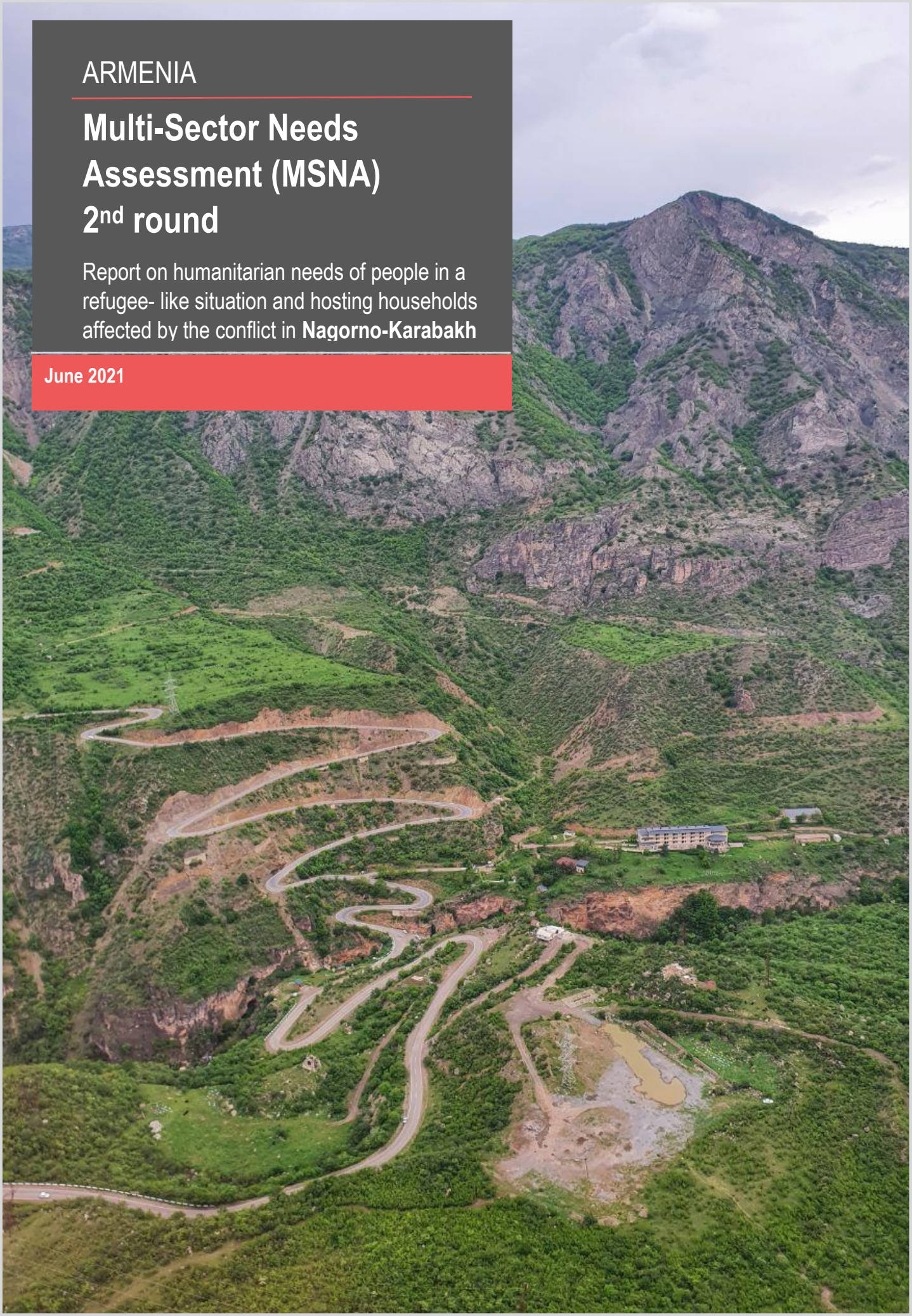
ARMENIA

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2nd round

Report on humanitarian needs of people in a refugee- like situation and hosting households affected by the conflict in **Nagorno-Karabakh**

June 2021



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REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Cover photo: View from "Wings of Tatev" aerial tramway in Syunik, Armenia. © REACH Assessment Officer

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery, and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

Executive Summary

On 27 September 2020, the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh (NK) (population of 150,000) escalated. In October and November 2020, shelling in the main cities of NK displaced NK residents to Armenian cities bordering NK and larger cities, including the capital Yerevan. After several failed ceasefire attempts, on 10 November 2020, parties agreed to a Russia-brokered ceasefire[1] which has thus far been upheld.

With a part of the displaced population expected to stay in Armenia for the longer term[2], it gains greater importance to understand residual humanitarian and early recovery needs of the refugee-like population and their intentions. Filling these information gaps will allow humanitarian actors to develop a clear and consistent understanding of the risks, constraints, existing challenges and future opportunities that households (HHs) in a refugee-like situation are facing and to better program interventions to support the affected population.

REACH has been actively supporting information management efforts undertaken by humanitarian actors in the Republic of Armenia (RA) since November 2020. The first round of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) of households (HH) in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs conducted in November-December 2020 was seeking to understand the priority needs and vulnerabilities affecting the two population groups, as well as how the affected population could be supported to cope with their situation. In March 2021, REACH implemented the second round of follow-up nationwide MSNA in close collaboration with the Information Management Working Group and the Coordination Steering Group in Armenia, to evaluate how core humanitarian needs have changed after the winter and to assess the intentions of people in a refugee-like situation in terms of durable solutions.

This report presents findings and analyses across the sectors of demographics, protection, accountability to affected population (AAP), shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health (with a zoom-in on COVID-19), livelihoods, food security, and education for HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs across all regions of Armenia, including the capital Yerevan. Key findings from the MSNA include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI):** **Shelter emerged as the most prioritized need** for the population in a refugee-like situation, consistent with findings from the previous round, as 48% of HHs in a refugee-like situation indicated it as their top first need. While 37% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 45% of the assessed hosting HHs reported their current accommodation did not have any issues, the **most occurring issue for both population groups was a lack of space**, reported by 28% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 32% of hosting HHs. Additionally, the most common accommodation need for both population groups was the **need to improve privacy and dignity**, reported by 29% of HHs (for both cases). In terms of missing NFIs, **up to 50% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation reported missing bedding items**.
- **Protection:** No major protection issues were reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs, with only a few of them reporting taking care of unrelated minors or having children under the age of 18 separated from their HH. Data collected on safety perceptions demonstrates **that 87% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 95% of hosting HHs reported members of HH feeling very safe or somewhat safe** in their current place of residency. **Among HHs in a refugee-like situation, lower safety perception was registered in Syunik.** Overall, only 5% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 0.4% of hosting HHs reported feeling not safe at all. Regarding financial security, on average, **52% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 59% of the hosting HHs reported having debts**. The average debt load of HHs in a refugee-like situation has multiplied by about 2 times since the previous round in December, and for hosting HHs – by 1.75 times.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Findings suggested that the main source of drinking water for both hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation was tap water. In Armavir and Ararat, trucked water was the second most reported water source in both hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation. This is a contrast from winter, when bottled water was more commonly reported. Like in the previous round, most of the HHs in a refugee-like situation (more than 90%) reported having enough water for cooking, drinking, and personal hygiene. **Only 9% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported experiencing**

[1] BBC, "Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia sign Nagorno-Karabakh peace deal", 10 November 2020
2 ReliefWeb, "Armenia Inter-agency Response Plan (October 2020 - June 2021)", 22 January 2021

problems related to access to water. This a considerable increase compared to the previous round when only 1% reported having water access issues. Overall, 82% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 72% of hosting HHs indicated they had some WASH-related needs. The most commonly reported WASH needs were: washing powder for clothes, soap and toilet paper, cleaning liquid for the house, and detergent for dishes.

- **Health:** Findings suggested persistent health needs among both HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs. Overall, 53% of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation and 42% of the hosting HHs reported that at least one HH member needed specialized healthcare since December 2020. However, out of these HHs**, only 11% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 12% of hosting HHs reported not getting the services needed**, also 8% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 6% of hosting HHs reported not being able to contact a local healthcare provider or visit a nearby health center. Across both population groups, **the major problem in terms of accessing healthcare was reportedly the high cost of services and/or medicine.** Over half of the assessed HHs (both hosting and in a refugee-like situation) reported not knowing about mental health services available nearby.
- **Livelihoods:** Findings suggested a continuingly insecure employment situation for HHs in a refugee-like situation, as **only 23% of HHs in a refugee-like situation mentioned that any of their HH members undertook an income-generating activity since arrival to their current location**. Nevertheless, compared to the same figure from December (11%), there appears to be a positive trend. In addition, **only 4% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported having no source of income at the time of data collection (down from 27% in December 2020),** while 65% reported social protection as their primary source of income (increased from 30% in December). For most of the hosting HHs, the primary source of income was paid work, and only 6% reported not having a primary source of income. Only **a small share of HHs in a refugee-like situation (7%) managed to bring their livestock to the RA**.
- **Food Security: Over 90% of both hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation reported that store/bought food was one of their main sources of food, while food distributions also constituted a commonly reported source among HHs in a refugee-like situation (49%)**. Most of the assessed HHs (in both population groups) reported reduced ability to purchase food as compared to a year ago. On average, almost half of the HHs in both population groups reportedly did not have to employ coping strategies because of a lack of food or money to buy it. **The most common coping mechanism employed was relying on less preferred or less expensive food**. **Hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation were found to have similar dietary diversity** (with slight variations) and similar Food Consumption Scores (FCS), with 5.2% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 4% hosting HHs with a "borderline" and 2.3% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 3% of hosting HHs with a "poor" FCS.
- **Education:** Notably low proportions of HHs (5% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 2% of hosting HHs) reported that there were no education or childcare facilities available for children in their HHs. **Both groups were found to have almost the same share of HHs with school-aged children enrolled in formal education (over 90% of HHs with school-aged children).** Less than one-fifth (**18%) of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported not having the needed school supplies for education** (down from 40% in the previous round), compared to 16% among hosting HHs.
- **COVID-19:** Most of the assessed HHs reported that all or some of the HH members took necessary action to prevent themselves from getting COVID-19, while **19% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and only 13% of hosting HHs reported having taken no action.** When asked about the availability of protective measures against COVID-19, over 60% in both population groups mentioned that all items were available in sufficient quantity. The most-reported difficulty was in accessing face masks and HH hygiene products. **If offered a vaccine against COVID-19, over 90% of both population groups reported that they either would not take it or were unsure to take it.**

Contents

List of Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Population
AMD	Armenian Dram
AoO	Area of origin
CSG	Coordination Steering Group
HH	Household
IMWG	Information Management Working Group
NFI	Non-food item
NK	Nagorno-Karabakh
RA	Republic of Armenia
RMSNA	Rapid multi-sector needs assessment
MSNA	Multi-sector needs assessment
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Geographical classifications

Armenia administrative division	
Admin level 1	Province (Marz) (+ independent city)
Admin level 2	Region (not an official administrative level, but sometimes used by Government agencies)
Admin level 3	Community (Hamaynk)
Admin level 4	Settlement (Bnakavayr)

List of Figures, Tables, and Maps

Introduction

On 27 September 2020, fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) (population of 150,000) escalated. In October and November, shelling in the main cities of NK has displaced NK residents to Armenian cities bordering NK and larger cities, such as Yerevan.[3] On the 10th of November 2020, after several failed ceasefire attempts, parties agreed to ceasefire[4] that has thus far been upheld. By then, fighting had damaged homes and critical infrastructure in NK, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

The first round of the Armenia multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA)[5], which was conducted in November-December 2020 and was aiming to support evidence-based programming of key humanitarian actors by providing updated data and analysis on multi-sector needs and priorities for HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs, has found that households in a refugee-like situation (an estimated 90,000 at the time of assessment, and 68,000 as of 17 February 2021) and their hosts commonly required support in terms of shelter/housing, economic security/cash, and food. Most displaced and hosting households shared income, highlighting the importance of supporting both people in a refugee-like situation and the people hosting them.

With the dynamic movement situation, for a long time, including the time when this assessment was planned and implemented, there has been no concrete information on the actual number of people in a refugee-like situation who stayed in the Republic of Armenia (RA) and have not yet returned to their area of origin (AoO) in NK. Both the RA Government and de-facto authorities of the NK Republic had contradictory information regarding these figures. With the efforts of the IMWG and partner agencies, including IMPACT Initiatives (REACH), population data estimates have come to a relatively solid figure for the refugee-like population in Armenia – 36,989 people in a refugee-like situation remaining in Armenia per the May 2021 estimates.[6] With a major part of the refugee-like population expected to stay in Armenia for the longer term[7], the need for them to find durable solutions in areas where they have decided to settle becomes greater in importance.

In March 2021, REACH, in close collaboration with the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) and the Coordination Steering Group (CSG) in Armenia, implemented the second round the nationwide MSNA to follow-up on the findings of the first round in November-December 2020, to evaluate if and how core humanitarian needs have changed after the winter and to scope the intentions of people in a refugee-like situation in terms of durable solutions. REACH conducted this assessment in partnership with a local organization – the Armenian Association of Social Workers, which was implementing a door-to-door assessment with an intention of eventually completing a census of the population in a refugee-like situation. As part of this assessment, the REACH team extracted the information on households in a refugee-like situation and hosting households according to the agreed sampling frame.

This report presents main findings of the second round of the MSNA in Armenia. The first part of the report provides a detailed overview of the methodological approach designed and used by REACH for this MSNA, including the challenges and limitations that the team encountered over the course of the assessment. The second part of the report outlines overall findings and is followed by sector-specific findings on protection, accountability to the affected population (AAP) and cross-cutting issues, shelter and non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, livelihoods, food security and education, presented separately for the HHs in a refugee-like population and the hosting HHs. The last part of the report is the conclusion, which summarizes main findings, provides recommendations for programming and lessons learned for future assessments in the Armenian context.

