

# UNFPA Refugee Response in Armenia

## Situation Report #1



Reporting period from 24 September - 2 October 2023; Released: 4 October 2023



**13,000**  
dignity kits distributed



**20**  
inter-agency reproductive health kits enough for 150,000 people



**2**  
women and girls safe spaces established

### Highlights

- **13,000 dignity kits were procured and are being distributed in reception centres in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk and Ararat regions** for refugee women and girls and other vulnerable refugees.
- **20 inter-agency reproductive health (IARH) kits** are being distributed to **health facilities** in **Syunik, Tavush and Gegharkunik** regions in partnership with the Ministry of Health - sufficient to cover the **needs of a population** of up to **150,000**.
- **60 healthcare providers** were trained on the global standard for sexual reproductive health (SRH) in emergencies, the **Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)** as part of preparedness activities which enabled them to provide quality SRH services immediately.
- UNFPA has established two Women and Girls **Safe Spaces (WGSS)** for refugees in the Syunik region, where psychosocial, health and legal assistance and other life-saving services are available. More safe spaces will be opened across Armenia.
- **The SafeYOU application was made available for refugees** for easy access to lifesaving GBV-related information, contact information of available services and safe reporting mechanisms.



**100,625**  
refugees fled to Armenia



**51%**  
women and girls



**2070**  
pregnant women



**18%**  
older people

## Situation Overview/Humanitarian Needs

- In the last week of September 2023, refugees began arriving rapidly in Armenia following renewed hostilities in the Karabakh region. As of 3 October, an estimated 100,625 refugees had crossed the border, and more than 85,000 refugees were already registered in the humanitarian registration centres throughout the country.
- Approximately **half of them** are reported to be **women and girls, out of which 2,070 are currently pregnant** 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 the UN agencies, including UNFPA, are currently organizing a rapid needs assessment that will help all service providers tailor the emergency response based on their specific needs.

## UNFPA Humanitarian Response in Armenia

- A broad range of preparedness activities enabled UNFPA to step up with humanitarian support immediately after the arrival of the first refugees.
- **13,000 dignity kits**, including sanitary pads, soap and shampoo, tissues and napkins, toothpaste, toothbrushes and alcosprays have been distributed to women and girls **in transit centres in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Kotayk and Ararat** regions.
- **35 local service providers** from Syunik and Vayots Dzor marzes (regions) have received a GBV pocket guide and information on GBV referral pathways, as well as specialized training to ensure survivor-centred support for women and girls seeking services.
- **Two Women and Girls Safe Spaces** are being operationalized to provide services to women and girls in the Syunik region.
- The **SafeYOU application - already tested and made available to the host population - is now accessible for refugees**; the app includes GBV information, services and safe reporting mechanisms. UNFPA is actively working with social workers and implementing partners to promote the use of the application.
- **20 inter-agency reproductive health kits** - which had been prepositioned as part of humanitarian preparedness efforts - are being distributed to **health facilities in Syunik, Tavush 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 **150,000**, including for safe births and the management of obstetric complications, access to contraceptives, and the prevention and treatment of STIs/HIV.
- **60 healthcare providers** (doctors, midwives, nurses) were enabled to provide timely, high quality SRH services to refugees and the host population, thanks to training organized in the last few months by UNFPA on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) on reproductive health in crises.



## 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.

## 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.
- UNFPA with all GBV partners, including CSOs, INGOs, FBO's, and UN agencies are developing 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).
- **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.
- Health facilities and providers will be enabled to provide **quality SRH services through capacity building** and the provision of medical equipment and medicines, which will benefit both refugees and local communities.
- UNFPA Armenia has secured an initial allocation of **\$560,000 in UNFPA emergency funding** and is currently finalising its emergency plans, funding requirements and contributions to the inter-agency response plan in discussion with the Government of Armenia, all UN agencies and UNFPA partners.

## MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

- [Tweet](#) on UNFPA scaling up its efforts to provide refugees with SRH and GBV-related services
- [Tweet](#) on UNFPA being on the ground at reception centres in Vayk and Goris providing dignity kits with essential hygiene & sanitary items to refugee women, girls and other vulnerable refugees.
- [Tweet](#) on medical personnel providing vital care to pregnant refugee women..

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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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