based surveys

**Population groups:**

 Displaced population | 1,072 HHs  
Host communities | 273 HHs



**Links:**

[Report](#)

[Presentation](#)

### Thematic coverage

-  Comprehensive food security
-  Food Consumption Score (FCS)
-  Livelihood and food-based coping strategies

-  Assistance (in-kind or cash)
-  Food basket and market analysis

**Objectives:** The remote food security monitoring system (mVAM) survey was conducted to monitor the food security situation of the displaced people and their hosting families, and assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the influx from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

### Main findings:

- ◇ In February-March 2021, 22% of hosting families and 15% of displaced people were moderately and severely food insecure. Two-thirds of both households of displaced people and hosting families applied crisis and emergency coping strategies.
- ◇ The household comprehensive food security analysis showed that 77% of hosting families and 86% of displaced people were food secure in February-March 2021.
- ◇ Almost half of hosting families (42%) mentioned that their household income was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of those whose household income was disrupted, 33% had lost their jobs temporarily, 16% permanently lost their jobs, 14% faced reduction of working hours and receiving a partial salary, and 12% had reduced revenues from business activities. 80% of displaced people reported no change in their household income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated socio economic measures.
- ◇ The households of displaced people reported 90% of an acceptable level of the food consumption score. Among hosting families, food consumption was higher, constituting 93%,
- ◇ 65% of hosting families applied crisis and emergency coping strategies. In urban areas, households were more likely to apply crisis coping strategies compared to rural areas.

- ◇ In rural areas, households applied more emergency coping strategies compared to urban locations.
- ◇ 68% of displaced people applied crisis and emergency coping mechanisms. Both in urban and rural areas crisis coping mechanisms were applied by more than a half of respondents. This means that about a half of them had to reduce their non-food expenses on health and education, sell their productive assets or means of transport and become dependent on food assistance or support from their neighbours/relatives.
- ◇ 26% of both displaced people and hosting families had applied high food-based coping strategies to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food.
- ◇ The most used food-based coping strategy was "relying on less preferred and less expensive food" in both groups.

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Limited scope:** While the monitoring collects detailed information about the food security and consumption, the longer-term livelihood and employment aspects do not directly fall in this scope, have a limited coverage, and therefore provide limited insights for the planning and implementation of longer-term interventions and development programmes.
- **Time relevance:** The primary data collection was conducted at the beginning of the year, and since then there have been many shifts both in terms of the economic situation and the living conditions and sources of income among the targeted vulnerable population groups. For planning purposes it is advisable to consult following rounds of the food monitoring conducted by the WFP.

## MULTI-VECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT AMONG THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

**Organisation:** People in Need (PIN)

**Date of data collection:** May - June 2021

**Date of report publication:** June 2021

**Geographic coverage:** Ararat, Armavir, Vayots Dzor and Syunik marzes \* + Aragatsotn, Shirak marzes and Yerevan (for employment/business market survey)

**Data collection methodology:** Household interviews, Focus Group Discussions, Key informant interviews

### Population groups:

 Refugee-like population | 100 HHs  
Host communities | 30 HHs  
Key informants (heads of kindergartens, mayor and assistant deputy mayor, social workers, staff secretaries, and leading specialists) | 12 representatives of communities hosting displaced population  
Key informants (owners/co-owners, production, financial, HR managers, or directors) | 25 representatives of businesses across 4 marzes, as well as Yerevan

**Objectives:** PIN Armenia conducted multi-vector assessments and monitoring activities with various target groups in order to better understand the conditions of the displaced population, their current needs, the challenges they face, and the efficacy of PIN Armenia's activity in supporting those influenced by the Armenia-Azerbaijan 2020 conflict.

