

UNFPA Refugee Response in Armenia

Situation Report #2



Reporting period from 3 October - 16 October 2023; Released: 16 October 2023



1,000
additional dignity kits distributed



56
additional inter-agency reproductive health kits for a population of 300,000



113
women and girls received services in UNFPA supported Safe Spaces

HIGHLIGHTS

- **1,000 additional dignity kits** were distributed. Overall 14,000 dignity kits were procured and distributed in reception centres in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk, Ararat and Gegharkunik regions for refugee women and girls and other vulnerable refugees.
- **56 additional inter-agency reproductive health (IARH) kits** were provided to **health facilities** in **Syunik, Tavush, Kotayk and Gegharkunik** regions in partnership with the Ministry of Health - sufficient to cover the **needs of a population** of up to **300,000**.
- **40 healthcare providers** of the Syunik region, including ob/gyns, midwives, and nurses were **trained in provision of psychological first aid and self stress management**.
- **113 women and girls** have received services at UNFPA-supported safe spaces in Syunik region, including psychological support, referrals and provision of dignity kits to pregnant and breast-feeding women, young girls and older women.
- The **psychosocial needs of some 400** refugees, including **women and girls**, were assessed and those in need received psychological first aid and psychiatric consultations.



Melania Hayrapetyan, 74, is one of the more than 100,000 refugees who fled to Armenia. Photo: UNFPA Armenia/Aspram Manukyan



101,848
refugees fled to Armenia

**52%**

women and girls

**2070**

pregnant women

**54**

women gave birth

**18%**

older people

SITUATION OVERVIEW / HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- In the last week of September 2023, refugees began arriving rapidly in Armenia following renewed hostilities in Karabakh. As of 12 October, an estimated 101,848 refugees had crossed the border, and more than 99.3 % of them had been registered by the authorities.
- More than **half of them** are reported to be **women and girls**; an estimated **2,070 women are currently pregnant**, **54** have given birth since arriving in Armenia, and an estimated **1,380** will give birth in the coming 6 months.
- **31%** of refugees are reported to be **under 18 years** old, and around **18%** are reported to be **older people**.
- The government of Armenia and UN agencies, including UNFPA, are currently implementing a rapid needs assessment that will help all service providers tailor the emergency response based on their specific needs.

UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN ARMENIA

- An additional **1,000 dignity kits**, including sanitary pads, soap and shampoo, tissues and napkins, toothpaste, toothbrushes and alcosprays have been distributed to women and girls **in reception centres in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk and Ararat** regions, in addition to the 13,000 that had been distributed previously. Dignity kits also contained information materials on the [SafeYOU application](#), existing Government services and programmes for the refugee population.
- Around **40 healthcare providers** of the Syunik region, including ob/gyns, midwives, and nurses are trained in the provision of psychological first aid and self stress management.
- The **psychosocial needs of 400 refugees, including women and girls**, were assessed and those in need received psychological first aid and psychiatric consultations.
- **113 women and girls** have received services within **two UNFPA-supported Women and Girls Safe Spaces** operating in Syunik marz in partnership with WINNET Goris. Services provided within the Safe Spaces for Women and Girls included psychological support, provision of dignity kits, including special dignity kits for breast-feeding and pregnant women, older people, young girls and children.
- As a result of cooperation with the local medical institutions in the Syunik region, **support** has been provided to refugee women and girls via Safe Spaces **in accessing medical healthcare services**, including by ensuring referrals and providing transportation twice daily for easy access.
- **56 new inter-agency reproductive health kits** have been procured aiming at ensuring uninterrupted SRH services to refugees and the host population. These kits will be distributed to **health facilities in Syunik, Tavush, Kotayk and Gegharkunik** regions in partnership with the Ministry of Health. The kits are sufficient to cover the **priority SRH needs** of a population of up to **300,000**, including for safe births and the management of obstetric complications, access to contraceptives, and the prevention and treatment of STIs/HIV.
- UNFPA with all GBV partners, including CSOs, INGOs, faith-based organizations, and UN agencies have presented a **joint strategy to ensure that women and girls (including women and girls with disabilities) at risk, and survivors, of GBV have access to life-saving services** through timely information, quality survivor-centred and multi-sectoral service provision and referrals (including WGSS, distribution of dignity kits, awareness raising initiatives and capacity building activities).



