



©UNICEF/Armenia2023/Zelya – A mother and child waiting at the Humanitarian Centre in Kornidzor in September 2023.

Reporting Period: 10 – 17 October 2023

Armenia External Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3



Highlights

- As of October 16th, 101,848 refugees, including 30,000 children, have arrived in Armenia, with virtually all children from the affected area assumed to have arrived.
- UNICEF deployed 20 mobile pediatric units able to reach 10,000 children and caregivers, to screen refugee children for mental health and psycho-social support needs and health and nutrition status and provide parents with age-specific counselling on health and nutrition-related childcare practices in an emergency context.
- UNICEF and partners provided over 1,000 children and caregivers with child protection case management support, and over 3,000 with psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial support interventions.
- Over 400 police officers are being trained on child sensitive communication, with particular focus on children and families in emergencies. 76 social workers received training on child protection in emergencies and case management.
- Over 65% of school-aged children have been registered and enrolled in schools. UNICEF is partnering with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports to identify needs of the education system for effective inclusion of refugee children into education and learning
- UNICEF has activated partnerships to provide voucher support for children clothing, initially targeting at least 6,000 children, working closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- UNICEF requires US\$ 12.6 million to support delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, including supplies, cash, essential services and technical assistance for affected refugee children, adolescents and their families. To date nearly US\$ 2.8 million of donor funding has been mobilized, leaving a funding gap of 78 percent to date.

Situation in Numbers*

52,800 Children in need (Armenia Refugee Response Plan, October 2023)



196,000 People in need (Armenia Refugee Response Plan, October 2023)

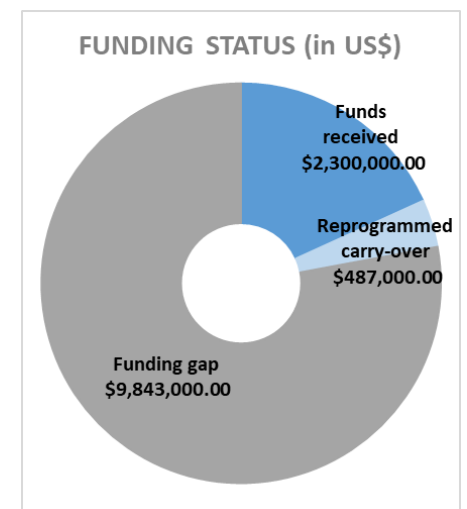
35,000 Children to be reached by UNICEF (UNICEF HAC, October 2023)



80,000 People to be Reached by UNICEF (UNICEF HAC, October 2023)

*among refugees and host population

UNICEF APPEAL US\$12.6 million Funding status, 17 October



Funding Overview and Partnerships

The scale and complexity of the humanitarian situation of refugee children and their families in Armenia remains acute, requiring humanitarian assistance and protection to meet the most urgent needs of affected people. UNICEF has been amongst the first international organizations to respond to this crisis from its onset, leveraging investments made during the preparedness phase as well as mobilizing available programme funds, its partnership framework underpinning the Armenia-UNICEF Country Programme, and an immediate allocation of US\$1.2 million global thematic humanitarian funds. UNICEF is already delivering results for children in priority areas, including lifesaving interventions and supplies for child protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), health, nutrition, education, emergency cash assistance and social protection.

While the Government of Armenia is taking immediate measures to respond to the urgent needs of the refugee population, given the overwhelming, mid to longer-term needs, it has approached the United Nations and other international organizations to provide complimentary humanitarian assistance to support and sustain response efforts, within the framework of the inter-agency Armenia Emergency Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Aligned with this, UNICEF launched [a Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) Appeal for Armenia](#), with an immediate requirement is US\$12.6 million to deliver a multi-sectorial response for affected children and their families for a period of six months (October 2023 – March 2024).

UNICEF is in intensive communication with all relevant donors in country and globally, as timely, flexible support from donor partners is required to ensure critical humanitarian and protection assistance for affected children and their families. While to date nearly US\$ 2.8 million of donor funding has been mobilized, there remains a significant 78 per cent funding gap. To expedite the scale up of priority actions, and sustain critical actions while resource mobilisation efforts are ongoing, UNICEF Armenia received an Emergency Programme Fund (EPF)¹ loan of US\$ 1.2 million.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of mid-October 101,848 refugees, including 30,000 children, fled to the Republic of Armenia. Virtually all children from the affected area are assumed to have now arrived. Among the arrivals, 52% are women and girls, 31% are children, and 16% are with disabilities². 20 children have been identified as unaccompanied and separated. While several cases resulted in family reunification, 13 were from residential care institutions and are temporarily placed in crisis centres while family-type placement is sought.

