



A young boy and his family arrive at the Humanitarian Center in Kornidzor, Armenia, in September 2023.

unicef 
for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Armenia

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- Between 24 September and 4 October, over 100,600 ethnic Armenians, including 30,000 children, fled to the Republic of Armenia following the military operation in their region of origin.
- Children are uprooted from their homes and communities. Those with specific protection needs, including those unaccompanied and separated, relocated from residential care, and with disabilities, require specialized support. Immediate needs include accommodation, food/ nutrition, medical care, clothing, hygiene items and mental health and psychosocial support. Affected children need to access critical health, education and protection services. Families are also in need of assistance and require urgent social protection support.
- UNICEF will support delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, including supplies, cash, essential services and technical assistance, working with government and civil society partners to ensure inclusive, age/ gender appropriate services for affected children, adolescents and their families. This includes health, nutrition, child protection, education (including early learning), social protection (including humanitarian cash and vouchers) and water, sanitation and hygiene support.
- UNICEF requires US\$12.6 million (US\$7.1 million in 2023 and US\$5.5 million in 2024) to deliver urgent humanitarian support.

IN NEED
196,000
people²

52,800
children³

TO BE REACHED
80,000
people⁴

35,000
children⁵

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



45,000

People with access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs



25,000

children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning



30,000

households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures



40,000

people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$12.6
million

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Between 24 September and 4 October 2023, 100,632 ethnic Armenians, including 30,000 children, fled to the Republic of Armenia following the military operation in their region of origin. Among new arrivals, 52 per cent are women and girls, 31 per cent are children, and 16 per cent are people with disabilities⁶. Of 20 children identified as unaccompanied and separated, several have been reunited with family, while 13 from residential care have been temporarily placed in crisis centres as family-type placement is sought⁷.

98,000 new refugees have been registered to date, located across Armenia, with the highest numbers in Yerevan, followed by Syunik, Kotayk and Ararat regions⁸. The influx of refugees has been so large that in many ways the lives of host communities, who are already overstretched, have been largely affected. An estimated 95,000 people⁹ from host communities will require support.

Refugee children already faced the consequences of a difficult humanitarian situation in their region of origin. UNICEF has observed that many children appear to show signs of malnourishment. There are reports of cases of low birth weight¹⁰. Children who fled their homes and communities have faced trauma. Those with specific protection needs, including those unaccompanied and separated, in institutional care, and with disabilities, are particularly vulnerable. Families have lost their sources of income, significantly challenging their ability to provide for their wellbeing, particularly in the upcoming winter. Immediate needs include accommodation, food, nutrition, medical care, clothing, hygiene items and specialized protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Refugee children require access to critical healthcare, education, early and catch-up learning and child protection services, while families require social protection support. The Government is making a strong effort to integrate refugees into host services and institutions; however, capacity may become stretched and may need to be augmented.

Refugees are staying within host communities, many with families, friends or in Government provided accommodations. While generously hosting arriving populations, local communities are often themselves dependent on social assistance, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. Given the large refugee population compared to the national population (43 refugee children per 1,000 national children), service provision will likely become strained making it imperative to ensure key services remain functional for refugee as well as host community children.

The Government of Armenia is leading the response, mobilizing national resources. Given the overwhelming, mid to longer-term needs, they have requested complimentary humanitarian assistance from the international community. UNICEF is committed to delivering support and upholding the rights and dignity of affected children and their families in line with the Core Commitments for Children.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



In the heart of Goris, at the humanitarian hub where families seeking refuge in Armenia undergo an initial assessment of their needs, I met Alisa. A geography teacher and loving mother, Alisa dedicates her weekend and after work hours volunteering to support refugee children and families.

Alisa, who works with UNICEF's partner the Armenian Red Cross, helps create a safe space. She plays with children, teaches them snippets of geography, brings smiles to their faces, and nurtures them with care. Strong and resolute, she helps them regain a sense of normalcy, protection, and assurance in a world turned upside down.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Under the leadership of the Government and within the inter-agency Refugee Response Plan (October 2023 to March 2024), UNICEF will complement and leverage existing systems, programmes and partnerships to support the humanitarian response to the refugee population recently arrived in the Republic of Armenia. Under this appeal, UNICEF will target refugee as well as affected host communities, abiding by the principles of 'do no harm' and equity.¹¹ UNICEF will support delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, including through provision of critical supplies as well as cash, support to essential services and systems and technical assistance, working with central and local government and civil society partners to ensure inclusive, age and gender appropriate services for children, adolescents and their families. This will include health and nutrition, child protection, education (including early learning), social protection (including humanitarian cash and/or vouchers) and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support.

UNICEF is leading the child protection and education working groups within the Protection working group. UNICEF co-leads the cash working group and actively participates in the working groups on health and nutrition, MHPSS and shelter and non-food items, which also coordinates WASH. In coordination with Government and other partners, UNICEF will facilitate access to critical services and enhance national capacities and systems to maintain a supportive, inclusive environment for refugee and host community children, adolescents and their families.

