

Armenia

October – December 2021

UNHCR continues its response to meet the needs of persons displaced during the **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**, and also through the extended Inter-Agency Response plan (latest plan update available [here](#)).

UNHCR launched a new **Protection Strategy in December 2021**.

The document will guide the protection interventions and overarching operational deliveries over the course of 2022.

UNHCR Armenia finalized 30 **peaceful coexistence projects** and 12 projects supporting **community-based organizations**. About 1,500 women and children benefited from the projects.

KEY INDICATORS

5,841 displaced individuals

were reached through 1,386 **protection monitoring** interviews from October to December 2021. Some 187 displaced persons were identified for referrals for additional assistance and access to services.

1,100 households

in a refugee-like situation as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict benefited from **cash assistance for winterization** through UNHCR partner Mission Armenia NGO

3,900 packages

of **hygiene items** were distributed to the persons in a refugee-like situation as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through Armenian Red Cross Society

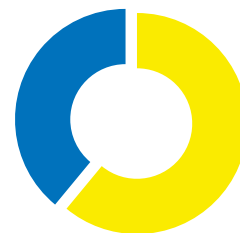


A woman displaced by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict baking a traditional pie at the New Year Charity Bazaar organized by the UN Armenia and Aurora Humanitarian Initiative December 2021. Photo ©UNHCR/Areg Kozmoyan

FUNDING (AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2021)

Financial requirements

USD 15.4 million

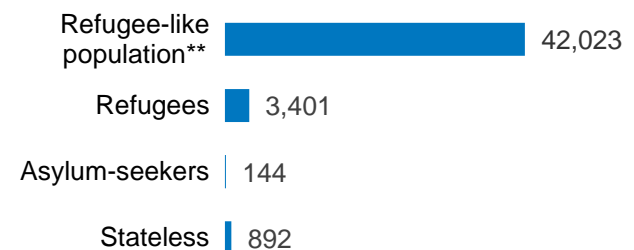


Funded
61%
9.3 million

Funding gap
39%

6.1 million

POPULATION OF CONCERN* AS OF JULY 2021



* 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 these displaced people in cooperation with the Government of Armenia, also in the framework of the [Inter-Agency Response Plan](#).

From January to December 2021, 241 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.



Christmas celebration with children displaced by the NK conflict at a child-friendly space in Goris, Syunik Province.
December 2021. Photo © UNHCR/Anahit Hayrapetyan

Achievements from October – December 2021



2,658 displaced persons benefitted from social welfare services provided by UNHCR's partner - Mission Armenia NGO (1,210 persons displaced by the NK conflict and 1,448 other persons of concern).



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



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



36 displaced children were provided specialized case management by UNHCR's partner the Armenian Red Cross Society.



154 elderly persons and persons with specific needs were assisted by UNHCR's partners the Armenian Red Cross Society and Mission Armenia NGO.



PROTECTION

- **UNHCR, together with KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation, continues to operate the UNHCR Protection Hotline.** During the reporting period, operators received 1,000 calls (86 per cent from people in a refugee-like situation), 75 per cent of which were related to humanitarian assistance.
- **Capacity-building:** (i) 25 judges and 11 Migration Service (MS) staff benefitted from training on international standards and good practices in adjudicating asylum claims and 27 MS officials were trained on Trafficking; (ii) 14 staff of penitentiary institutions and 30 law students were trained on Refugee Law and Statelessness issues; (iii) 16 senior border guards benefitted from a training on Refugee Law.



SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

- **In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding** signed with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 118 households were provided with cash assistance to cover housing expenses, within the framework of finding durable solutions for the residents of collective shelters, who were living in dwellings that were below adequate standards.
- 650 households displaced by the NK conflict **received in-kind assistance for basic needs**, including for hygiene-related needs, through Mission Armenia NGO and the Armenian Red Cross Society; and 100 households (former residents of collective centres) received **income-generation tools** to support their livelihoods.

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.
- In December 2021, UNHCR established the Protection Solutions and Advisory platform to guide and coordinate the protection-related activities of the humanitarian actors, covers protection issues related to all persons of concern to UNHCR.

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 49.3 million**.

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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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