

People UNHCR serves in Armenia

143,905

individual refugees

4,124

individuals in refugee-like situation

348

asylum applications received in the first six months of 2024

266

known stateless persons as of June 2024

109,687

refugee cards issued as of 4 October

5,045

refugees applied for naturalization

Data source: Migration and Citizenship Service (Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia), as of September 2024



In September, refugees and host community children's football teams across the country competed in the Solidarity Cup 2024 tournament knockout stage, with an aim to qualify for the final stage to take place at Sardarapat FC Academy in October. The participating teams wear sports apparel donated by Nike to UNHCR Armenia and distributed by UNHCR's partner – Football Federation of Armenia. *September 2024, Hrazdan, Armenia. © UNHCR/Aramazd Ghalamkaryan*

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Armenia has made significant efforts to support refugees from Karabakh including through provision of assistance for rent and utilities, inclusion in social assistance programmes, and initiation of housing subsidy program.
- As of September, 1,463 people were reached through 156 focus groups discussions (FGDs), and 2,837 individuals through household level protection monitoring by UNHCR partner Mission Armenia (MA). Since January, 8,848 individuals were reached.
- During the first six months of 2024, 348 asylum applications were received (the top three countries of origin were Iraq, Ukraine, and Iran), out of which 112 individuals were recognized as refugees. In the course of 2023, 817 asylum applications were submitted with the Migration and Citizenship Service (MCS).
- 28 community projects were supported, covering 20 communities, and benefitting 19,166 refugees and 134,273 individuals within the host communities.
- 103 people were reached through capacity building trainings.
- 4,000 individuals were reached through cash-based assistance in September 2024. Since January 2024, 30,526 unique individuals reached.
- 50 private houses and apartments in Sisian, Goris, and Vayk enlarged communities were renovated as of September 2024.

- **Protection monitoring:** 15 FGDs were conducted with refugees from Karabakh residing in Shirak, Armavir, and Aragatsotn regions. Participants highlighted concerns related to housing, employment, documentation, as well as psychosocial, medical, and financial needs. 2,200 refugees and asylum seekers were interviewed for household level protection monitoring by UNHCR partner MA.
- **Border and detention monitoring:** UNHCR together with its partner Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) conducted a total of 51 border monitoring visits in Yerevan and across regional border crossing points (BCPs). In collaboration with the Chamber of Advocates (CoA), UNHCR also carried out monitoring visits to the Abovyan and Armavir penitentiary institutions. Meetings with prison administrations addressed the referral mechanisms for asylum-seekers to the MCS, examined prison conditions, and highlighted the challenges faced by foreigners in detention. Information leaflets for asylum-seekers were distributed for outreach. The issues identified during these visits will guide discussions for establishing a detention working group.
- **Access to social services and case management:** 6,825 refugees and asylum seekers received social services, including psychosocial counseling and case management, through UNHCR partners MA and the Armenian Association of Social Workers (AASW). Among them, 181 individuals benefited from individual case management provided by MA's social workers and 791 received healthcare services as part of UNHCR's project with MA. Child protection services were provided to 65 asylum seeker and refugee children and their caregivers by UNHCR partner ARCS.
- **Information and awareness raising:** A total of 12,488 individuals, including 12,331 refugees and asylum seekers and 157 stateless persons, participated in legal awareness-raising activities conducted by UNHCR's implementing partner MA.
- **Legal assistance and counselling:** From March to September 2024, 308 refugees and asylum seekers received legal assistance/counseling in Yerevan by UNHCR partner CoA. The majority of asylum seekers cited persecution based on belonging to specific religious and social groups as their reason for seeking asylum. In some instances, asylum seekers cited membership in specific national groups, political views, widespread violence, and significant human rights violations as grounds for their asylum claims.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR reached a total of 103 individuals through capacity building trainings. This included 19 staff members from the Public Defender's Office trained by CoA, and 12 social workers trained by AASW on addressing displaced populations' needs. Additionally, 3 border crossing point trainings were conducted in Lori, Shirak, and Bagratashen by UNHCR and ARCS. The trainings were attended by 72 officials and were aimed at educating the participants on international and national standards on protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, UNHCR together with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture organized a two-day training on Effective Identification, Protection and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture, Inhuman Treatment and Severe Human Exploitation. 30 representatives from state agencies, including MCS, the Border Guards, the Police, detention authorities, Human Rights Defender's Office as well as the NGO and academic community participated.
- **Technical support for community-based organizations (CBOs) and NGOs:** 14 CBOs and NGOs were provided with technical support, under the community support project initiative, in various communities of Lori, Shirak, Gegharkunik, Syunik, Tavush, Kotayk provinces and Yerevan city. The initiative aims to strengthen the local CBOs and NGOs and expand their ongoing support services for vulnerable refugees and host communities. Action Against Hunger (AAH) renovated a community center in Akhuryan community, Shirak province, which provides services to refugees and host communities.
- **Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR together with Women's Support Center, local authorities, and Mughdusyan Art Center organized an awareness raising activity on GBV, women empowerment and gender equality in Tavush region, during which information on the available services on prevention and response to GBV were presented. The activity brought together over 48 refugee and refugee-like women from Karabakh and Syria, along with over 30 women and men from host communities.