[3] Politico, Nagorno-Karabakh refugees see little chance of returning home after peace deal, 30 November 2020
[4] BBC, "Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia sign Nagorno-Karabakh peace deal", 10 November 2020
[5] MSNA, December 2020
[6] UNHCR Operational data portal, "Armenia: Population Data Estimates by Marz - May 2021", 2 June 2021
7 ReliefWeb, "Armenia Inter-agency Response Plan (October 2020 - June 2021)", 22 January 2021

Methodology

Specific objectives and research questions

The second round of the MSNA was conducted to inform the UN Resident Coordinator office on priority humanitarian needs faced by people in a refugee-like situation from NK and their host communities in Armenia in a COVID-19 context. To approach this objective, the MSNA sought to attain the following objectives by answering the following research questions.

Objective 1. To understand the changed dynamics of population movement and demographic profile of households displaced as a result of the conflict over NK compared to the first round of the MSNA, as well as to understand the movement intentions of people in a refugee-like situation in terms of durable solutions.

Q 1. What is the demographic profile of displaced and hosting HHs?

1.1. What are the key displacement dynamics after December 2020 (in terms of movement trends and intentions of displaced households (HHs)) compared to the first round of the MSNA?

Objective 2. To evaluate how core humanitarian needs of HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs, specifically in terms of shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); food security; health; education; protection; and access to information, changed since December 2020

Q 2. What are the current priority needs, with regard to shelter, WASH, food, health, education, and protection?

2.1. What is driving these needs at the time of data collection?
2.2. How have these needs changed since December 2020?
2.3. How does this vary based on HH displacement status?
2.4. What are key vulnerability criteria that compound humanitarian needs?

Objective 3. Identify appropriate types of assistance to host communities (including municipal authorities and collective centers) to support them in meeting the basic humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations

Q 3. What assistance has been provided until March 2021 and to what extent has this been in line with the needs of the population? Also including:

3.1 Access to information and preferred means of communication.
3.2 Consulting affected communities about preferred aid modalities.
3.3 Mechanisms to provide feedback on humanitarian aid programs.
3.4 Satisfaction with the aid and/or humanitarian assistance received until March 2021.

Objective 4. To understand the extent to which displaced and host communities are being consulted, and the extent to which they are satisfied with humanitarian assistance that has been delivered or is planned for delivery, in response to the conflict.

Scope and sampling strategy

Overall, the study targeted two population groups:

a. **non-displaced population in host communities (hosting HHs)** to assess its local supporting capability and estimate the possible length of the hosting period,
b. **populations in a refugee-like situation** to determine their movement intentions and long-term coping strategies.

This research cycle was done in partnership with the Armenian Association of Social Workers. The ultimate goal for the partner was to reach out to the entire hypothesized population (approximately 12,8000 HHs) in a refugee-

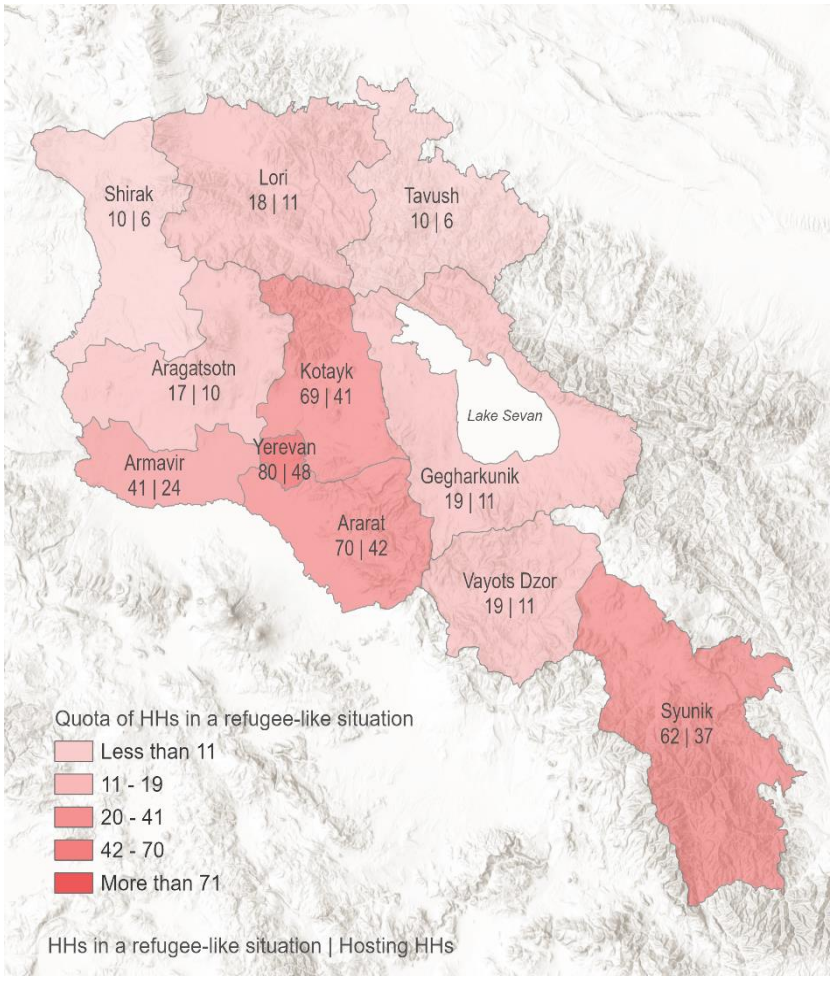
like situation, through a door-to-door survey which was ongoing during the second round of the MSNA in March-April 2021. For the purposes of this assessment, the REACH team extracted the HH-level data from the wider census dataset according to the defined sampling quota for the MSNA.

Before data collection, the questionnaire was adapted through consultations with the representatives of the humanitarian working groups present in Armenia, namely the Food Security, Health, Protection, Shelter/Non-food items (NFIs), and Early Recovery working groups. Sector-specific inputs to the questionnaire were also provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and World Food Program (WFP).

Sampling strategy

At the time of planning a follow-up assessment both the Government of Armenia and de-facto authorities of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) had contradictory information regarding the actual number of people in a refugee-like situation who stayed in the territory of the Republic of Armenia. While the data on the people in a refugee-like situation was not publicly available, the CSG in Armenia (with additional support from IOM) provided an analysis of the population change across all the marzes using the data provided by the Migration Services and Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure. Additionally, according to the latest approximate numbers from May 2021 around 37,000 people in a refugee-like situation remain in Armenia.[8]

Map 1. Quota of HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs



[8] UNHCR Operational data portal, "Armenia: Population Data Estimates by Marz - May 2021", 2 June 2021

The discrepancies in general population sizes from official sources did not allow random stratified sampling method, hence the households were sampled through a purposive snowball sampling approach. To prevent over, or under-representation of HHs due to variances in population size per marz, a quota sampling approach with proportionally distributed samples was applied to this round of assessment. Therefore, findings are not representative with a known level of precision and should be considered indicative only.

The sampling framework was based on population figures from the Migration Services of Armenia and municipalities, as well as known proportions of distribution between HHs in a refugee-like situation and hosting HHs. The set quota for hosting HHs are proportional with a coefficient of 0.6.

To ensure exhaustive capture of the data, the quota size for Yerevan was 80 records for the population in a refugee-like situation, and 10 records for the marzes with the last smallest known proportion of HHs. For the rest of the marzes, the quota was proportionally distributed depending on the number of HHs registered there.

Data collection and analysis

Data collection took place between 23 March and 29 April 2021. In total, 414 HHs in a refugee-like situation and 249 hosting HHs were interviewed. The findings were disaggregated by the two above-mentioned population groups, and the geographical distribution ensured the data is as indicative of the scope of the assessment as is possible.

Considering COVID-19 contingency, the assessment followed the global IMPACT COVID-19 standard operating procedures including: i) close adherence to COVID-19 mitigation measures on hygiene, mask-wearing, and physical distancing at all stages of the data collection (training, interviews) and ii) conducting interviews in outdoor settings as much as possible.

The questionnaire was developed in English and then translated into Armenian. To effectively cover all marzes, enumerators were identified in each marz. Enumerator training took place both online and offline (see Annex 1).

The primary data was collected through the Kobo Toolbox using the IMPACT Global Kobo account. The collected data was downloaded and cleaned on a daily basis to check for outliers, analyze “Other” inputs (translate and recode if needed), cross-check linked questions, and review enumerators’ comments. Team leaders and the field coordinator provided feedback to enumerators when and where issues were registered. On the final stage of data cleaning, all changes to the raw dataset were recorded in the Value Change Log generated with an R-script.

Data analysis was conducted by producing frequency tables using strata chosen at the sampling stage. Frequency tables and all additional calculations were done with the hypegrammaR - R-tool developed by the IMPACT Data Unit. The final data package includes raw and cleaned datasets, value change logs, and frequency tables formatted as XLSX-report. All personally identifiable information was removed during the data cleaning stage and does not appear in the final data package.

The data were analyzed according to the thematic areas pre-defined during the planning stage. The questionnaire was designed to clarify the demographic profile of heads of HH, analyze movement dynamics, and assess both cross-cutting and sector-specific issues. Findings cover the following sections: Protection, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Shelter and NFIs, WASH, Health, Livelihoods, Food Security, and Education. Findings are aimed at supporting the identification of the key needs and gaps in each sector per assessed population group and to enable comparison of key findings on the marz level.

Secondary data

The following resources were reviewed as part of the secondary data review phase:

Source	Relevance
NAGORNO – KARABAKH RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT, Save the Children, January-February 2021 *(not published)*	Methodological notes on how to assess the protection and education needs through the lens of child protection
UNICEF Armenia: Education Sub Working Situation Overview as of February 2021	Sector-specific indicators in humanitarian response
WFP Armenia Country Brief, January 2021	Sector-specific indicators in humanitarian response
Poverty and Welfare Impacts of COVID-19 and Mitigation Policies in Armenia, World Bank, 23 February 2021	Resource related to the social protection measures, poverty mitigation, and COVID-19 mitigation measures
WHO statistics on COVID-19	Resource related to the impact of COVID-19 in Armenia
Open Street Map	GIS data
Total population from NK in a refugee-like situation in Armenia, Migration Services of Armenia *(obtained per bilateral request)*	Data on demographics

Ethical considerations

Before data collection, enumerators were informed about the objective of the survey and participated in a training on ethics of interviewing, where the "Do No Harm" approach was explained. Prior to each survey, enumerators got informed consent from the respondents.

No under-aged persons were surveyed for this assessment. In some cases, exclusively for internal monitoring purposes, enumerators took pictures of respondents or their premises after having been given consent by the respondents.

Challenges and limitations

The following limitations were identified during the data collection stage and should be considered when reading the findings in this report:

- **Proxy reporting:** Data was collected at the HH level as reported by the head of HH or someone acting on behalf of the head of HH. For some questions, the head of HH was asked to report by proxy on the experiences and situations of individual HH members, rather than the individual members themselves. Due to the nature of proxy reporting, the potential inaccuracy of such answers should be kept in mind when interpreting related findings.

- **Respondent bias:** Certain indicators may be under- or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents. For instance, respondents might tend to provide what they perceive to be the "right" answers to certain questions (i.e. social desirability bias).
- **Limitations of household surveys:** While household-level quantitative surveys seek to provide quantifiable information that can be applied across the populations of interest, the methodology is not suited to provide in-depth explanations of complex issues. Thus, questions on "how" or "why" are best suited to be explored through qualitative research methods, which were not included in this assessment.
- **Definition of the HH**: In some cases, heads of HH did not clearly distinguish the current HH composition from its pre-conflict composition, which might have led to small inaccuracies in the HH demographic data.
- **Discrepancies in general population figures** from different official sources did not allow random stratified sampling method, limiting the generalizability of findings.
- **Limitations of quota sampling**: While quota sampling allows us to generally compare between assessed groups and marzes, the comparisons should be considered indicative.
- **Limitations of comparison between the two rounds of assessment:** While the first round of assessment applied a different methodology (random stratified approach), the current round of assessment employed a purposive snowball sampling method. Therefore, comparison of findings between both rounds is indicative only.

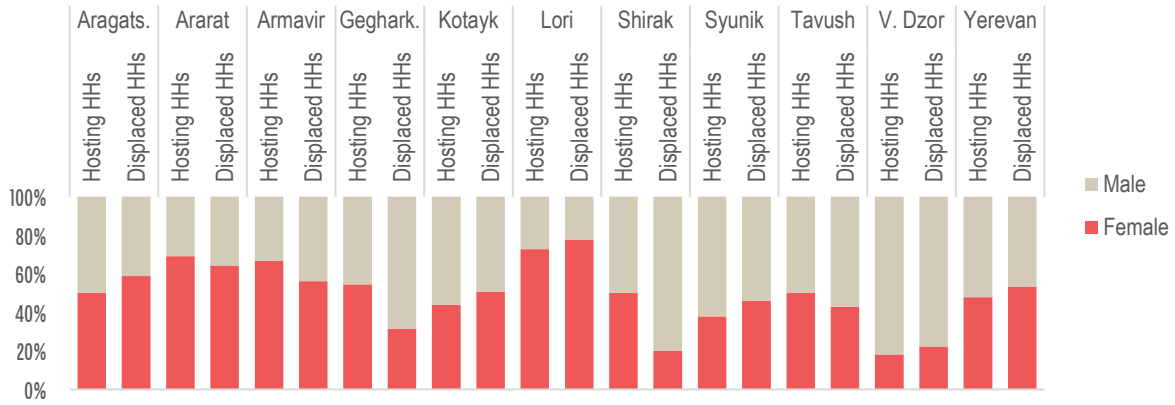
Overall Findings

Demographic profile

According to MSNA data, **the average HH size was 4.06 persons for HHs in a refugee-like situation**, and 3.97 persons for hosting HHs. The average age of HH heads was 49 for HHs in a refugee-like situation, and 53 for hosting HHs.

Around half of the assessed HHs were headed by women (52% among HHs in a refugee-like situation and 51% among hosting HHs). Higher proportions of female-headed HHs (both for hosting households and those in a refugee-like situation) were found in Lori and Ararat. Smaller shares of female-headed HHs in a refugee-like situation were found in Shirak (20%) and Vayots Dzor (22%), and a smaller proportion of hosting HHs with female heads was found in Vayots Dzor (18%) (see Figure 1).

