

# PROTECTION MONITORING ARMENIA SNAPSHOT

UNHCR's Protection Monitoring (PM) exercise is conducted on an ongoing basis to analyse trends in the protection environment and risks facing individuals in a refugee-like situation from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts. It uses standard questionnaire to gain information on their protection situation, needs, and coping mechanisms.

Starting from July 2021, UNHCR implements protection monitoring in partnership with the Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS). In addition, UNHCR Protection Unit conducts systematic protection missions to locations with high concentration of people in a refugee-like situation from Nagorno- Karabakh to meet with various stakeholders, displaced families and to complement the quantitative analysis from the household interviews.

## Key numbers July to August 2021



**1,500**  
Families interviewed



**6,609**  
Individuals covered



**4,41**  
Average family size



**16%**  
Persons with disabilities/  
special needs

## JULY-AUGUST 2021

### Highlights

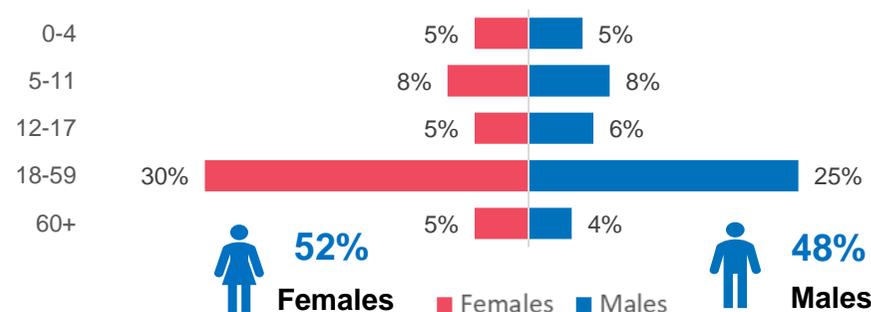
The number of interviewed households residing in collective accommodation (Collective Shelters or Transitional Centers<sup>1</sup>) dropped from four percent (4%) during the previous reporting period to two percent (2%) for the reporting period of July-August.

The intention to return amongst people in a refugee-like situation interviewed during the reporting period dropped from 19% to 6% (compared to May-June 2021).

Among concerns related to return: security risks (34%), no access to the area of origin/former habitual residence (29%), lack of access to livelihood (17%) and damaged property (11%), lack of access to basic services (2%), presence of mines (1%) were reported.

During the latest Protection Monitoring exercise, 364 households were identified as the most vulnerable and were referred to relevant partners who provided them with the required assistance.

### Age & Gender disaggregation

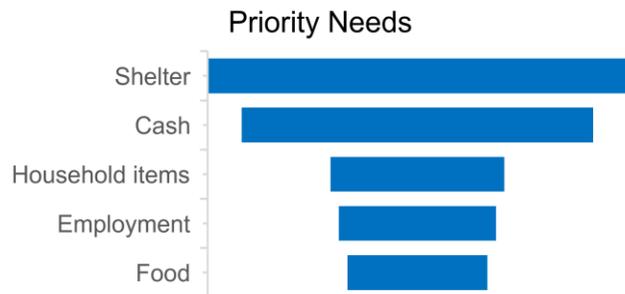


<sup>1</sup> The term collective shelter is used for government-owned communal accommodation, whereas transit centres are communal accommodation generously provided by private entities.

# Protection Monitoring Findings: ARMENIA – July-August 2021

The interviews covering **6,609** individuals during reporting period of July-August were conducted by phone and in-person in communities by ARCS social workers, where there is a high concentration of people in a refugee-like situation. When needs for specific services, assistance or information are identified during PM interviews, UNHCR's and ARCS's protection monitoring teams refer the individuals concerned to relevant service providers.

In the framework of case management, assistance was provided to the **364** most vulnerable displaced individuals/families identified by ARCS during the protection monitoring interviews/site visits. Through the provision of more in-depth and specialized support UNHCR assists in identification of viable solutions in the displacement situation.



Individuals interviewed expressed five priority needs: shelter, cash, household items, employment, and food. It should be noted that the first top five priority needs remain unchanged since the beginning of the protection monitoring exercise.

**37%** of respondents relied on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income; **35%** of respondents indicated employment; **16%** mentioned pension, **7%** shared having absolutely no income to rely on. Remaining respondents reported support from family abroad or other sources of income.

**95%**  
Pays rent for accommodation

**62%**  
Used cash assistance to pay rent<sup>2</sup>

**2%** are residing in collective accommodation (Collective Shelters or Transitional Centers). **35%** of respondents reported moving several times within the country.