The health and nutrition response will focus on ensuring access to essential primary healthcare services for children, nutrition supplies and therapeutic treatment. UNICEF will support capacity building of healthcare workers, promotion of healthy behaviors and deployment of pediatric mobile units. UNICEF will prioritize strengthening the national child protection system and inclusion of refugee children, including those with disabilities. National systems will be supported to ensure adequate management of child protection cases, provision of MHPSS to children, adolescents and caregivers, mitigation of risks and prevention of violence against children and gender-based violence, and provision of services through establishment of Child Friendly Spaces and similar community-based protection hubs. In line with national education policies, UNICEF will work with partners to ensure refugee children have access to formal and non-formal education, including early learning. UNICEF will support teachers' training, and activities to ensure inclusion of refugee children, adolescents, those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups of learners, into the education system. UNICEF will work with partners to provide targeted WASH services and supplies in critical facilities. UNICEF will provide technical support to Government for an in-depth emergency needs assessment that will inform the response in the social protection sector. UNICEF will provide cash and/or voucher assistance based on evolving needs, complementing national programs and targeting the most vulnerable children and families. Cross-sectoral interventions on early childhood development, gender, disability, adolescent and youth engagement, social and behavioural change and accountability to affected populations will be mainstreamed into sectoral priorities.

2023-2024 PROGRAMME TARGETS¹²



Health and nutrition

- **15,000** children and their caregivers receiving health services, through UNICEF supported mechanisms
- **8,000** children/caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling sessions through UNICEF supported mechanisms



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **15,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- **25,000** children [and caregivers] accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **45,000** people with access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs
- **80,000** people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers



Education

- **25,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning¹³
- **8,000** children receiving individual learning materials



Social protection

- **30,000** households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support
- **5,000** households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)



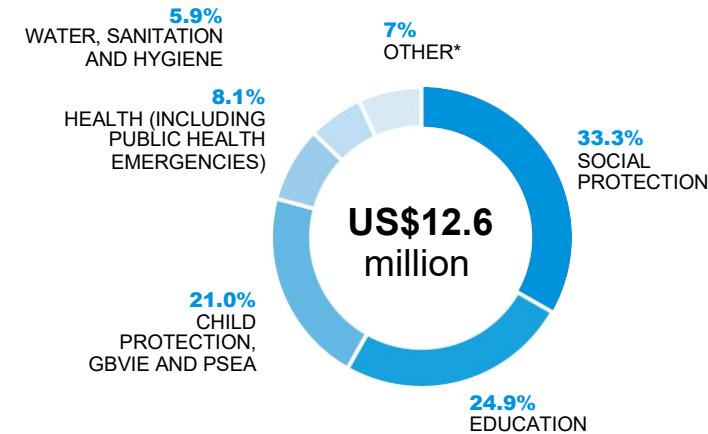
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

- **80,000** people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services (including social and child protection, health, nutrition, education, etc.)
- **40,000** people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023-2024

UNICEF is appealing for US\$12.6 million, which includes US\$7.1 million for 2023 and US\$5.5 million for 2024. This funding is urgently required to deliver critical humanitarian support, including emergency supplies, cash, essential services and technical assistance to the Government to reach 80,000 people, including 35,000 children. This ask is aligned with the Armenia Emergency Refugee Response Plan (RRP), covering the period October 2023 to March 2024.

Timely provision of humanitarian funding will be instrumental in ensuring and sustaining prioritized interventions on health and nutrition, child protection (including MHPSS), education (including early learning), social protection (including cash and voucher support to vulnerable refugee children, including adolescents, and families) as well as WASH. Multi-year flexible funding remains essential to meet the needs of refugee children and families and host communities to ensure access.



Sector	2023-2024 requirements (US\$) ¹⁴
Health (including public health emergencies)	1,020,000
Nutrition	610,000
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	2,650,000
Education	3,150,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	750,000
Social protection	4,200,000 ¹⁵
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	250,000
Total	12,630,000

**This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Nutrition (4.8%), Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP) (2.0%).*

ENDNOTES

1. RRP Armenia, 2023, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press-releases/un-and-partners-appeal-us-97-million-respond-urgent-needs-refugees-and-their>
2. This includes 101,000 refugees and 95,000 host population based on RRP Armenia-2023/2024.
3. Based on an estimation of 31 percent of the refugee population (31,310) as per RRP and 24 percent of the national population (21,490).
4. This figure was calculated based on the total number of people to be reached with UNICEF services. UNICEF's target takes into account of existing capacity of partners on the ground.
5. This figure was calculated based on the total number of children to be reached with UNICEF services. UNICEF's target takes into account of existing capacity of partners on the ground.
6. *ibid.*
7. The Government of Armenia.
8. The Government of Armenia.
9. *ibid.*
10. Armenia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1, UNICEF, 2 October 2023.
11. Complimentary to this humanitarian response, and under the framework of the Armenia-UNICEF Country Programme 2021-2025, UNICEF will continue to support national efforts to address systemic and specific bottlenecks and support refugee children that have remained in Armenia since 2020 as well as vulnerable children in Armenia in general.
12. UNICEF's sectoral targets are calculated based on the overall needs taking into account the capacity of partners on the ground.
13. Through UNICEF-supported system strengthening and programmes
14. The funding request covers the period of six months (Oct-Dec)2023 and (Jan-March)2024.
15. This includes humanitarian cash/vouchers from UNICEF to vulnerable children.
16. The funding request for 2024 covers three months, 1 January to 31 March 2024.