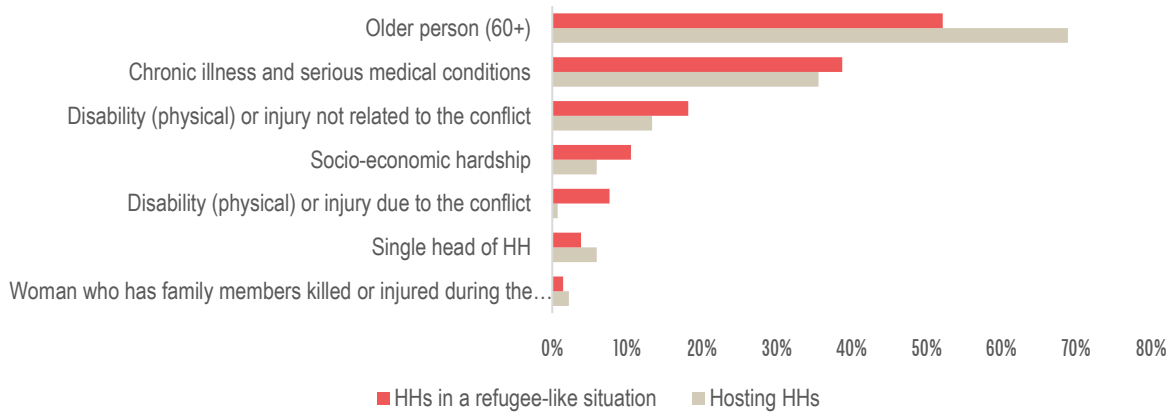
Figure 1. Proportion of HHs by HH head gender, by marzes and population groups



The head of HH vulnerability was determined through a vulnerability scale that was designed to fit the local context. Overall, **49% of the heads of HHs in a refugee-like situation and more than half of the hosting HH heads (55%) were found to have a vulnerability** (see Figure 2)**.** For both groups, the **vulnerability was mostly connected to old age (60+) of the HH head** – 52% among HHs in a refugee-like situation and 69% among hosting HHs who reported to have a vulnerability. A considerable share of the heads of HHs in a refugee-like situation (39%) and hosting HH heads (36%) reportedly had a chronic illness or serious medical conditions. The highest shares of heads of HH with a chronic illness were found in Aragatsotn (67%) and Gegharkunik (56%) among HHs in a refugee-like situation, and Vayots Dzor (71%) and Syunik (63%) among hosting HHs.

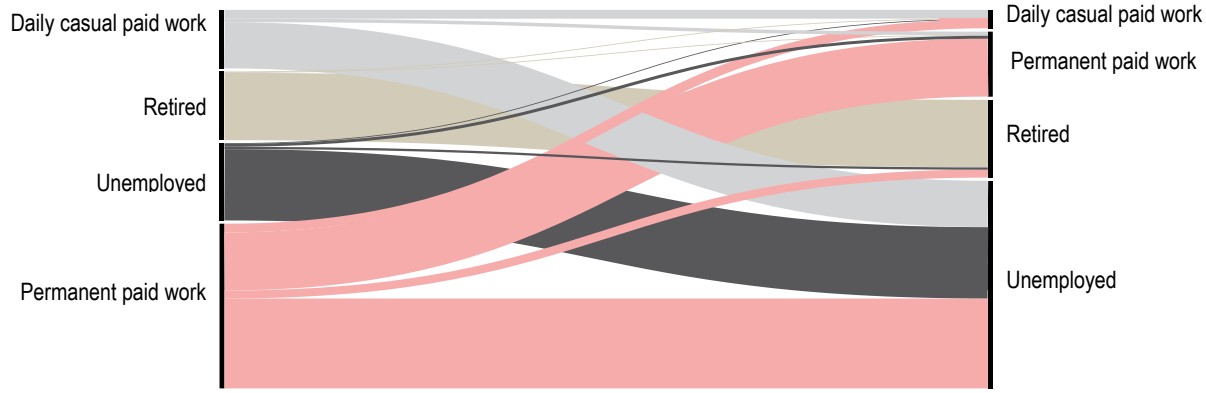
Figure 2. Proportion of heads of HHs per vulnerability status, by population group *

** Findings relate to a subset of HHs reporting HH head having a vulnerability (49% of HHs in a refugee-like situation, 55% of hosting HHs)*
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



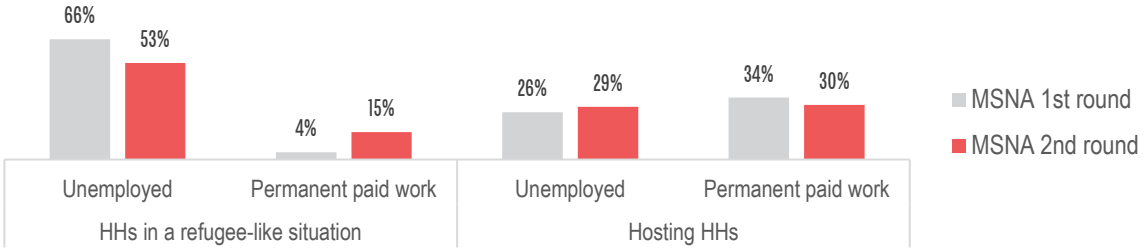
The **share of economically inactive heads of HHs in a refugee-like situation (not engaged in daily casual, temporary or permanent paid work) was notably high – 80%.** In terms of work and engagement in income-generating activities, findings indicate that, **after the conflict, the proportion of heads of HH reportedly unemployed in the 7 days prior to data collection increased by 2.8 times for HHs in a refugee-like situation,** from 19% of HHs before the conflict to 53% after the conflict (see Figure 3). Comparative analysis between MSNA findings of December 2020 and the current MSNA indicates a relative decline of the HH head unemployment rate among HHs in a refugee-like situation (down from 66% recorded during the RMSNA). The highest HH head unemployment rates among HHs in a refugee-like situation were registered in Lori (67%), Kotayk (62%), and Vayots Dzor (61%).

Figure 3. Reported change of employment situation of heads of HHs in a refugee-like situation, before the conflict and at the time of assessment



Additionally, while 38% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported the HH head had a permanent work contract before the conflict, only 15% of the HHs reported the HH head having a permanent work contract after the conflict (during 7 days prior to data collection). However, compared to the 4% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reporting having a permanent work contract in December 2020 (MSNA data), the current figure demonstrates relative improvement in terms of stability of income among HHs in a refugee-like situation.

Figure 4. Proportion of heads of HHs reportedly unemployed or having a permanent paid work, by population groups and MSNA rounds



In the case of hosting HHs, while the RMSNA findings in December registered 26% of the heads of hosting HHs reportedly unemployed after the conflict (at the time of data collection in December 2020), the findings of the current MSNA show an increase from 23% of the heads of hosting HHs reportedly having been unemployed at the beginning of the conflict to 29% after the conflict (during 7 days prior to data collection). The highest HH head unemployment rates among hosting HHs were registered in Gegharkunik (64%) and Shirak (50%), more than double the national unemployment rate (18.3%)[9].

Considering sectors of work HH heads had been engaged in prior to the conflict, **the most common sectors for HHs in a refugee-like situation were reportedly agricultural work (for 24% of HHs), education (for 24% of HHs), and manual construction work (for 11% of HHs).** In the case of hosting HHs, the most popular fields of work of HH heads were the service sector (for 16% of HHs) and education (for 11% of HHs).

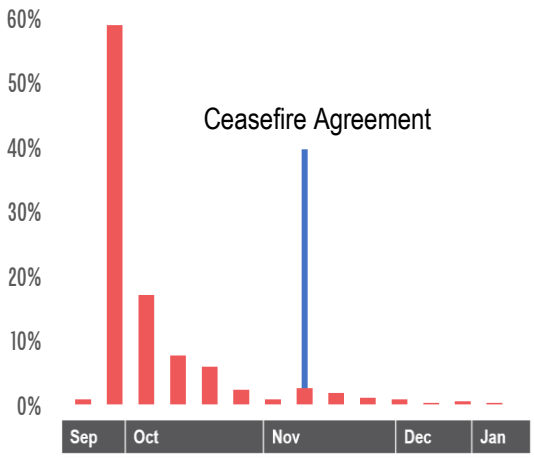
[9] Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, "Unemployment rate. Time series":

Movement dynamics

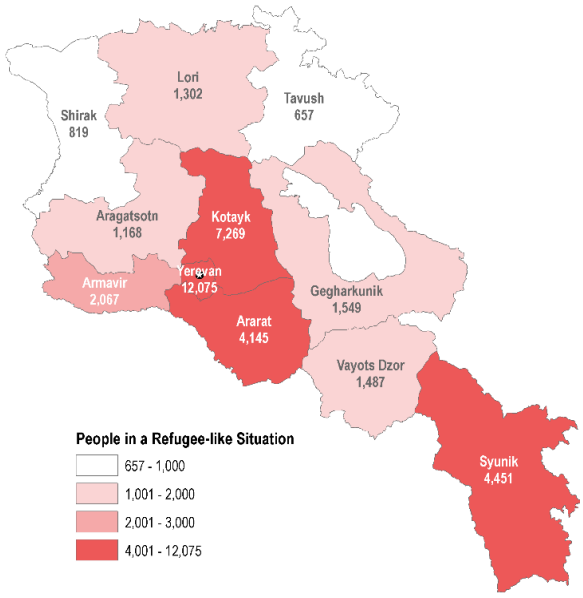
This section provides an overview of displacement dynamics covering the timeline, geography, and intentions of people in a refugee-like situation. The assessment has found that most assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation moved out of their area of origin (AoO) at the end of September when the war was unleashed and during October when most fighting took place **and only 5% after the ceasefire agreement** (see Figure 5).

This is consistent with the data on the areas of origin of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation, with 78% of them coming from regions that are now primarily under Azerbaijani control (Hadrut, Kashatagh, Shahumyan, Shushi), and 22% - from regions remaining under de-facto NKR authorities (Martakert, Martuni, Askeran, Stepanakert).

Figure 5. Timeline of displacement



Map 2. People in a refugee-like situation from NK



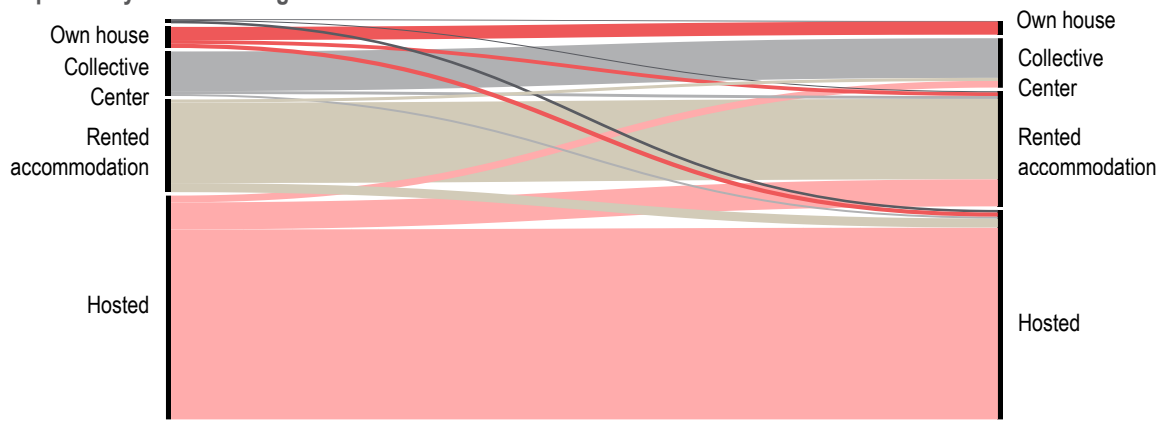
In terms of areas of settlement, HHs in a refugee-like situation are unequally distributed throughout the regions, with **Yerevan, Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk, and Syunik hosting a higher share of the displaced population than other regions**. This might be because most job opportunities are in Yerevan, which is also home to the larger collective centers, along with Ararat, Armavir, and Kotayk. While these marzes are at a commutable distance to Yerevan and have local agricultural labour opportunities, Syunik might be popular among people in a refugee-like situation due to its proximity to an open road to NK, and due to the historic, relatively large community of people from NK already residing in the area, potentially making it more convenient for people who intend their stay in RA to be temporary.

In terms of the displacement situation at the time of assessment, about half of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation reported they were staying with family or friends, 11% in collective centers, and a smaller share of HHs reported staying in their own house. **Findings suggest that the share of HHs in a refugee-like situation renting an apartment or staying in a paid accommodation has risen slightly since the conflict; 27% of HHs reported having rented or having stayed in paid location during the conflict and 33% reported doing so at the time of the assessment.** Figure 6 below demonstrates the respective shifts between the living situation HHs in a refugee-like situation reported as having during the outbreak of the conflict and at the time of the assessment.

HHs in a refugee-like situation most commonly reported having been living in their current place of accommodation for more than a month (48% of HHs), and a large share of HHs highlighted this duration as half a year or more (34%). It is important to note that findings relating to the duration of stay in the current accommodation have a limitation in terms of correct analysis as the options “more than two months” and “half a year or more” were added in the middle of the data collection process, hence there might be a high proportion of HHs reporting “more than a month” as the only applicable option at the time of their interview, while if interviewed at later stages, their answer

could have been "more than two months" or "half a year or more". **It appears from the data that the movement within Armenia has slowed down; only 1% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported staying in their current place of accommodation for less than four weeks.** The slowdown might be further reflected in the fact that the vast majority of hosting HHs also reported that they have been hosting people in a refugee-like situation for more than a month.