Registration of the refugee population in Armenia, conducted by the State Migration Service (SMS), is nearly complete. Refugees are mostly located in marzes (regions) near Yerevan (Kotayk, Ararat and Armavir) and Yerevan city, accounting for nearly 70% of all refugees in the country. The Government has provided temporary accommodation to those in need. Nevertheless, mobility across the country is still high. To date nearly 58,000 people have been accommodated in temporary shelters, including hotels, hostels and adapted collective centres. It is anticipated that this will only be a temporary solution until refugees settle in local communities, following the receipt of cash assistance for rent and utilities (designed for an initial period of six months). As reported by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) around 80% of refugees have received a one-time universal cash assistance of AMD 100,000 (approximately US\$ 250) per person, while processing of data and arrangements for transferring this cash-assistance to the remaining refugees continues.

The Government is accelerating registration of school-age refugee children. To date, over 65% (around 14,000) have been enrolled in schools. The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MESCS) is committed to ensure 100% enrolment as soon possible, noting that the still ongoing movement of people across the country remains a key bottleneck to achieving this goal. Over 1,400 vacant teacher positions were announced, targeting teachers from the newly arrived refugee population. The expectation is that these teachers will also play a role in assisting refugee children in their integration in new schools and strengthening overall social inclusion.

UNICEF's ongoing engagement with partners and their social workers and psychologists revealed that the need for mental health and psychosocial support is particularly high and requires solid investment through a variety of approaches and channels.

Summary Analysis of UNICEF Programme Response

As part of its mandate, UNICEF had invested in preparedness to respond to a humanitarian crisis. UNICEF had pre-positioned supplies³ to reach 5,000 children and established contingency agreements with partners that have been activated to provide psychological first aid (PFA), MHPSS, child protection case management, clothing vouchers, mobile paediatric units and temporary learning spaces. UNICEF also invested in establishing field presence in Goris, Syunik region, the main registration and transit point for arriving populations. UNICEF was able to leverage these investments to quickly mobilize emergency capacity within the first hours.

¹ EPF is UNICEF's internal funding mechanism, allocated to countries as a loan to expedite timely emergency response.

² [RRP Armenia, 2023](#)

³ Such as tents, blankets, hygiene kits, first aid kits, diapers and recreational, ECD and ECE kits.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF is partnering with the Ministry of Health (MoH) in monitoring the immunization status of refugee children and their rapid inclusion into the national Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) programme. In coordination with the MoH and regional health authorities UNICEF has deployed 20 mobile paediatric units with the capacity to reach 10,000 children and their caregivers in five marzes (regions) and address the immediate needs of refugees and host communities. Each team includes two paediatricians, one nurse and one psychologist, who will conduct identification and screening of children for mental health and other health and nutrition issues. The mobile teams will also refer children to psycho-social support and healthcare services, and provide parents with age-specific counselling on health and nutrition-related childcare practices. UNICEF has supported the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for mobile teams and frontline health specialists to provide quality primary health care services, including outreach. UNICEF has delivered critical medicines and medical supplies to the MoH for distribution to health facilities, while the procurement of additional supplies, including first aid kits and life-saving equipment, is ongoing. UNICEF finalised the procurement of 3,000 food boxes for young children which will be delivered to four marzes hosting the most children and 1,500 therapeutic biscuits ready for immediate distribution amongst children most in need.

Child Protection: UNICEF is working with partners to establish child-friendly spaces in different regions of Armenia. A new indoor child friendly space has been established in Goris to ensure continuity of services now that the ones supporting children near the humanitarian centre have been closed after the finalization of the initial registration procedures. Partnerships with an aim to operationalize at least seven more child-friendly spaces (CFSs) in Syunik and Vayots Dzor marzes are under activation, with materials and supplies for these new CFSs ready for distribution. Two partnerships have been activated for the provision of MHPSS and PFA services, and child protection case management, reaching more than 1,000 children and caregivers with case management support, and more than 3,000 children and caregivers with psychological first aid and MHPSS interventions. Four more partnerships will be activated in the coming days, aiming to expand the MHPSS and parenting interventions in additional locations and communities in Armenia. UNICEF is supporting training of more than 400 police officers on child sensitive communication, with particular focus on children and families in emergencies. UNICEF also continues to organize and provide training and capacity development for social workers, expanding the overstretched capacity of the system. To date, 76 social workers from Syunik region have received training on child protection in emergencies and case management. UNICEF in close coordination with the MoLSA and Organizations of People with Disabilities (OPD) is also working on identification of children with disabilities among refugees, to conduct a comprehensive assessment for identification of children's needs and support with individualized services, assistive technology, as well as living space adjustments.