### Main findings:

- ◇ Up to 25% of the surveyed displaced HHs and 33% of surveyed host HHs reported a person with disability in their HH, with overall 31% of surveyed displaced HHs reporting that at least one adult of working age is unable to work due to disability and/or chronic illness.
- ◇ Nearly half (46%) of the surveyed displaced HHs spend over 60% of their monthly earnings on food. Purchasing food on credit (32%), purchasing less preferred, lower quality food (26%), and spending savings (25%) are the top coping strategies employed.
- ◇ On average surveyed host HHs spend 60% of their earnings on food. The top three coping strategies of the host population when they are in need of food are: purchasing food on credit (56%), purchasing less preferred, lower quality food (30%), and borrowing money (26%).
- ◇ The top three priorities as reported by the sur-



Multi-vector needs assessment among the population affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and review of employment and business market opportunities for their socio-economic integration in Armenia



People in Need Armenia  
Yerevan  
June 7, 2021

### Links:

Report shared bilaterally with project donor and other partner agencies of PIN

### Thematic coverage

-  Vulnerabilities & urgent needs
-  Access to services
-  Livelihood
-  Labour and business market

- ◇ surveyed displaced HHs are housing, food aid and shelter NFIs, for the host population - food aid, vocational/technical training to find employment or start business, and shelter NFIs.
- ◇ Up to 18% of the displaced respondents reported facing challenges in accessing health services (GP, pharmacies,), 16% face challenges accessing finance services (ATM, insurance, banks). The main obstacle reported was affordability.
- ◇ The top 3 sources of income among displaced HHs are pensions, state social support, and salaried work mainly in services, construction, military or public administration, and for host HHs - pension, regular salaried work, informal/irregular daily work.
- ◇ 60% of surveyed businesses reported it challenging to find employees with the technical skills required for business.
- ◇ The main important factors that matter to employers when hiring new employees are technical skills for business (36%), interpersonal and communication skills (32%) and work experience (12%).

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Methodological limitations:** Given the short timeline for the assessment, smaller target groups and sample size was selected for the assessment. Therefore, the findings should be considered as indicative, and not representative of the whole refugee-like population remaining in Armenia.
- **Limited male participation:** Displaced men were not feeling comfortable to participate in the surveys, instead invited their female relatives to do so, as PIN identified in the assessment report.
- **Time relevance:** Since the assessment the needs of the population groups might have changed, especially with winter season and emergence of seasonal needs and challenges.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF BENEFICIARIES

**Organisation:** People in Need (PIN)

**Date of data collection:**  
September - November 2021

**Date of report publication:** N/A

**Geographic coverage:** Ararat, Armavir, Vayots Dzor, Syunik and Kotayk marzes

**Data collection methodology:**  
Household interviews



**Population groups:**

Refugee-like population | 4,000+ HHs

**Objectives:** The objective of this assessment is to understand the current situation and specific needs and vulnerabilities of the potential beneficiaries (displaced mostly, but also hosts), for the PIN to be able to choose final beneficiaries per their activities based on vulnerability criteria.

### Thematic coverage

-  Utilities / need for briquettes
-  Renovations in the accommodation
-  Support with capacity-building trainings/coaching
-  Child-friendly spaces

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Limited scope:** Even though the assessment is still in the implementation phase and no results are published (or anticipated to be published), the available information makes it clear that the assessment covers areas which would help identify PIN's support intervention beneficiaries, thereby limiting the scope to only these specific areas.
- **Limited geographical coverage:** Only the marzes where PIN plans to provide support to the selected beneficiaries are covered by this assessment leaving out 5 other marzes and Yerevan.

## VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION

**Organisation:** ACTED

**Date of data collection:** Since November 2021

**Date of report publication:** N/A

**Geographic coverage:** Shirak, Lori, Tavush, Aragatsotn and Gegharkunik marzes

**Data collection methodology:**  
Phone-based household interviews



**Population groups:**

Refugee-like population | 800+ HHs

**Objectives:** The objective of this assessment is to understand the current situation and specific needs and vulnerabilities of the potential beneficiaries (mostly refugee-like population, but also host communities), for ACTED to be able to identify potential beneficiaries of the multi-purpose voucher assistance (mostly winterisation support), based on pre-defined vulnerability criteria.