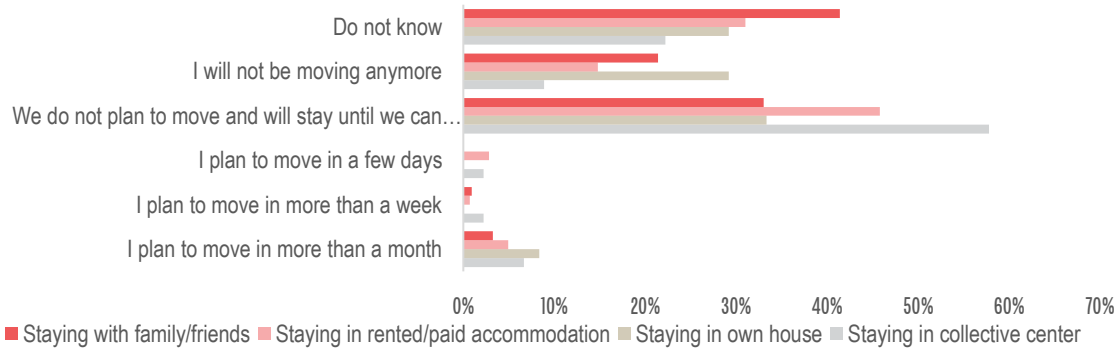
Figure 6. Living situation dynamics during the outbreak of the conflict and at the time of MSNA assessment, as reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation



The current displacement situation appears less dynamic than it did during the previous round, with findings suggesting that, for most HHs, it is unlikely that they will return to their AoO in the near future. **The vast majority (93%) of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported not intending to move or only intending to move if it were safe to return home, or were unable to communicate their intentions.** Compared to the previous round, this forms a bigger share of the assessed population, potentially reflecting that many HHs in a refugee-like situation who indicated an intention to move in the previous round have already done so.

The highest share of HHs not planning to move anymore was found in Lori, where half of the HHs reported not intending to move anymore. Among those 7% of HHs who were specific about their intentions to move (in a few days, more than a week or month, as reported at the time of assessment), half reported wanting to return to the AoO as the primary reason. Those HHs that were planning to move most commonly reported intending to go back **to large cities of NK, such as Stepanakert and Martuni, or other cities in Armenia.**

Figure 7. Movement intentions of HHs in a refugee-like situation, by displacement situation at the time of assessment



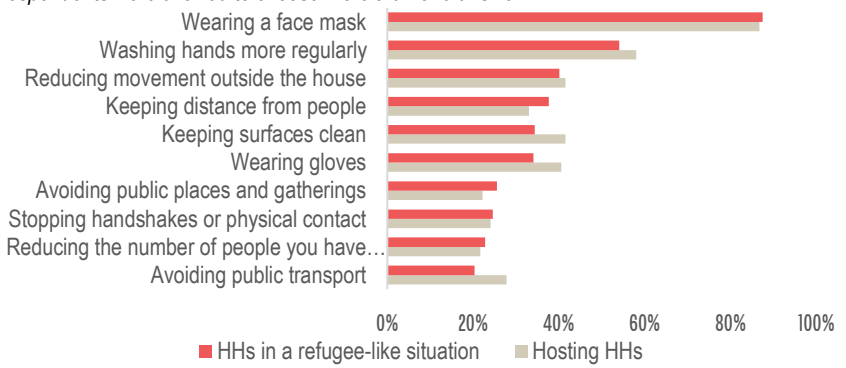
Other common reasons for moving identified by the HHs in a refugee-like situation were bad conditions of accommodation and lack of funds (for 21% and 17% of HHs with the intention to move, respectively). Likewise, when hosting HHs were asked about the main reasons for hosted people to move if they planned to / already moved out, apart from mentioning return to their AoO, a notable share of hosting HHs also highlighted lack of space as a reason.

Zoom-in COVID-19 impact and findings

As of 29 June 2021, there have been 224,851 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in RA.[10] MSNA findings demonstrate that, among the assessed HHs (both hosting and in a refugee-like situation), 11% reported that before the data collection (since December 2020) at least one of their HH members had been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had suffered symptoms but did not test, with the highest shares of HHs reporting this found in Aragatsotn (40% among hosting HHs, and 18% among HHs in a refugee-like situation). Out of these HHs, over 60% in both population groups reported not having faced any problems accessing consultation, testing, hospital care, or medication. **The most common issues identified were problems accessing testing for COVID-19 and access to medication.**

Figure 8. Among the HHs reporting having taken action against COVID-19 (77% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 86% of hosting HHs), reported preventive measures adopted by some or all HH members, by population groups

Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Overall, most HHs claimed all or some of the HH members were taking necessary action to prevent themselves from getting COVID-19, **while 19% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and only 13% of hosting HHs reported having taken no action.** Relatively higher shares of HHs who had not taken any action against COVID-19 were found in Shirak and Yerevan among HHs in a refugee-like situation (40% and 39%, respectively) and in Armavir among hosting HHs (38%). **The two most common reasons for not taking preventive action against COVID-19 were the perception of it not being prevalent in their residence area or not minding contracting it.** The most commonly reported preventive measures (across both population groups) were wearing a mask, washing hands more regularly, keeping surfaces clean, reducing movement outside the house, and keeping distance from people (see Figure 8). In terms of the availability of protective measures against COVID-19, over 60% of HHs in both population groups mentioned that all needed items were available in sufficient quantity. **The share of HHs with sufficient availability of preventive measures was lower among HHs in a refugee-like situation in Aragatsotn, Armavir, and Yerevan (29%, 32%, and 32%, respectively).** The most-reported difficulty was accessing face masks and household hygiene products.

When asked about the actions they would undertake if they thought someone in the HH had contracted COVID-19, most HHs reported they would go to a doctor's office or a health center. **A notable share of HHs reported they would do nothing and would continue their daily life as normal (17% among HHs in a refugee-like situation and 16% among hosting HHs).** Overall, 6% of HHs (for both population groups) reported they would stay home and self-medicate, with vitamins being the most commonly reported medication among these HHs.

The vaccination process in RA started early in 2021, and as of 19 June 2021, 64,293 vaccine doses had been administered.[11] **If offered a vaccine against COVID-19, over 90% of HHs from both population groups reported that they either would not take it or were unsure to take it.** While the lowest proportion of hosting HHs unwilling to get vaccinated was found in Ararat (55%), these HHs did not report a relatively higher rate of readiness to get vaccinated (only 2% ready to receive the shot), rather demonstrated indecisiveness. **The highest shares of HHs reporting they would receive a vaccine were found in Shirak and Aragatsotn for HHs in a refugee-like situation (20% and 18% of HHs, respectively),** and in Aragatsotn and Armavir for hosting HHs (20% and 13% of HHs, respectively). While it is beyond the MSNA framework to independently analyze or confirm underlying reasons, the low pace of the vaccination process[12] appears to be consistent with how different layers of the population perceive vaccination.

[10] World Health Organization, WHO Health Emergency Dashboard Armenia, 29 June 2021
[11] WHO, 2021
[12] International Labour Organization, Social Protection Platform – Armenia Country Profile, 29 June 2021

Findings related to HHs in a refugee-like situation

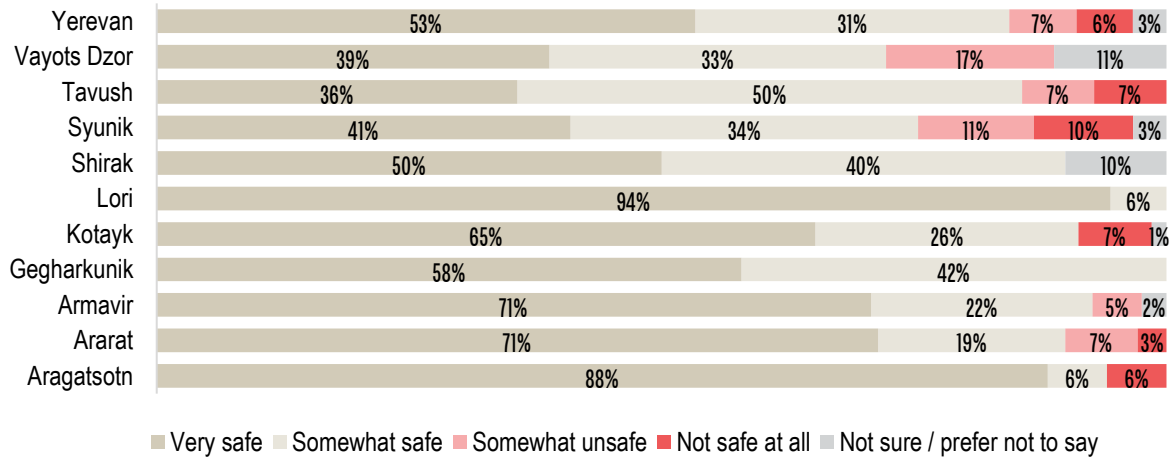
Protection

No major protection issues were identified in the case of HHs in a refugee-like situation, with only a few of them reporting taking care of unrelated minors, or similarly reporting having any of the HH's children under the age of 18 separated and being in the care of others at the time of assessment. Only 4% of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation reported having pregnant women, and only 10% reported presence of a lactating women in the HH, respectively.

Most of the assessed HHs highlighted that all their HH members had a passport, birth certificate, and/or a valid identity document (ID) in their possession at the time of the assessment, with only **2% of HHs reporting that some of the HH members were missing valid ID documents**.

Safety perceptions seem to have worsened slightly among HHs in a refugee-like situation since the previous round of data collection; while the previous MSNA found that 94% of assessed HHs either felt very or somewhat safe, the share of HHs reporting so during the current assessment was 87%. The highest proportions of HHs reporting feeling safe were found in Lori and Aragatsotn – with 94% of HHs in Lori and 88% of HHs in Aragatsotn indicating feeling "very safe". Overall, **5% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation reported feeling not safe at all** (highest share of HHs reporting this found in Syunik – 10%), and 6% of HHs reported feeling somewhat unsafe. **Relatively higher shares of HHs feeling somewhat unsafe were found in Vayots Dzor (17%) and Syunik (11%).** Low levels of safety perception in Syunik may be related to the proximity to the contact line/border[13] between Armenia and Azerbaijan, with local tensions registered in the region from time to time.

Figure 9. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by their perception of safety in their current place of residency, by marzes



The vast majority of HHs that were hosted by others or living in a collective center also reported feeling very or somewhat safe interacting with members of another group or community in their current location (e.g., host community; other ethnical/religious groups), with only 3% of HHs reporting feeling somewhat unsafe or not safe at all doing so.

On average, 52% of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation reported having debts (same as in the previous round). The proportion of indebted HHs was notably high in Shirak (90%), and in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, and Aragatsotn – over 70% of HHs in each marz. The average reported debt of those HHs with debts was approximately 2 million Armenian Dram (AMD) (approx. 3,855 United States Dollars (USD)), which is 1.97 times higher than the average debt (1.02 million AMD (approx. 2,124 USD)) reported during RMSNA in December 2020. The highest average reported debt was found in Shirak – 4,161,667 AMD (approx. 8,000 USD).

[13] DW, Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of failing to withdraw from its territory, 14 May 2021

Accountability to the affected population and cross-cutting issues

This section covers several topics such as the priority humanitarian needs of the HHs in a refugee-like situation, as well as humanitarian assistance that was provided to these HHs. At last, there will be also a brief overview regarding how satisfied the HHs in a refugee-like situation were with the provided assistance.

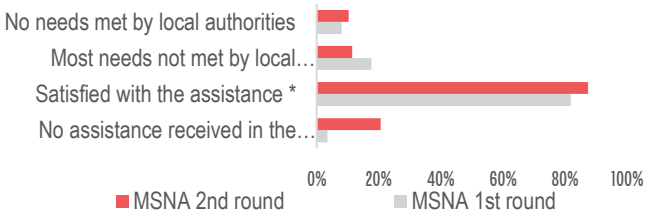
Table 1. Reported first, second, and third priority needs of HHs in a refugee-like situation

	1st	2nd	3rd
Baby items	1%	3%	4%
Cash	26%	25%	22%
Clothes	2%	8%	10%
Do not know/refuse to answer	0%	1%	2%
Food	8%	25%	18%
Medicines	4%	5%	3%
No needs	1%	5%	15%
Sanitation and hygiene products	2%	3%	3%
Shelter	48%	7%	5%
Sleeping materials	3%	5%	6%
Support with livelihoods	4%	7%	6%

At the time of data collection, the **biggest priority for the population in a refugee-like situation was shelter,** as almost half of the HHs (48%) indicated this as their top priority. Shelter, in this case, may be interpreted broadly, as this might mean both the needs of HHs to get their own shelter and to remove existing issues in their current shelter. An **equal share of HHs (25%) marked cash and food as the second priority**, while only cash (22%) was the most commonly reported third priority. During the previous round, most commonly reported 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priorities for HHs in a refugee-like situation were shelter, cash, and clothes. It is important to note that previous data collection took place during winter season, when needs can be expected to be different from the needs in spring, when the second round of data collection took place.

Twenty-one percent (**21%) of HHs in a refugee-like situation had reportedly not received any humanitarian assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection.** Which might be due to the fact that 34% of the HHs reportedly lived either in their own house/apartment in the RA or rented an apartment, which might limit their severity of need. Of all HHs, **63% reported having received food as humanitarian assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection**, with the highest proportion of HHs reporting this found in Vayots Dzor, where all HHs reported having received food. Some **HHs (36%) reported having received hygiene and sanitation kits**; the highest coverage was found in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor, where 84% and 89% of HHs reported having received this type of assistance. **Clothes were the third most commonly reported type of assistance received, with 25% of HHs reporting** this, particularly in Tavush (79%).

Figure 10. Satisfaction with humanitarian assistance reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation, by MSNA rounds
** Findings relate to a subset of HHs in a refugee-like situation reporting having received assistance in 30 days prior to data collection (79%)*



As there might be different actors providing aid, which eventually gets to the beneficiaries through the local authorities, and as HHs mostly have no direct contact with the humanitarian agencies and perceive all assistance coming from the local authorities, HHs were asked to provide their perception on how satisfied they were with the assistance provided particularly by local authorities. **Among those HHs who reported having received humanitarian assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection (79%), 79% believed that they had received assistance from local authorities**, namely from municipalities or from the government bodies. Almost **a third of HHs (28%) reported that local authorities had either met all or most of their needs**. HHs most commonly reported that local authorities had only partially covered their needs (41%). Nevertheless, 87% of HHs who reported having received humanitarian assistance in 30 days before data collection were reportedly satisfied it. Generally, **75% of HHs reported not facing any issues** and barriers related to receiving humanitarian assistance. Only some **13% reportedly did not know where to receive it.** The highest share of those who reported not knowing where to receive the humanitarian assistance was found in Aragatsostn, while in Vayots Dzor no HHs were reporting on the same indicator. The most commonly reported preferred modality to receive further assistance was **physical cash; 88% of HHs indicated this modality as their preference**. In terms of HHs providing feedback for the assistance they received, most of HHs (62%) reported that they would prefer doing it face to face.

Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

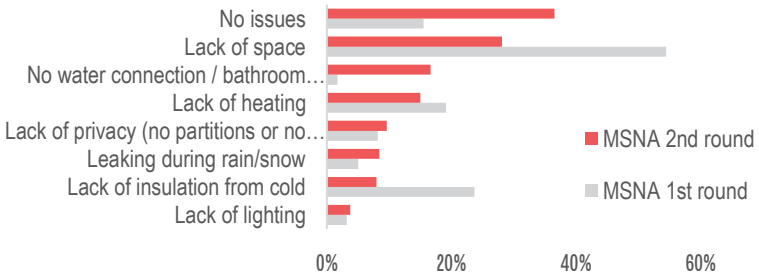
For analytical purposes, the living situation of hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation (in the 3 months prior to data collection) was divided into three categories: 1) living/lived in separate accommodation; 2) sharing/shared only accommodation with another HH but not incomes; 3) temporarily sharing/shared accommodation and income with another HH. **Overall, out of the 51% of hosted HHs in a refugee-like situation (hosted by family/friends) most reported temporarily sharing/having shared accommodation and income with another HH at the time of data collection.** Similarly, most of the hosting HHs also reported temporarily sharing accommodation and income with another HH (78%). In Tavush and Kotayk, the proportion of such HHs among the refugee-like population was notably high – 80% and 76%, respectively, as compared to other marzes. The lowest proportion of HHs sharing both accommodation and income was reported in Vayots Dzor (27% of hosted HHs), where most of the hosted HHs reported sharing just accommodation with other HHs, not income (55%).

Consistent with the first round of the MSNA in December 2020, shelter was still the most commonly reported prioritized need among the HHs in a refugee-like situation, as generally, 48% of HHs indicated it as their first top priority need. Relatively high proportions of HHs in **Syunik, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor indicated shelter as their top priority need (66%, 71%, and 72% respectively)**, while in Yerevan the smallest proportion of HHs (31%) reported having shelter as the first-priority need, compared to other marzes. Shelter, as mentioned earlier, may be interpreted broadly, as this might mean both needs of HHs to get their own shelter and to remove existing issues in their current shelter.

Several questions were asked to capture the shelter-related needs and issues. On the one hand, there were questions related to the issues that were present in the accommodation the respondents lived in. On the other hand, respondents were asked to describe their perception of the needs related to shelter and accommodation.

Figure 12. Most commonly reported shelter issues for HHs in a refugee-like situation at their current accommodation, by MSNA rounds

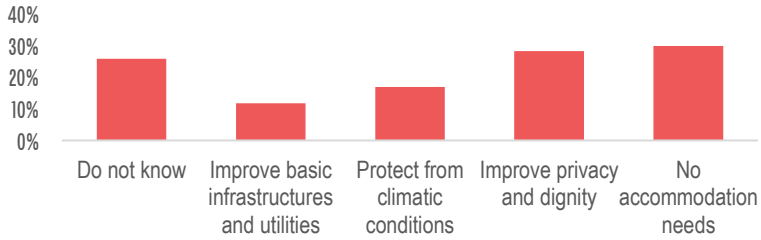
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Almost a half of the HHs in a refugee-like situation reported either not having issues at their current accommodation or being uncertain regarding what issues they had. **In 28% of HHs, lack of space was the main issue**, especially for HHs that were hosted (51%), as 36% of hosted HHs reported lack of space to be an accommodation need. When asked about accommodation-related needs, **28% of HHs indicated being in need of improved privacy and dignity,** while 30% indicated having no accommodation-related needs.

Figure 11. Perception regarding the current accommodation needs, reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation

Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer

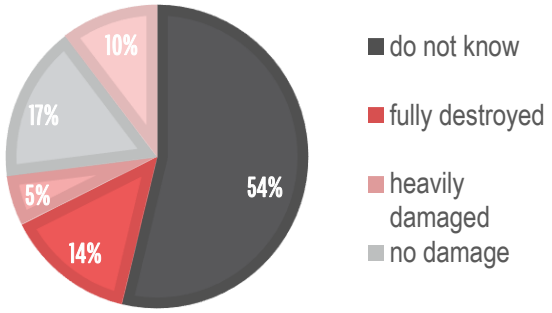


In terms of basic utilities and appliances, **many HHs in a refugee-like situation did not reportedly face any significant issues or challenges**. Around 44% of HHs reported having all the following items: refrigerator, movable heater, and a functional stove. A big share of HHs (90%) indicated that their apartment was

connected to the centralized electricity network and 79% of HHs reportedly had a gas connection. Moreover, only a third of HHs reported having no Internet in their apartment.

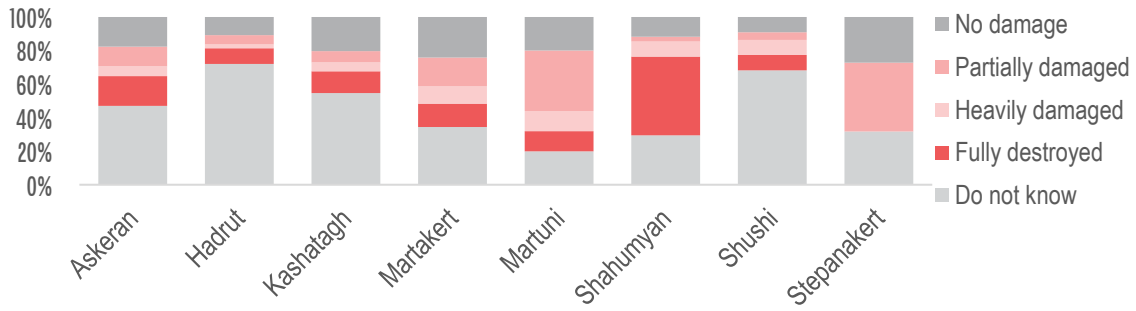
Other than during the previous round of MSNA, HHs were specifically asked if they knew about the status of their shelter in their AoO in terms of conflict-related damage. While **most HHs (54%) did not know what the status of their shelter in their AoO was,** 17% of all HHs reported that their shelter sustained no damage due to the conflict. Important to note that for all those who reported having a damaged shelter, no evidence was requested. This means that there is no way to control for unverified guesses for inaccessible homes, over/under-estimation of damage relative to other HHs, or reporting of non-conflict-related damage.

Figure 13. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the reported status of their shelter in the AoO



Looking at data disaggregated by HHs' AoO, it may be observed that a considerable share of HHs from Stepanakert (41%) reported their shelter was partially damaged. Almost half (47%) of HHs from Shahumyan reported that their shelters were fully destroyed. Nevertheless, these findings should be considered carefully, since many HHs had not witnessed the level of damage themselves and not all regions of origin were equally represented in the disaggregated data.

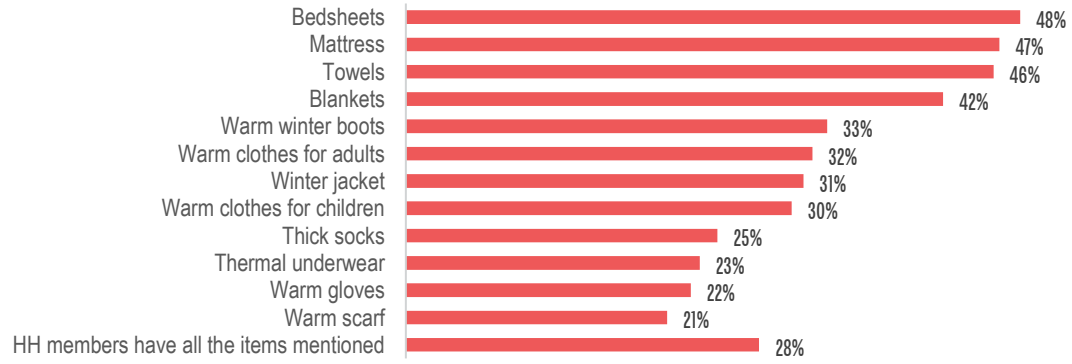
Figure 14. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the reported status of their shelter in the AoO, disaggregated by the AoO



In terms of missing NFIs, **up to 50% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation reported missing bedding items for at least one HH member**, such as bedsheets, mattresses, and blankets, respectively. Those items were also among HHs' most commonly reported priority NFI needs. The items that were least commonly reported missing were personal insulation items, such as warm gloves or warm scarf – reported by less than 30% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation, reflecting the transition to spring.

Figure 15. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the NFIs they reported missing

Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

Generally, Armenia is known for its high-quality tap water that is suitable for drinking. The water system is largely maintained by a single company which won a nationwide competition in 2016 for the right to supply water to the whole of Armenia. In the case of marzes such as Shirak, Lori, and partly Armavir, some local suppliers also provide water and sewerage services to entire localities. The findings of the second round of MSNA suggest that **tap water is the main source of drinking water for most HHs (93% of HHs in a refugee-like situation)**, consistent with the previous round. However, there are differences on the regional level, e.g., **in Armavir, where 22% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported using the water supplied by trucks** as their primary source of drinking water.

As in the previous round, **most HHs in a refugee-like situation (more than 90%) reported having enough water for cooking, drinking, and personal hygiene**. Still, **only 77% of HHs reported having enough water for other domestic purposes, such as regular cleaning**. A relatively small percentage marked having enough water for irrigation (21%), but it is unclear to what extent HHs were in need of water for irrigation. In marzes such as Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor, no HHs indicated having enough water for irrigation.

Only 9% of HHs reported experiencing problems related to access to water. This is nevertheless a drastic change compared to the previous round, when only 1% reported having issues related to access to water. Among the 9% of HHs who reportedly had issues with access to water, 54% reported experiencing interruptions in the water supply. It is important to note that, due to the end of the heating season, it is likely that some regular maintenance work was done that could have affected HHs' access to water.

With regard to hygiene needs, HHs reported having similar needs during the current round of data collection as during the previous one. **More than half (58%) of HHs reported having no needs for personal hygiene items.** Equal shares of HHs (25% in both cases) reported needing sanitary pads and diapers for children. More than half of HHs reportedly had needs in different HH hygiene items. **Most of the HHs (74%) reported needing washing powder for clothes** (see Figure 17). This is generally consistent with the previous round, though at that time a smaller percentage (62%) reported needing washing powder. The other commonly reported WASH items that HHs were reportedly missing were: detergent for dishes, cleaning liquids for the house, soap and toilet paper, and shampoo (in descending order). While top needs were almost the same across all marzes, in some cases higher shares of HHs reported shampoo and toothpaste being a priority need.

Figure 16. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the reported hygiene needs
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer

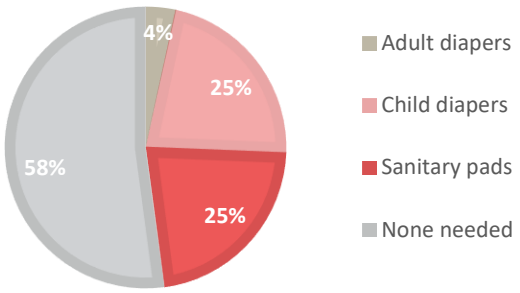
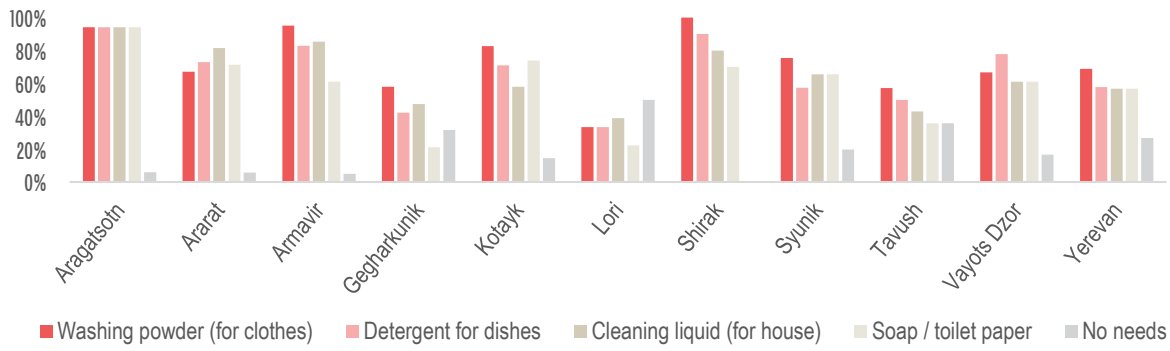


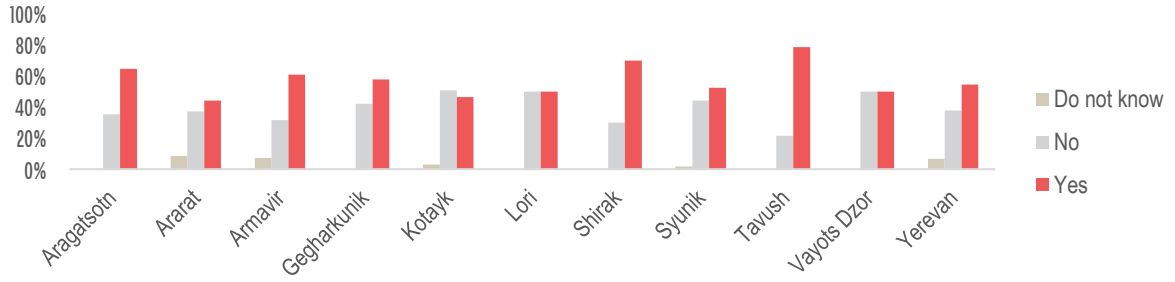
Figure 17. Most commonly reported WASH needs among HHs in a refugee-like situation, per marz
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Health

Compared to hosting HHs, a higher proportion of **HHs in a refugee-like situation reported having needed specialized healthcare since December 2020.** Overall, **53%** of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation (up from 44% according to December RMSNA findings) reported having needed specialized healthcare, the lowest share of HHs reporting this was found in Ararat (44%), and the highest share in Tavush (79%).