**95%** of interviewed households live in rental accommodations, and very often lack basic household items (cooking sets, stoves, etc).

During the reporting period, **82%** of interviewed individuals reported that they need food assistance<sup>3</sup>.

**50%**  
Received food assistance a few months ago

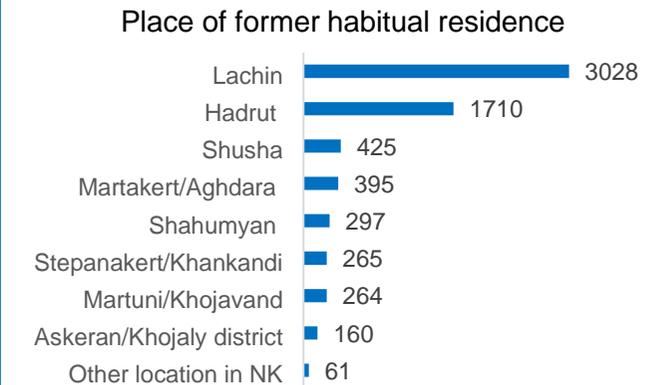
**26%**  
Received food assistance last month

**16%**  
Received food assistance this month

<sup>2</sup> 62% of interviewed individuals informed that they have benefited from different types of cash assistance, which they used to cover their rental priorities.

<sup>3</sup> Decrease by 5% compared to the findings of May-June 2021 Protection Monitoring period

Most of the interviewed individuals during July-August were from Lachin (**46%**), Hadrut (**26%**), Shusha (**8%**), Martakert/Aghdara (**6%**).



**14,000**

Vulnerable people in refugee-like situation received cash assistance through ARCS from UNHCR in July- August 2021.

**91%**

Recipients reported using UNHCR cash assistance to, among others, cover the rental cost of their accommodation.

# Protection Monitoring Findings: ARMENIA – July-August 2021

The respondents were also asked questions about the availability of the following documents: property ownership documents, marriage/ divorce certificates, diplomas, driving license, birth/death certificates and residency card, etc.

## 84% Reported missing no documentation

The **48%** of interviewed population who was missing some documents reported not having approached authorities because of lack of information about location of relevant authorities while **17%** reported lack of resources to cover expenses.

**100%** of interviewed families confirmed their children have birth registration.

Children (0-18 years) constitute **35%** of interviewed individuals for this reporting period.

**Nine percent (9%)** of respondents were elderly (60+ years old), **93%** of whom reported having extensive medical needs.

**5%**  
Have been vaccinated against COVID-19

**16%**  
Fallen ill with COVID-19

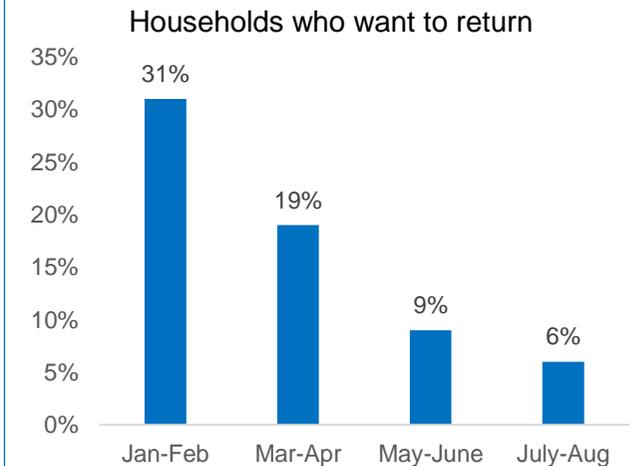
**9%**  
Reported protection from COVID-19 is not a priority

In July 2021 the protection monitoring questions were expanded to include additional questions on COVID-19, to understand the extent to which people in a refugee-like situation have fallen ill with COVID-19, as well as on vaccination rates.

**88%** of interviewed households reported being aware of how to protect themselves from COVID-19. Although **16%** of families interviewed had already fallen ill with to COVID-19, only **5%** of interviewed families reported that they have been vaccinated. It should be noted that displaced population in refugee-like situation has full access to free vaccination in Armenia. All precautions and COVID protective measures were put in place and strictly observed during all UNHCR/ARCS visits.

Over the course of the reporting period since January 2021, there has been a significant drop in the number of people in refugee-like situation considering return to Nagorno-Karabakh.

With **6%** of respondents reporting intention to return during the latest reporting period, **61%** of interviewed households were uncertain and did not know, **31%** were planning to relocate within Armenia, and **1%** wanted to go to a third country.



UNHCR is grateful for critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the operation in Armenia in 2021, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds. These include:

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