COORDINATION

- The UN, led by UNHCR and the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), is supporting the Government in the coordination of the emergency response. **UNFPA is co-leading the GBV sub-sector with UNHCR under the Protection sector and SRH working group under the Health sector. UNFPA is also supporting UNHCR and WFP in mainstreaming PSEA-related activities**, based on strong capacity and involvement within the UN country team in Armenia within the past three years.
- **UNFPA, as chair of the Network on Protection of Older People**, ensures timely referrals with the aim of ensuring that the protection needs of older persons are responded to under ongoing assistance schemes and activities.
- The UN Armenia Country Team, including UNFPA, has submitted a rapid response **application to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** for funding for emergency life-saving interventions.

FUTURE PLANS

- UNFPA is working to ensure all its operations uphold an **integrated SRH/GBV approach** that leaves no-one behind, where services for women and girls are tailored to their specific needs and are safe points of access for the most vulnerable, particularly survivors of GBV.
- UNFPA with all SRH partners is developing a **joint strategy to ensure SRH services are accessible** for refugees and host communities, including youth and women with disabilities, through enhancing existing SRH services, capacity strengthening, referral pathways, provision of SRH supplies and equipment.
- **Information, education and communication materials** on safe motherhood, danger signs in pregnancy, family planning, prevention and treatment of STIs/HIV, as well as GBV and PSEA will be disseminated among refugee women.
- The capacities of health facilities and medical providers to provide **quality SRH services will be strengthened through additional capacity building** and provision of medical equipment, supplies, and medicines, which will benefit both refugees and local communities.
- UNFPA is currently finalizing the first phase of its emergency plans, including the establishment of 3 more Safe Spaces for Women and Girls, as well as a virtual space via the SafeYOU application and contributions to the inter-agency response plan in discussion with the Government of Armenia, all UN agencies and other partners.
- UNFPA is planning to procure an additional **10,000 dignity kits** for women and girls, which will be distributed to the most vulnerable population in partnership with the Government and NGOs. These will also be used as an entry point to disseminate information about available protection and SRH services.
- UNFPA Armenia has reached an agreement with UNICEF on a joint voucher programme aimed at targeting pregnant and breast-feeding women, to cover urgent hygiene-related needs. The voucher programme will commence in the coming weeks.
- A MISIP training for local health care providers will be conducted on October 18-20 in Kapan (Syunik region) and October 26-28 in Gegharkunik region.

FUNDING NEEDS



\$4.5 M required (for six months)

- UNFPA Armenia has secured an initial allocation of **\$543,400 in UNFPA emergency funding**

MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

- UNFPA Refugee Response in Armenia [Situation Report #1](#)
- [Tweet](#) on UNFPA working with the Government to ensure safety and well-being of older people.
- [Tweet on the Girl Child Day](#)
- [UNFPA provides reproductive health aid, safe spaces and dignity kits for women and girls after more than 100,000 refugees arrive in Armenia](#)
- [UNFPA delivers support and dignity for women refugees in Armenia](#)
- [En Arménie, l'UNFPA aide les réfugiées en matière de santé sexuelle et reproductive](#)
- ["I miss my home": Fleeing conflict, tens of thousands of women and girls cross into Armenia](#)
- [Tweet](#) on UNFPA appeal for Armenia Refugee Response
- UNFPA [Appeal](#) for Armenia Refugee Response

UNFPA greatly appreciates the generous support of donors and the tireless efforts of partners in responding to the needs in Armenia.

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