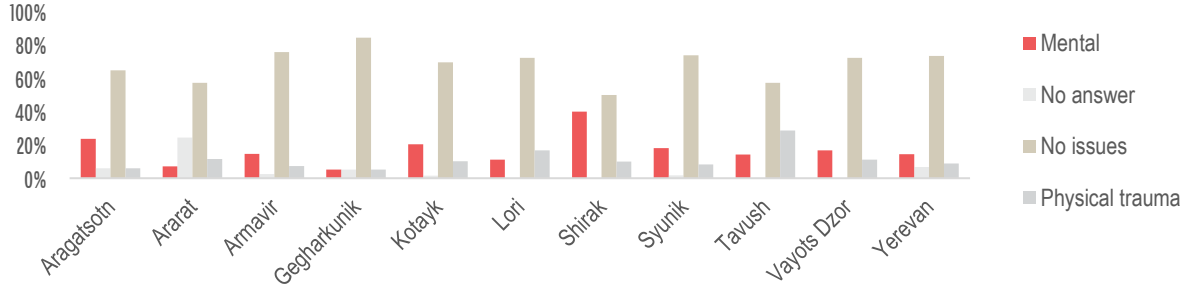
Figure 18. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation reporting having needed specialized healthcare since December 2020, by marzes



Of those HHs who sought specialized healthcare (53%), **only 11% reported not having received the services needed, and only 8% reported not having been able to contact a local healthcare provider or visit a nearby health center** since December 2020. Furthermore, regional analysis findings suggest that higher proportions of HHs in Shirak and Vayots Dzor had reportedly not been able to contact or access local healthcare providers, compared to other marzes.

While most of the assessed HHs reported not having any conflict-associated health needs (69%), **15% of HHs reported having mental healthcare needs, and 10% reported having needs associated with physical trauma.** The highest proportion of HHs reporting mental care needs was found in Shirak, where 40% of HHs reported this.

Figure 19. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation with conflict-associated health needs, by marzes



A notably small share of HHs reported having faced issues accessing healthcare, and **the main issue highlighted was the high cost of services and/or medicine.** Overall, 21% of HHs indicated they had a child that was due to receive vaccines in the 3 months before data collection; among these HHs, 28% reported that the child(ren) had not received the vaccines.

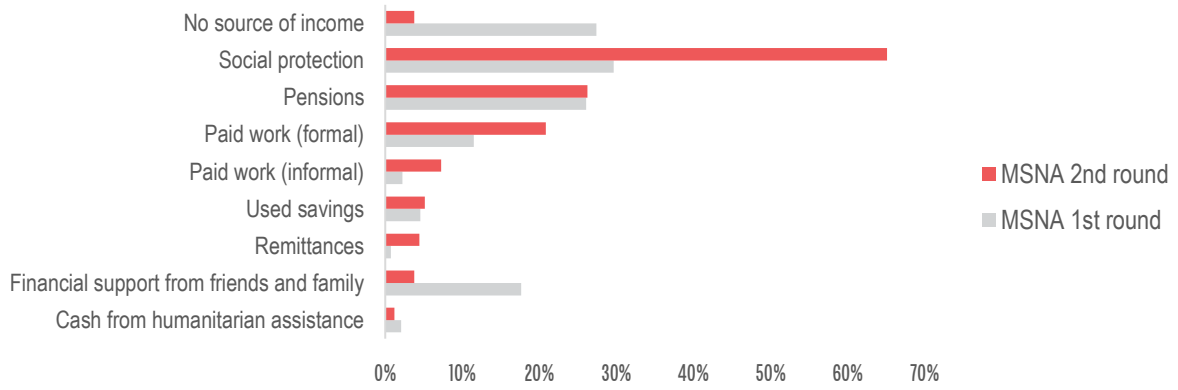
Among HHs in a refugee-like situation, only 17% reported having received free medicine from their primary healthcare provider (PHC) before displacement, and of them, only 28% mentioned not being able to receive it from the PHC in their new place of residence. A small proportion of HHs (9%) reported disruptions to the supply of their medication in the 6 months before the assessment, while the proportion of HHs reporting this was particularly high in Aragatsotn (50%). **Over half of the assessed HHs (52%) reported not knowing about mental health (emotional, psychological, and behavioral well-being) services** available nearby in case needed (down from 80% in the previous round). This was most commonly reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation in Aragatsotn (94% of HHs).

Livelihoods

With their stay prolonged in Armenia and vague prospects of returning to their area of origins, many HHs in a refugee-like situation need to find jobs in RA to acquire a decent livelihood, a need that appears to be reflected in the relative increase in terms of income-generating activities undertaken by HH heads since the previous round in December 2020 (see section on Demographics). While **only 23% of HHs in a refugee-like situation mentioned that their HH members had undertaken an income-generating activity since arriving at their current location, findings suggest a positive trend since the previous round, when 11% of HHs had reported this.** Even in light of an apparent trend, it is out of the current research scope to make predictions for the following months.

When asked about their primary sources of income, 65% of HHs indicated social protection**,** which was particularly commonly reported by HHs in Vayots Dzor (94%) and Aragatsotn (88%). Other significant sources of income were pensions (for 26% of HHs) and formal paid work (for 21% of HHs). **Only 4% of assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation reported to have no primary source of income**, a figure lower than that of hosting HHs, though as a combined indicator, this could be the result of welfare access rather than solely livelihoods. In Kotayk, the proportion of HHs reporting not having a primary source of income was the highest (12%). The overall proportion of HHs reportedly without any source of income has reduced since December 2020 (27% of HHs reported no primary income source, according to RMSNA findings), however, the proportion of HHs mainly relying on social protection has increased (it was 30% in the previous round).

Figure 20. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the reported sources of income, by MSNA rounds
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Consistent with the findings on income-generating activities, **more HHs in a refugee-like situation indicated paid work (either formal or informal) as their main source of income compared to the previous round.** Also, finding suggest that the share of HHs relying on remittances seems to have increased slightly (from 1% per RMSNA in December to 4% per current MSNA), which, among other things. may relate to the travel facilitation (mainly to Russia), introduced from February 2021.[14]

Table 2. Reported primary sources of income of HHs in a refugee-like situation, by marzes

	Aragatsotn	Ararat	Armavir	Gegharkunik	Kotayk	Lori	Shirak	Syunik	Tavush	Vayots Dzor	Yerevan
No source of income	0%	1%	5%	0%	12%	6%	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%
Social protection	88%	71%	66%	58%	62%	33%	50%	61%	79%	94%	62%

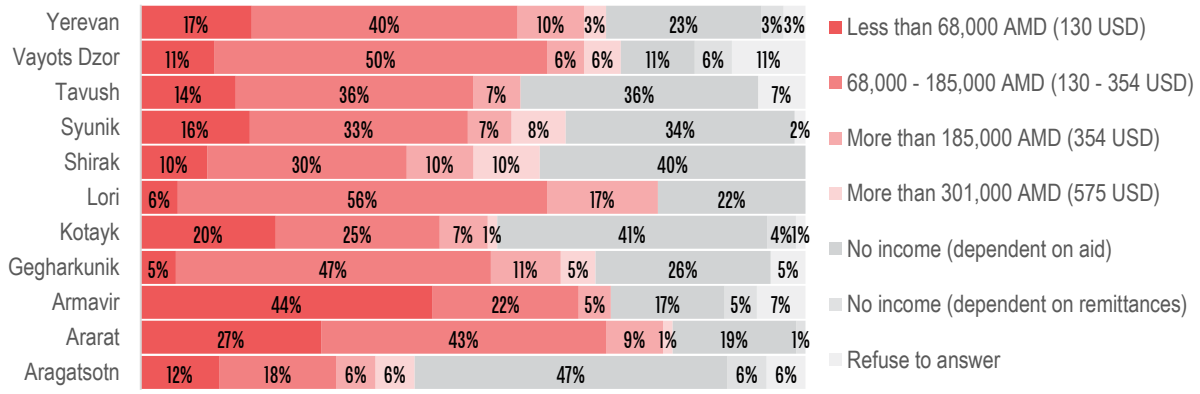
14 RA Government, Information for citizens wishing to travel to Russia, 29 January 2021

Pensions	24%	30%	24%	37%	25%	28%	40%	20%	50%	17%	24%
Paid work (formal)	24%	19%	5%	32%	14%	39%	50%	16%	21%	67%	19%
Paid work (informal)	6%	10%	7%	0%	4%	6%	0%	10%	0%	6%	10%
Used savings	0%	6%	15%	0%	1%	6%	10%	5%	0%	0%	7%
Financial support from friends and family	0%	4%	2%	0%	1%	17%	10%	5%	0%	0%	4%
Remittances	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	28%	0%	18%	0%	0%	2%
Loans/borrowed money	6%	0%	0%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Cash from humanitarian assistance	0%	1%	0%	11%	0%	6%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%

Of those HHs whose income also consisted of pensions or social assistance (benefits, subsidies), most have reportedly received (fully or partially) their benefits in Armenia, and 9% reported to not have received any.

Overall, 31% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reported having no income and being dependent either on aid or remittances. For 20% of HHs in a refugee-like situation, overall HH income per month was less than 68,000 Armenian Dram (AMD) / 130 United States Dollar (USD). HHs in a refugee-like situation reported the highest monthly incomes (more than 185,000 AMD / 354 USD) in Shirak and Lori (20% and 17%, accordingly). Considering that these two marzes register higher HH head unemployment rate for HHs in a refugee-like situation and lower proportion of HH heads reporting a permanent work contract (10% in Shirak and 11% in Lori), these figures appear to be inconsistent with the unemployment rate and permanent work contract availability data.

Figure 21. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the reported overall monthly income, by marzes



The average reported monthly expenditure for HHs in a refugee-like situation was 159,035 AMD (approx. 305 USD). Average reported food expenditure for HHs made up 50% of HH spending. This percentage was particularly high in Shirak, where average spending on food made up 66% of total expenditures. The share of indebted HHs continues to be high, and more details can be found in the respective section of Protection findings.

The most purchased items for domestic consumption (in 30 days prior to the data collection) were reportedly food, utilities, communication, and soap/HH items (in descending order). On average, fuel, water, and rent were least commonly purchased for domestic consumption.

While most HHs (67%) in a refugee-like situation reported having held livestock before the conflict but not having managed to bring it to RA, 7% of HHs reporting having taken livestock with them from NK, primarily to Vayots Dzor and Syunik. Among those HHs who managed to bring their livestock, the majority did not report any existing needs related to the livestock. Most reported needs by HHs in other marzes were fodder, pasture, and shelter-related issues. Almost all the assessed HHs who managed to bring their livestock to RA highlighted that they had not received any assistance related to livestock, for the small number of HHs who received assistance it was mainly in the form of veterinary services.

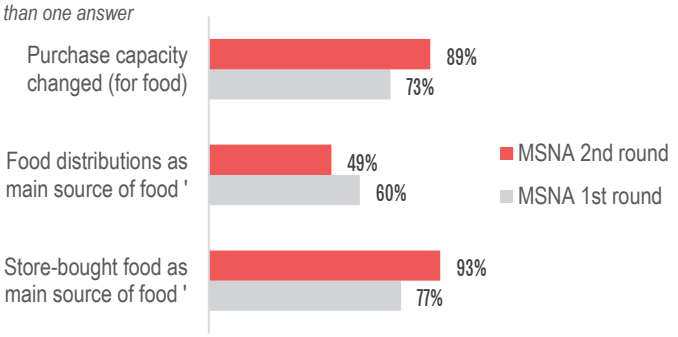
Food security

Most of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation reported that the conflict had changed their ability to purchase food compared to a year before, which they relatively more commonly reported than hosting HHs. It is important to note that, in the survey, it was not specified whether this change was a relative increase or a decrease. While in Shirak, all HHs in a refugee-like situation reported their food purchasing power had changed, HHs in Lori and Tavush more commonly reported no change in their capacity to purchase food as compared to other marzes.

Overall, **for 93% of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation, store-bought food was reportedly one of the main food sources, although a significant proportion of HHs also relied on food distributions (49%), which is still less than in the previous round of MSNA (60%).** Tavush and Lori registered relatively lower shares of HHs reporting store-bought food is a main source (71% and 83%, respectively). In Vayots Dzor, HHs relatively commonly reported food distributions (83%), and food brought from their AoO (17%) as main food sources – higher than elsewhere.

Figure 22. Food purchase capacity and main sources of food reported by % of HHs in a refugee-like situation, by MSNA rounds

' To the question about main sources of food, respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Irrespective of the overall high reliance on store-bought food, simultaneous reliance on other food sources, including food distributions or assistance from family and friends, may mean that HHs in a refugee-like situation largely use these sources as a cost-reducing mechanism.

Table 3. Coping strategies reportedly employed in the 7 days prior to data collection, by % of HHs in a refugee-like situation

Coping strategies	% of HHs applying the strategy for at least 1 day in the 7 days prior to data collection
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	63%
Borrow food or rely on help from relative(s) or friend(s)	36%
Limit portion size at meals	51%
Restrict consumption by adults for small children to eat	34%
Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day	46%

To understand food-based coping behaviour among HHs in a refugee-like situation, HHs were asked if and how many days they had applied a list of coping strategies, such as borrowing food or relying on help from relatives/friends, in the 7 days prior to data collection, **for each of the listed strategies (apart from relying on less preferred and less expensive food), half or more HHs reportedly did not have to engage in the behaviour to meet food needs.**

The most commonly reported strategy was relying on less preferred or less expensive food, which was reportedly employed by 20% of HHs during the 7 days prior to the assessment. In Shirak, HHs in a refugee-like situation more commonly relied on the above-mentioned coping strategies, predominantly relying on less preferred or less expensive food, and restricting consumption by adults for small children to eat (40% of HHs in Shirak, for both cases). This is consistent with the relatively low monthly income reported by HHs, as well as Shirak having one of the higher portions of HHs reporting HH head unemployment (60%) and dependence on aid (40%).

Food consumption is a complex phenomenon. Some foods are favored over others due to availability, affordability, and cultural habits, while others can be consumed less for the opposite reasons. **Considering eating habits of hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation, assessed HHs in both population groups were found to have similar dietary diversity with slight variations** in terms of consuming specific food categories, particularly oil and fat products, cereals, and roots/ tubers, which were less commonly reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation.