Education: UNICEF is in contact with MESCS to identify needs of the education system for effective inclusion of refugee children into education and learning, as well as to support expansion of the capacity of schools and preschools to host new students. UNICEF is also discussing with the MESCS and relevant local authorities the establishment of temporary learning spaces and early childhood education (ECE) spaces in the marzes with the highest concentration of refugees, as per observed needs and a request from the Government. UNICEF has prepositioned School-in-a-box to cater for the needs of at least 1,400 children and Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits sufficient to cover the needs of 1,800 young children. Both types of kits are already being distributed to refugee children most in need of assistance, while working with partners to identify additional locations where those kits will be most needed. In addition, UNICEF and its partners are distributing a first batch of 1,000 schoolbags with stationary for children. Procurement of additional 2,000 schoolbags is ongoing to address additional emerging needs.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): UNICEF and the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) installed 15 mobile bio-toilets in proximity of registration centres in Goris and Vayk communities, to address the immediate needs for sanitation in those areas and in response to a public health hazard alarm raised by the MoH. UNICEF delivered family hygiene kits to 300 refugee families and diapers for 1,130 babies.

Cash Assistance and Social Protection: UNICEF is supporting MLSA to facilitate the process of an in-depth emergency needs assessment, starting with finalization of the tool that will be used for a more detailed assessment of needs of refugee children and their families. As a result of close MoLSA / UNICEF coordination and collaboration, a Memorandum of Understanding and other templates on supporting Government-led cash programmes and data sharing have been reviewed and shared with Cash Working Group members for their use. UNICEF and UNHCR, as co-leads of the Cash Working Group, agreed with the Nork Social Services Technology and Awareness Center, Unified Social Service (USS) and MLSA to develop a protocol on data de-duplication that will guide partners contributing to the Government-led cash programmes. UNICEF has activated a partnership to provide voucher support for clothing for children and is in discussions with MLSA on its implementation with plans to initially target at least 6,000 children (0-3 years of age and children with disabilities). In the meantime, UNICEF has been providing ad hoc in-kind support to complement the efforts of local authorities, including 706 blankets and bedding items for children and families.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Government of Armenia is taking the lead in providing humanitarian response to the affected population and remains in charge of the overall coordination of the response as well as technical coordination with the relevant Government institutions related to key sectors of intervention. A joint rapid needs assessment of the UN and MoLSA started on 8 October and the findings are expected to be disseminated next week. The UN agencies under the leadership of UNHCR and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office (UNRCO) developed and launched the Armenia Emergency Refugee Response Plan (RRP), based on the existing joint interagency contingency plan, covering the period October 2023 to March 2024. UNICEF launched its corresponding humanitarian action for children (HAC) appeal, requiring US\$ 12,630,000 for the response to the needs of refugee children and their families for the next six months (October 2023 – March 2024).

On 17 October, the Government under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN, adopted a joint coordination structure that draws upon the respective mandates and capacity of Government agencies and UN agencies. UNICEF co-leads the work of the Education Working Group (WG) together with the MESCS, the sub-working group on Child Protection, including MHPSS together with the MLSA, and the Cash WG together with the MLSA. UNICEF is actively participating in the Health and Nutrition WG, which is also dealing with MHPSS, and Shelter and NFIs WG, which at present also includes coordination of WASH activities.

External Media

UNICEF landing page: [Children and families take refuge in Armenia | UNICEF Armenia](#)

UNICEF website articles:

[How to support people forced from their homes](#)

[Children found refuge in Armenia need continuous psychological support](#)

UNICEF is maintaining regular updates on the response, as well as sharing tips and advice for parents and young children on MHPSS and wellbeing on Facebook, X, and Instagram, with select posts below:

- [Five tips on managing the stress... - UNICEF Armenia - Յունիսեֆ Հայաստան | Facebook](#)
- [Coping with grief and loss... - UNICEF Armenia - Յունիսեֆ Հայաստան | Facebook](#)
- [Thinking of helping those who have fled their homes?... Coping with grief and loss... - UNICEF Armenia - Յունիսեֆ Հայաստան | Facebook](#)

MHPSS advice by UNICEF has also been echoed and shared by MLSA, getting further media amplification:

- [Ինչպե՞ս օգնել... - ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարություն | Facebook](#)
- [Հարգելի՛ր... - ՀՀ աշխատանքի և սոցիալական հարցերի նախարարություն | Facebook](#)

Next SitRep: Thursday, 26 October 2023

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Annex A: Initial six-month funding requirement (October 2023 to March 2024):

Sector	Requirements in US\$
Health and Nutrition	1,630,000
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	750,000
Child Protection	2,500,000
Education	3,000,000
Social Protection (Humanitarian Cash Transfers, Vouchers)	4,200,000
Adolescent Development and participation (ADAP)	300,000
Cross Cutting Areas (Gender, Disability and AAP)	250,000
Total	12,630,000