[*Information materials for asylum seekers and refugees published \(available in eight languages\):*](#)

- Free legal aid in asylum procedures
- UNHCR's and partners' services for refugees and asylum-seekers

- FAQ on Naturalization and Test on Constitution of Armenia

Communication with Communities

- 202 calls were received on UNHCR hotline operated by KASA, from refugees and asylum seekers across all the regions. Since January 2024, 3,855 calls were received, of which 2,083 cases were referred to partner organizations for available assistance.

In Focus:

Nour Mussa, a Sudanese refugee turned educator in Armenia, [delivered](#) an account of his journey from displacement to empowerment through education at the Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians. UNHCR Armenia participated in the panel discussion on impact of crisis on youth socio-economic rights and empowerment. Read more [here](#).

Cash Assistance

- 4,000 individuals were reached through cash-based assistance in September 2024. Since January 2024, 30,526 unique individuals reached.
- 4.56 million USD was distributed in cash assistance as of September 2024, through UNHCR partner ARCS and through direct implementation. As of August, UNHCR has shifted to direct implementation of its cash-based assistance.
- In November-December 2024, 8,000 vulnerable individuals will be reached by UNHCR.

Shelter and Core Relief Items

- 50 private houses and apartments in Sisian, Goris, and Vayk enlarged communities were renovated as of September 2024 by UNHCR partner AAH. 73 refugees in Goris, 71 in Vayk, and 103 in Sisian have benefitted from the project and live in more comfortable conditions.
- 7,126 core relief items were distributed in September, and 221,260 since the beginning of the year.
- 99 refugees and asylum seekers received non-food items (NFIs) in Yerevan, Kotayk, Armavir, and Ararat regions.
- 815 post-distribution monitoring interviews for core relief items were conducted.
- 1,276 individuals received food assistance.

Promoting Socio-Economic Inclusion

- 102 households (140 individuals) were supported with individualized integration plans by UNHCR partner KASA. Self-assessment and needs identification were conducted for all household members.
- 176 Armenian language classes were conducted benefiting 36 refugees and asylum seekers by UNHCR partner KASA.
- 19 refugees and asylum seekers have benefitted from vocational education and training and 56 were trained for the job market.
- 699 individuals participated in summer camps and other integration activities organized by MA.

Promoting Peaceful Co-existence

- UNHCR in partnership with EBRD and GIZ supported the participation of 30 refugees in the two-day Harvest Festival. Refugee artisans and entrepreneurs from Karabakh, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Congo, Guinea, Haiti, and Myanmar who showcased their products and created networks, had an impactful contribution to the cultural program of the festival.

Media Engagement

- UNHCR, UNDP and MCS co-organized a media workshop for 15 journalists with a focus on the status of refugees from Karabakh. During a session on international protection, which was facilitated by UNHCR, participants raised questions concerning the role of UNHCR on returns, awareness raising efforts supported by the Agency, mechanisms for compensation for the lost properties, and refugee claims.

Mental Health and Psycho Social Support

- 456 mental health consultations and psychosocial support services were provided to refugees and asylum seekers in Yerevan and across the regions.

Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) of the US State Department was in Armenia on a mission to learn about the refugee situation and the impact of PRM funded projects in Syunik region. Within the frame of the mission, that was jointly organized by UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and ICRC, UNHCR facilitated meetings with refugees residing in Goris community, refugee and host community children attending the community center in Verishen, Deputy Mayor of Goris, local NGOs, and international organizations present in the region. In addition, house visits to refugee families benefiting from UNHCR's minor renovation interventions were organized. Read more [here](#).

Key publications

[UNHCR Community Support Projects](#)

[UNHCR Hotline Factsheet](#)

[UNHCR Cash Assistance Factsheet](#)

[Overview of Refugee Population](#)

UNHCR’s implementing partners in Armenia

UNHCR prioritizes working with partners, including national NGOs and community-based organizations. In 2024, UNHCR has project partnership agreements with 5 national and 2 international NGOs, and grant agreements with 5 refugee-led organizations and 3 community-based organizations.



Donors of UNHCR Armenia and global programme with flexible funding that support the humanitarian response in the country.

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UNHCR Armenia is thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Armenian authorities (at national, province and municipal levels), and civil society organizations for working together to deliver the emergency response and the regular programmes of the Armenia operation.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION



[UNHCR Armenia Country Page](#)

[UNHCR Armenia Operational Data](#)

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