Table 4. Key commodities consumed by HHs in a refugee-like situation during seven days prior to data collection

	0 days	1 days	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7 days
Vegetables and leaves	16%	11%	22%	16%	11%	5%	4%	13%
Fruits	8%	12%	18%	17%	11%	8%	4%	20%
Meat or fish	15%	24%	21%	16%	9%	5%	2%	6%
Eggs	10%	11%	15%	18%	14%	8%	3%	18%
Pulses, nuts, seeds (lentils, beans, nuts)	11%	9%	16%	15%	16%	11%	6%	13%
Dairy products	8%	7%	15%	18%	11%	8%	6%	23%
Oil and fat (salo, butter, sunflower oil)	1%	1%	4%	4%	4%	9%	7%	68%
Sugar or sweets (cakes, chocolate, sugary cold drinks)	5%	4%	11%	15%	12%	8%	7%	36%
Condiments and spices (tea/coffee, spices)	0%	0%	1%	2%	6%	4%	6%	78%
Cereals (grains, bread, pasta)	0%	1%	4%	6%	4%	8%	9%	66%
Roots and tubers (potato, onion, beet)	1%	1%	5%	7%	13%	15%	13%	44%

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite indicator that measures diversification of a person's diet, food consumption frequency, and the nutritional value of different food groups based on a seven-day recall of food consumed at the HH level.[15] Findings demonstrate that the share of HHs in a refugee-like situation with a "poor" FCS was 2.3%, and 5.2% of HHs had a "borderline" FCS. Across all assessed marzes, findings suggest FCS scores were relatively lower in Aragatsotn, where 17.6% of the assessed HHs had a "borderline" FCS. Yerevan and Ararat register highest shares of HHs with a "poor" FCS (6.7% and 4.3%, respectively). Noteworthy, food consumption scores were highest in Vayots Dzor, where 100% of the HHs had an acceptable FCS.

Figure 23. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by FCS

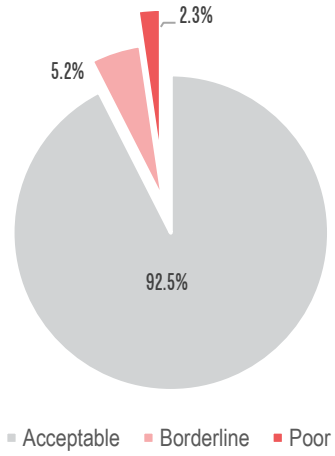


Table 5. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by FCS, by MSNA rounds

	MSNA 1st round	MSNA 2nd round
Acceptable	83.9%	92.5%
Borderline	12.3%	5.2%
Poor	3.8%	2.3%

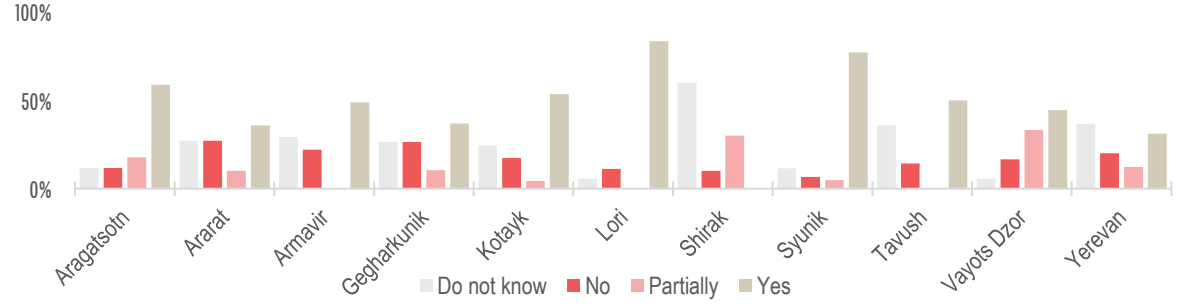
The proportion of HHs with "borderline" and "poor" food consumption scores appears to have declined since the first round of MSNA in December 2020 (according to RMSNA findings, 12.3% of HHs in a refugee-like situation had a "borderline" FCS, and 3.8% a "poor" FCS) (see table 5).

[15] Food Security Cluster, Food Security and Livelihoods Indicator Handbook, 2020

Education

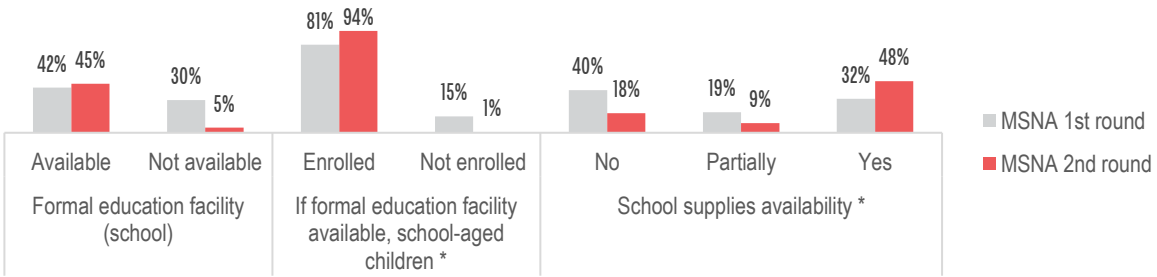
A notably small proportion of HHs reported no education or childcare facilities available to children of kindergarten/pre-school/school-going age in the HH (5% of HHs in a refugee-like situation). Of the 45% HHs that reported availability of formal education facilities for child(ren) in their HH, more than 90% reported the children in their HH were enrolled in school (up from 81%, according to RMSNA in December), with 5% not sure/refusing to answer, **and only 1% of HHs in a refugee-like situation reporting their school-aged children were not attending formal education,** including remote studying. Of 6% of HHs in a refugee-like situation that reported availability of a kindergarten, 19% of HHs reported the children were not enrolled in it – all of whom were residing in Armavir (100% of the assessed HHs there reporting this) and Yerevan (50% of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation reporting this).

Figure 24. Proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation by the availability of school supplies, by marzes *
** Findings relate to a subset of HHs reporting on the availability/non-availability of a formal or informal educational facility for HH children (60%)*



Furthermore, **of those HHs who did not report having no children in the HH or having children too small to attend an educational facility, 18% reported that the children in their HH did not have all the school supplies needed for education** (stationery, textbooks, etc.). This proportion is lower than during the previous round, when 40% HHs in a refugee-like situation reported their child(ren) not having school supplies. Based on the current MSNA findings, highest share of HHs reporting not having supplies was residing in Ararat and Gegharkunik – 27% and 26%, respectively. HHs in these marzes reported a high percentage of school attendance, irrespective of the low availability of school supplies, with 77% of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation in Ararat and 100% in Gegharkunik reporting all the HH school-aged children in their HH attending school (including remote studying).

Figure 25. School availability, attendance, and school supplies availability among HHs in a refugee-like situation, by MSNA rounds
** Findings relate to a subset of HHs reporting on the availability/non-availability of a formal or informal educational facility for HH children (60%)*



Among those HHs in a refugee-like situation reporting that students (in university/college/vocational schools) in their HH did not continue their studies in RA (4%), 36% reported the conflict situation as the most common barrier to education. The second most commonly reported reason for students in the assessed HHs to not continue education was the need to work to take care of HH needs (reported by 18% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation). This was the main reason highlighted by all assessed HHs in Ararat and half of HHs in Kotayk.

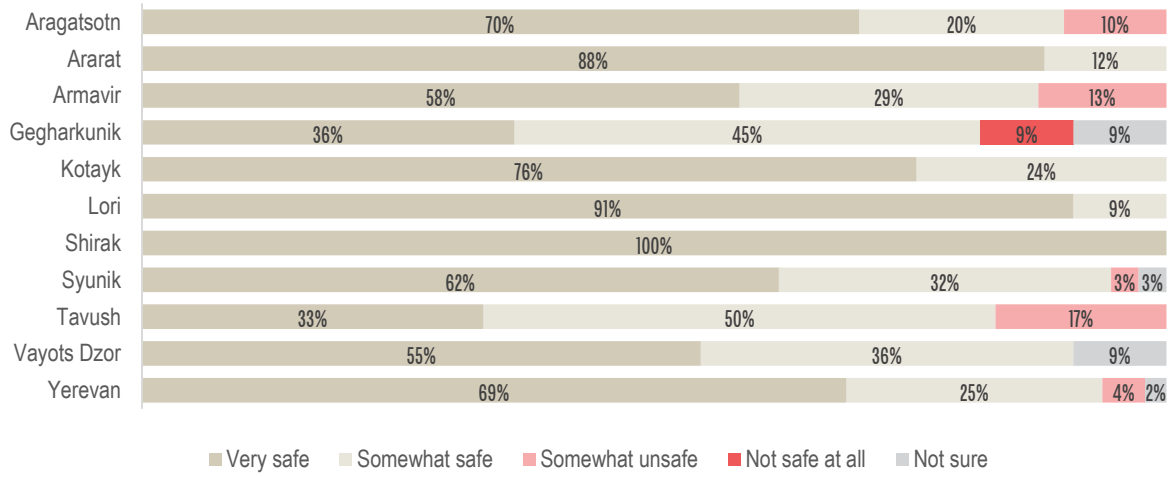
Findings related to the hosting HHs

Protection

No major protection issues were identified in the case of hosting HHs, with only a few of them reporting taking care of unrelated minors, therefore there is a non-significant quota for further analysis and generalized conclusions. Only 4% of the assessed hosting HHs reported having pregnant women in the HH, and 7% reported having lactating women.

In terms of safety perceptions, **95% of hosting HHs reported members of HH feeling "very safe" or "somewhat safe" in their current place of residency** (similar to the previous round). Shirak and Lori registered the highest proportions of HHs with the perception of safety – with 100% of HHs in Shirak and 91% of HHs in Lori indicating feeling very safe. **Only 0.4% of hosting HHs reported feeling "not safe at all" (all of whom in Gegharkunik, where 9% of the assessed HHs reported this), and 3% reported feeling "somewhat unsafe".** Tavush and Armavir had relatively high proportions of hosting HHs who reported feeling somewhat unsafe (17% and 13%, respectively). Tavush also registered the lowest share of assessed HHs reporting feeling very safe (33%).

Figure 26. Proportion of hosting HHs by their perception of safety in their current place of residency, by marzes



The share of indebted HHs continues to be high. On average, **59% of the assessed hosting HHs reported having debts (up from 52% in the previous round).** Particularly in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor, the proportion of indebted HHs was relatively high – 82% for both marzes. The average reported debt of those HHs with debts was 2,1 million AMD (approx. 4,040 USD), which is 1.75 times more than the average reported debt of hosting HHs found during the RMSNA in December 2020 (1.2 million AMD (approx. 2,500 USD)). While the highest average reported debt was found in Lori – 6,375,000 AMD, translating to approximately 12,200 USD, the highest HH debt load was found in Yerevan – with the amount equal to approximately 38,300 USD.

It is beyond the current MSNA framework to independently conclude whether this debt is directly connected with the conflict, nevertheless, the socio-economic changes in the country (5.78% inflation rate and consumer price index change in March 2021 as compared to the same period in 2020) [16] might indicate the impact of the conflict (as well as COVID-19) on the ability of the hosting HHs to provide for their own HH, and in the long-term perspective, their ability to support the HHs in a refugee-like situation (consistent with the RMSNA findings and conclusions).

[16] Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Statistical Indicators

Accountability to the affected population and cross-cutting issues

This section provides an overview of priority humanitarian needs as reported by hosting HHs. HHs were asked to list their first, second, and third priority needs, with **the most commonly reported top priorities for hosting HHs being cash (38% of HHs), food (23%), and shelter-related needs (15%).** An outstanding share of assessed hosting HHs (28%) indicated they had no needs for the third pick. This figure has declined since the RMSNA in December when 43% of HHs reported no needs as a third pick. This might suggest that the longer the crisis lasts, the more challenges hosting HHs are facing and the more they need assistance to be able to cope with those and continue supporting HHs in a refugee-like situation.

Table 6.. Reported first, second, and third priority needs of hosting HHs

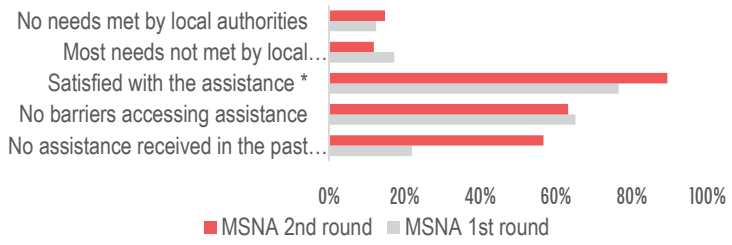
	1st	2nd	3rd
Baby items	0%	1%	2%
Cash	38%	23%	15%
Clothes	2%	8%	9%
Cooking materials	0%	2%	4%
Do not know/refuse to answer	2%	4%	6%
Food	23%	26%	9%
Medicines	5%	3%	6%
No needs	9%	18%	28%
Sanitation and hygiene products	0%	2%	9%
Shelter	15%	5%	2%
Sleeping materials	1%	4%	4%
Support with livelihoods	3%	2%	5%

In a separate question, **64% of HHs highlighted cash as the type of assistance needed to continue hosting HHs in a refugee-like situation**, with food as the next priority (for 57%). Major challenges hosting HHs reported to face/have faced while hosting people in a refugee-like situation were increased expenses on utilities (for 68% of HHs), on food (for 64% of HHs), and on HH items (for 51% of HHs). The highest share of HHs reporting lack of space as a challenge was found in Aragatsotn (70%). Also in Aragatsotn, 20% of HHs reported tension with hosted HHs.

Most assistance was believed to have come from municipalities (56%). Over half of the hosting HHs reported that local authorities either fully or partially met all / most of their needs, with Tavush the only marz where all the assessed HHs reported this. **Overall, 15% of HHs did not think local authorities met any of their needs**. In terms of the humanitarian assistance received in the 30 days before data collection, hosting HHs reported having received food (33% of HHs) and sanitation and hygiene products (20%). **A considerable proportion of HHs reported having received no assistance (57%)**, which is 2.5 times more than reported in the previous round. All the respondents in Shirak indicated not having received any humanitarian assistance with Lori, Aragatsotn, and Yerevan also registering high shares of HHs claiming this – 82%, 80%, and 79% of HHs, respectively. Most of those who had received humanitarian assistance (43%) were reportedly satisfied (89%). Of the HHs not satisfied with the assistance, 83% claimed the quantity was not sufficient. Most HHs reported no barriers to access humanitarian aid in the 30 days before data collection (63%), 18% reported not knowing where to access it, and 6% claimed they were not eligible.