### Thematic coverage

-  Protection
-  Livelihoods
-  Need for food assistance
-  Need for clothes/shoes assistance

### Data challenges / limitations

- **Limited scope:** Even though the assessment is still in the planning phase and no results are published (or anticipated to be published), the available information makes it clear that the assessment covers areas which would help identify ACTED's support intervention beneficiaries, thereby limiting the scope to only these specific areas.
- **Limited geographical coverage:** Only the marzes where ACTED plans to provide support to the selected beneficiaries are covered by this assessment leaving out 5 other marzes and Yerevan from the ongoing phase of assessment.

## CONCLUSION

The data sources identified by the current secondary data review matrix are the ones which have been consulting the humanitarian coordination system for the past year since January 2021. While all of these assessments and their findings effectively map out the general situation of the refugee-like population and inform the humanitarian community in Armenia on the key sectoral needs across marzes, they also illuminate persisting limitations and knowledge gaps, which could be further explored in future assessments or through other means.

Overall, a major issue is the discrepancy in the remaining refugee-like population size in Armenia, with national and local authorities indicating varying numbers. With the still dynamic, though relatively small-scale, movement situation, it is even harder to completely track and capture the actual population size in the country. Additionally, major gaps identified across all the reviewed assessments and surveys can be summarised into the following categories:

- **Methodological limitations:** either presumed based on the choice of qualitative or quantitative methodology or conditioned by the sampling methods applied.
- **Limited comparability:** Connected to the disparities in data collection methodologies, the assessments also have limited comparability between each other.
- **Limited geographical coverage:** in the case of some of the surveys/assessments, population groups were targeted in a select number of marzes according to the assessment objectives and sampling methods.
- **Time relevance:** most of the primary data collection was conducted in the first half of 2021, while the past months witness relative scarcity in terms of assessments. The ones conducted had either limited scope or geographical coverage, or were planned majorly for beneficiary identification and not extensive analysis and reporting purposes.
- **Limited scope:** each assessment or survey had its own scope of areas targeted, in accordance with the research objectives and methods.

While certain thematic areas had a more extensive or detailed coverage across the assessments (such as food security, protection, housing, utilities, general livelihood situation), some were not prioritised within the ongoing humanitarian context. Additionally, information gaps continue to exist concerning the situation in collective centers and the movements to and from NK. While in the case of collective centers the population size continually decreases (as confirmed through the UNHCR

Protection Monitoring) with a handful of collective centers still in operation, the needs are addressed via generalised approach or case-by-case basis. In the case of movements to and from NK, those are monitored by the UNHCR. Nevertheless, with the dynamic movement situation, there might be a need for a more in-depth analysis on the return intentions of the refugee-like population, as well as challenges and concerns via qualitative analysis complementing the existing quantitative information.

**Such areas as the employment, income-generation and longer-term self-reliance**, which had limited coverage during this phase, rather fall in the scope of transitioning humanitarian response and early recovery programming and gain relevance for the longer-term strategy planning. The conducted assessments majorly covered questions relating to employment status, primary sources of income, average HH income, previous education and sectors of employment, some - job-finding attempts and barriers to employment, impact of NK conflict and COVID-19, preferred modalities of assistance, market analysis, etc. Based on the overview of the available data on early recovery and livelihoods, as well as stakeholder interactions during the WGs, **some of the highlighted data gaps in early recovery and livelihoods** can be grouped as follows:

- in-depth representative data on the confluence of job market and the skills/experience of refugee-like population (as well as host communities), coping mechanisms against employment barriers, tensions over job opportunities or other pertinent social cohesion issues,
- sector-specific analysis of opportunities and support intervention possibilities, particularly in the major areas of expertise of the refugee-like population remaining in Armenia (e.g. agriculture),
- in-depth information on the capacities and challenges faced by the relevant local and national authorities in tackling longer-term livelihood and early recovery needs and in ensuring more efficient state ownership of the development efforts.

To cover these and other emerging information gaps and be able to inform the humanitarian, development and early recovery programming, joint efforts are necessary between the actors in the humanitarian and development response, particularly in the alignment of approaches, as well as the process of data collection and dissemination of available data among the partners. Evidence-based planning and programming particularly gains prevalence with the Inter-Agency Response Plan terminating at the end of 2021 and folding into the [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework](#).