

UNFPA Refugee Response in Armenia

Situation Report #3



Reporting period from 17 October - 31 October 2023; Released: 01 November 2023



5680
additional dignity kits distributed



44
medical workers trained in provision of MISP in sexual and reproductive health



68
refugees received legal support in UNFPA supported Safe Spaces

HIGHLIGHTS

- **5,680 additional dignity kits** were provided to local municipalities and faith-based organizations for further distribution. Since the start of the crisis, close to **21,000 dignity kits** were distributed in reception centres and through regional authorities in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk, Shirak, Lori, Aragatsotn, Armavir, Ararat and Gegharkunik regions for refugee women and girls and other vulnerable refugees.
- **44 obstetrician/gynaecologists, midwives, family doctors and nurses** from medical facilities in Gegharkunik and Syunik regions were trained on providing the life-saving minimum initial service package (**MISP**) for addressing the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of refugees.
- **68 refugees** received **legal support** in the UNFPA-supported **Women and Girls Safe Spaces** in Syunik region, where they can apply for Government cash assistance and receive other support services.
- **10 media representatives** were trained in effective reporting on gender-based violence (GBV) including in humanitarian situations.



Marta Asriyan, 28, prematurely delivered her fifth child after crossing the border to Armenia; she was bleeding on the way and praying not to deliver on the road. Photo: UNFPA Armenia/Aspram Manukyan



101,848
refugees fled to Armenia



52%
women and girls



2,070
pregnant women



88
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 20 October, **101,848 refugees** have been registered in Armenia since 24 September.¹
- More than **half of them** are reported to be **women and girls**; an estimated **2,070 women are currently pregnant**, **88** have given birth since arriving in Armenia, and an estimated **1,380** will give birth in the next 6 months.
- **31%** of refugees are reported to be **under 18 years**, and around **18%** are reported to be **older than 65 years**.
- The government of Armenia and UN agencies, including UNFPA, have conducted a rapid needs assessment which is being finalized.
- Approximately 80% of refugees have received some **financial support** from the Government of Armenia in the amount of 100,000 AMD (around USD 250) per person. They continue to receive **social support** for a period of 6 months: 40,000 AMD (around USD 100) and 10,000 AMD (around USD 25) per month and per person respectively to live in temporary housing and help pay for utilities.
- On 26 October 2023, the Government of Armenia adopted a decision to take the forcibly displaced under temporary protection, through which they will receive a document certifying their **refugee status**.

UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN ARMENIA

- Some **5,680 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 and through regional authorities in **Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk, Shirak, Lori, Aragatsotn, Armavir, Ararat and Gegharkunik** regions, in addition to the 14,000 that had been distributed previously. Dignity kits also contained information materials on the [SafeYOU application](#), and existing Government services and programmes for the refugee population.
- **68 refugees received support** from a legal professional within the **Women and Girls Safe Space** in Syunik in regards to applying for Government cash assistance and other support services, in addition to **113 refugee women and girls** who received services within **two UNFPA-supported Women and Girls Safe Spaces** operating in Syunik region 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 quality healthcare and safe childbirth delivery services**, including ensuring referrals and providing transportation twice daily for easy access free of charge.
- **44 obstetrician/gynaecologists, midwives, family doctors and nurses** from medical facilities in Gegharkunik and Syunik regions were trained on providing the life-saving minimum initial service package (**MISP**) for addressing refugees' sexual and reproductive health needs.
- **10 media representatives** were trained in ethical reporting on gender-based violence. After the course is complete they will be trained as trainers in reporting in humanitarian situations and hostile environments.
- UNFPA with all GBV partners, including CSOs, INGOs, faith-based organisations, and UN agencies have presented a **joint strategy to ensure that women and girls** (including women and girls from host communities, as well as refugees, 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



¹ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/104301>

service provision and referrals (including Women and Girls Safe Space, distribution of dignity kits, awareness raising initiatives and capacity building activities).

- UNFPA received additional support for the emergency response in the form of four surge personnel supporting coordination, GBV, SRH and operations.

COORDINATION

- The UN, led by UNHCR and the Office of the Resident Coordinator, is supporting the Government in the coordination of the emergency response. The GBV Sub-Sector group was established, and its first meeting was conducted, co-led by UNFPA with UNHCR under the Protection sector. UNFPA continues to co-lead the SRH team jointly with the Ministry of Health, under the Health sector. UNFPA is also supporting UNHCR and WFP in mainstreaming activities related to prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), based on strong capacity and involvement within the UN country team in Armenia within the past three years.
- **UNFPA continues to act as chair of the Network on Protection of Older People** and to support and coordinate mapping of humanitarian response activities targeting older people and identify funding gaps.
- Humanitarian assistance and service provision **mapping tools** have been shared with all GBV partners, aiming at coordinating the support and identifying gaps in the response. This will help to better tailor assistance in areas that receive less support from different actors.
- The Government of Armenia and UN agencies, including UNFPA, have conducted a **rapid needs assessment** which is being finalized.

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.
- **Information, education, and communication materials** on safe motherhood, danger signs in pregnancy, family planning, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and 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 planning establishment of **11 more Safe Spaces for Women and Girls**, as well as a **virtual space** via the SafeYOU application.
- UNFPA is planning to procure an additional **20,000 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 needs. The voucher programme will commence in November 2023.
- UNFPA will organize a dedicated discussion on UNFPA and international standards on Women and Girls Safe Spaces for new partners.
- UNFPA will organize additional training on psychological first aid and stress self-management for healthcare providers in Syunik and Kotayk regions in November 2023.

- UNFPA will organize a sensitization discussion forum with policy makers and health care providers: medical doctors, midwives and nurses on clinical management of rape, and will initiate advocacy for the provision of quality services for survivors of sexual violence.

FUNDING NEEDS



\$4.5 M required (for six months)

- UNFPA Armenia has secured an initial allocation of **\$543,400** from the UNFPA emergency fund for launching an initial emergency response, in addition to around **\$500,000** mobilized at the beginning of the year for strengthening humanitarian preparedness.
- 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.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

- UNFPA Refugee Response in Armenia [Situation Report #1](#)
- UNFPA Refugee Response in Armenia [Situation Report #2](#)
- ["I didn't know whether my parents were alive or not," says Mariam \(16\)](#)
- 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.

For further information, please contact

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