

# Armenia

September 2024

UNHCR supports and strengthens the Government's capacity to ensure refugees' access to [legal and social services, employment and livelihood opportunities](#).

Solidarity from the Government and host communities helps facilitate the [inclusion of refugees](#) in Armenia. However, vulnerable refugees still face challenges to meet their basic needs and integrate.

UNHCR is working with national Government counterparts to ensure refugees have access to immediate assistance, as well as pathways to longer-term [integration](#).

## POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)\*

Refugees	<b>148,024</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>813</b>
Stateless people	<b>402</b>

## Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Azerbaijan	<b>140,881</b>	Iraq	<b>253</b>
Syrian Arab Rep.	<b>4,911</b>	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	<b>190</b>
Iraq	<b>1,181</b>	Egypt	<b>113</b>

\*UNHCR 2024 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR data finder

## [Protecting forcibly displaced and stateless people in Armenia](#)

### Government housing program for refugees in Armenia

On 14 June 2024, the Government of Armenia approved the procedure for the implementation of a state support housing program for refugees opting for Armenian citizenship. During the first phase of its implementation, refugee families with three or more children, relatives of deceased soldiers who were the head of households, and those with family members with qualifying disability status will benefit from the program, which provides comprehensive housing solutions for displaced people. UNHCR is supporting refugees' access to this program through information sharing.

### Cash assistance for vulnerable refugees

For those refugees unable to meet their basic needs, UNHCR provides cash assistance as a preferred modality to assist them to meet their most essential needs, including food, medicine and clothing.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Humanitarian-Development Nexus

UNHCR together with the Government of Armenia has started developing a plan aimed at bridging the [humanitarian-development nexus](#), to address humanitarian needs and advance [refugee inclusion](#) into government systems and development plans. It will outline specific actions to be undertaken by partners in 2024 and beyond. During this transition phase, the government will gradually expand programs, allocate funding, and mobilize additional resources towards effective refugee inclusion. Humanitarian and development partners will work together to strengthen Government systems to address these humanitarian needs and ensure no one is left behind.



Para-athletes during the opening ceremony of the festival, Yerevan, Armenia. © Karen Minasyan

### CELEBRATING INCLUSIVITY AND UNITY THROUGH SPORT

With inclusivity at its core, the 20<sup>th</sup> National Para Sports Festival brought together 120 participants, including 20 refugees, embodying Armenia's commitment to unity and empowerment through sports.

To learn more, see [here](#).

## Key Priorities

- Strengthening Asylum Systems and Protection:** UNHCR works with national counterparts to improve the asylum system in Armenia. UNHCR supports the government in implementing temporary protection or other legal stay arrangements, by providing technical and material support and sharing information with refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people. UNHCR also works to enhance reception capacities to support the authorities to ensure the rights and dignity of asylum-seekers are upheld. UNHCR monitors the situation in border areas, detention centers/holding centers in order to identify and support people in need of international protection.
- UNHCR's and partners' field presence is aimed at providing **legal awareness**, **aid** and **counselling** on access to protection, as well as orientation and access to basic services. UNHCR has a memorandum of understanding with the Women Resource Center to provide specialized services to survivors of **gender-based violence (GBV)**. For those refugees unable to meet their basic needs, UNHCR uses cash transfers as a preferred modality to assist them temporarily in meeting their basic needs.
- Community-Based Protection:** As part of its community-based protection strategy, UNHCR works with community-based organizations and other key actors, including refugee-led organizations, to improve the protection environment and ensure **two-way communication** and accountability. Through an area-based approach, community projects and activities implemented benefit both refugees and host communities, promoting social cohesion. UNHCR works with municipalities to promote a coordinated response and encourage solidarity under the 'Cities with Refugees' campaign. Information materials on the prevention and mitigation of GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), among others, are developed and disseminated through different communication channels.
- Inclusion and Integration:** To support refugees with employment, livelihoods, and income generation, UNHCR works with partners to identify **integration opportunities**, including access to employment and education. In line with the Government of Armenia's pledge at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), UNHCR promotes integration of refugees in the labour market through developing technical and soft skills, promoting financial inclusion, working with development partners on housing solutions, and

partnering with the private sector to facilitate the inclusion of refugees. UNHCR also engages with international financial institutions to expand inclusion opportunities for refugees (e.g. through collaboration with the World Bank within the framework of the Global Concessional Financial Facility).

## Working with Partners

- Enhancing coordinated response:** UNHCR works with government and partners to ensure coordinated planning and response to the refugee situation in Armenia and provides support to address humanitarian needs as well as expand programmes aimed at building resilience of refugees and strengthening government systems to promote sustainable inclusion.
- UNHCR engages with the government at national and local level and with other stakeholders, including UN agencies, civil society, the private sector, development partners and financial institutions.
- Refugee coordination mechanisms were established in October 2023 by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and UNHCR. Within this structure, partners actively support the government in ensuring a coordinated refugee response in Armenia, and now work towards developing mid- to long-term support schemes in close collaboration with humanitarian and development actors.

## Statelessness

- Armenia has acceded to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR is working with the government to establish national statelessness determination procedures. The government is currently preparing a draft law on stateless people in cooperation with UNHCR.

## UNHCR Presence in Armenia

### Staff:

30 National Staff

12 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Country Office in Yerevan

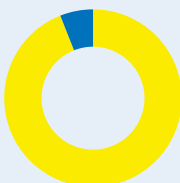
1 Field Unit in Goris

## Financial Information (as of 30 September 2024)

### Financial requirements

**\$ 14.6 M**

**Funding gap 6%  
\$ 0.8 M**



**Funded 94%  
\$ 13.8 M**

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2024:

**Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America | Sweden | Switzerland**

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.