Figure 27. Humanitarian assistance satisfaction and barriers reported by hosting HHs, by MSNA rounds

** Findings relate to a subset of hosting HHs reporting having received assistance in 30 days prior to data collection (43%)*



In case HHs were to receive humanitarian assistance in the future, **most indicated they would prefer it in the form of physical cash (80% of HHs), and in some cases in-kind assistance (food: 38% of HHs; and shelter/NFIs: 30% of HHs).** Also, 6% of HHs reported they did not want to receive any humanitarian assistance. Although the reasons cannot be verified by this assessment, this response may be relating to the HHs' capacity to meet their own needs. While 21% of HHs claimed they would not like to receive any information from aid providers, 31% reported they would be interested to get news on finding missing people and the situation in the country. The most preferred means to receive information from aid workers appeared to be phone calls, and for feedback provision– face-to-face meetings with aid workers.

Shelter and non-food items (NFIs)

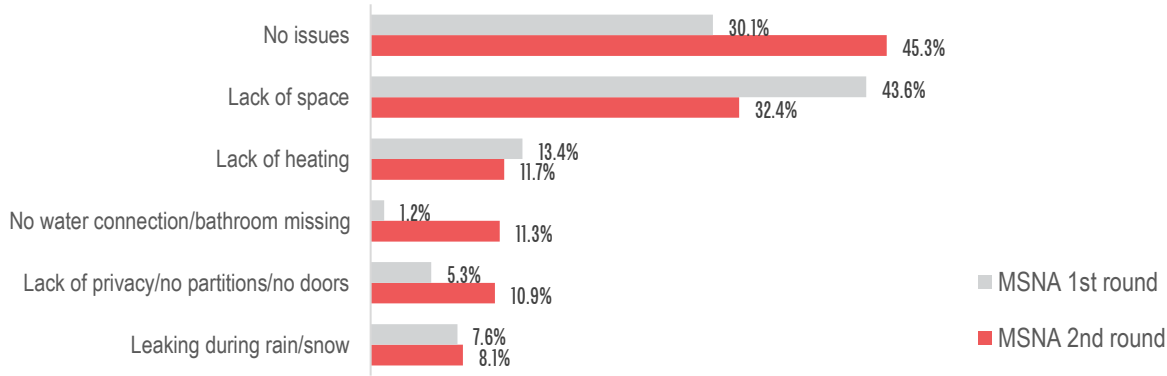
For analytical purposes, the living situation of hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation (in the 3 months prior to data collection) was divided into 3 categories: 1) living/lived in separate accommodation; 2) sharing/shared only accommodation with another HH but not incomes; 3) temporarily sharing/shared accommodation and income with another HH.

Figure 28. Proportion of hosting HHs by the reported living situation in the 3 months prior to data collection

Overall, most of the assessed HHs reported temporarily sharing/having shared accommodation and income with another HH (78%) since December 2020. In Kotayk and Aragatsotn, the proportion of HHs reporting this was notably high; 95% and 90%, respectively, as compared to other marzes. The highest proportion of HHs living in separate accommodation and not sharing income was found in Armavir (42%).

In the second round of the MSNA, **45% of the assessed HHs reported that their current accommodation did not have any issues**, which is higher than in the previous round. The highest share of HHs reporting not having shelter issues was found in Lori (73%). **The issue most commonly reported by hosting HHs was lack of space (for 32% of HHs).** Lack of space was most commonly reported in Vayots Dzor (by 64% of HHs), while it was not reported at all in Gegharkunik. However, it should be noted that there is no information available on the temporality of this answer, hence it cannot be established on the basis of this data whether there has been a lack of space before hosting other HHs.

Figure 29. Top five most commonly reported shelter issues, by % of hosting HHs, by MSNA rounds
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



A notably high proportion of hosting HHs reported not having any accommodation needs at the time of data collection (46%), while in Gegharkunik, only 27% of HHs reported this. **The most commonly reported accommodation need for hosting HHs was the need to improve privacy and dignity, reported by 29% of HHs, which is consistent with the most common issue found to be a lack of space.** It is worth mentioning

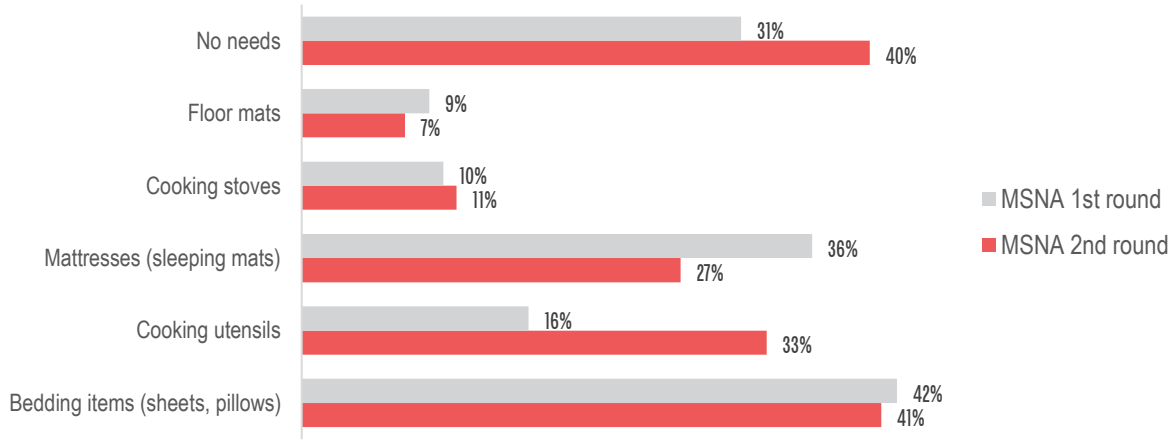
that more than half of the assessed HHs in Gegharkunik indicated protection from climatic conditions as the priority accommodation need, while for other marzes, the proportion of HHs highlighting this need did not surpass 20%.

Central heating emerged as the service that was least commonly available in the HHs' accommodation, with 56% of HHs reporting that central heating was available, with the lowest coverage in Armavir (29%). Similarly, a low proportion of HHs in Ararat (33%) reported availability of a centralized piped water supply. Most of the assessed HHs reported that electricity and gas were available in their accommodation (91% and 90% respectively).

Consistently, hosting HHs reported mostly using gas and electricity as the primary type of fuel for heating across all assessed marzes. Findings indicate that a relatively high percentage of hosting HHs in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor were using wood for heating – reported by 73% and 55% of HHs, respectively.

A relatively high proportion of hosting HHs indicated not having any NFI needs for the HH (more than in the previous round), with the smallest proportion of HHs reporting this found in Aragatsotn (10%). **The most commonly reported NFIs that were needed were bedding items, cooking utensils, and mattresses.** The need for bedding items was relatively high in Kotayk (68% of HHs highlighting this), while the need for cooking utensils was particularly high in Vayots Dzor (55%) and Shirak (50%), and mattresses were commonly reported in Vayots Dzor (45%). In Tavush, half of the assessed HHs also reported needing floor mats.

Figure 30. Top five most commonly reported NFI needs, by % of hosting HHs, by MSNA rounds
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



In terms of personal insulation items, while most of the assessed HHs reported having all the suggested items, the following items were found to be most commonly unavailable in hosting HHs: mattresses, bedsheets, towels, and blankets. Compared to other marzes, a relatively high proportion of HHs were reportedly missing these items in Shirak.

While most of the assessed HHs reported having functional heater(s), functional stove(s), and refrigerator(s) in their place of accommodation, the functional movable heater was the most commonly reported lacking item; 26% of HHs reported lacking one. In Gegharkunik, only 18% of HHs reportedly had all these items, which represents the lowest proportion among all marzes. **The highest percentages of HHs lacking a movable heater were found in Aragatsotn (60%) and Syunik (59%).** During the summertime, this may not cause a great challenge for most of the HHs (except for HHs facing insulation problems in their place of accommodation, and the HHs residing in mountainous areas where cold weather is still prevalent in summer), but with the fall season these challenges may aggravate.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)

While most of the hosting HHs (91%) reported not having problems related to water access (down from 96% in the previous round), 30% and 24% of the assessed HHs in Aragatsotn and Ararat, respectively, reported having water access issues. Across all marzes, HHs with water access issues identified the following challenges: interruption of water supply (most common in Armavir, Syunik, and Yerevan), insufficient number of water points/waiting time at water points (most common in Gegharkunik and Shirak), and non-functioning or closed water points (most common in Armavir and Shirak).

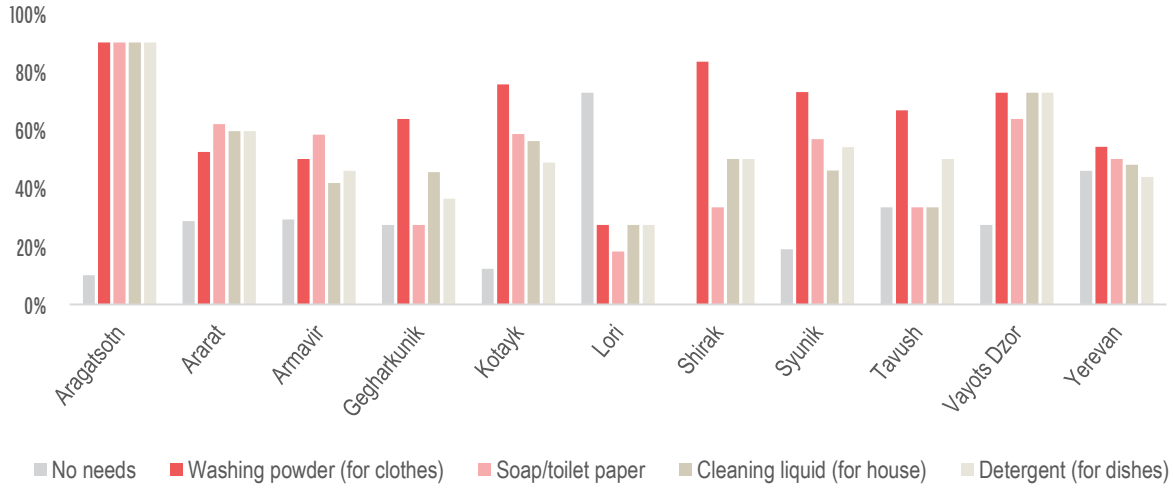
Most of the hosting HHs reported **centralized water supply/tap water as their main source of drinking water (94%),** with the lowest proportions reporting this found in Armavir and Ararat (79% of HHs in both marzes). However, relatively high proportions of HHs in Tavush (17%) and Armavir (13%) also reported water sellers/kiosks as the main source of drinking water, and trucked in water was highlighted as one of the main sources in Ararat (24%) and Armavir (17%). This is a contrast from winter (during the previous round of the MSNA), when bottled water was more commonly reported.

In terms of sanitation facilities (toilet/latrine), flush/pour flush toilets were found to be the most widely used facility across all marzes (lowest usage reported in Gegharkunik; 55% of HHs), followed by pit latrines without a slab/platform, which was used by **15%** of the assessed HHs.

Most of the hosting HHs reported having enough water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene, and other domestic purposes. Only 29% of the assessed HHs reported having enough water for irrigation. However, this is likely irrelevant for HHs not engaged in agriculture**. Additionally, water sufficiency for domestic purposes was identified as an issue in Tavush and Gegharkunik,** where only 17% and 36% of HHs, respectively, reported having enough water for these purposes.

Overall, **28% of hosting HHs reported not having WASH-related needs (down from 45% in the previous round),** while in Lori this proportion was the highest (73%). It is noteworthy that in Shirak, every single assessed hosting HH identified some water or hygiene need, followed by Aragatsotn and Kotayk, where only a small share of HHs reported not having any needs (10% and 12% respectively). **The most commonly reported WASH priority needs were washing powder for clothes, soap and toilet water, cleaning liquid for the house, and detergent for dishes (in descending order).** In Aragatsotn and Vayots Dzor, the above-mentioned WASH-related needs were relatively more commonly reported (90% of HHs in Aragatsotn and upwards of 64% of HHs in Vayots Dzor indicating all the above-mentioned needs) as compared to the rest of the marzes.

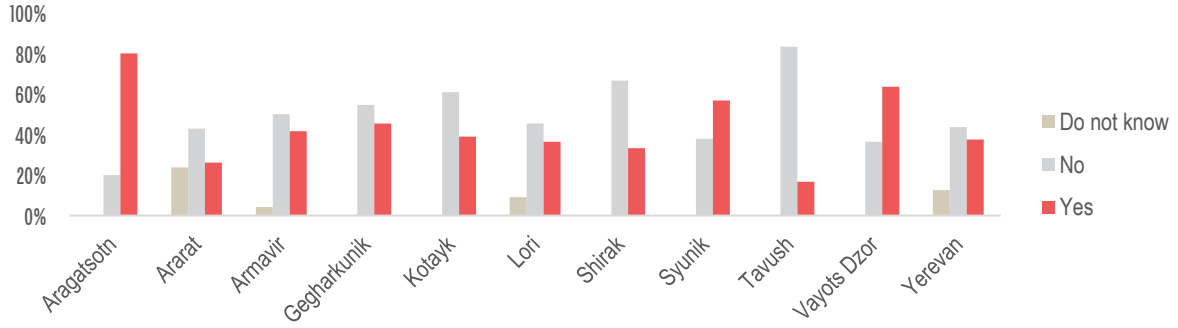
Figure 31. Proportion of hosting HHs by most commonly reported main WASH needs, by marzes
Respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Health

Overall, **42% of the assessed hosting HHs reported having needed specialized healthcare in the 3 months prior to data collection (down from 46% during previous round),** with the lowest share of HHs reporting such needs in Tavush (17%) and the highest share in Aragatsotn (80%). Of those HHs who needed specialized healthcare, **only 12% reported not having received the services needed. In addition, 6% reported not being able to contact a local healthcare provider or visit nearby health center.** The highest proportions of such HHs reporting were found in Aragatsotn and Syunik.

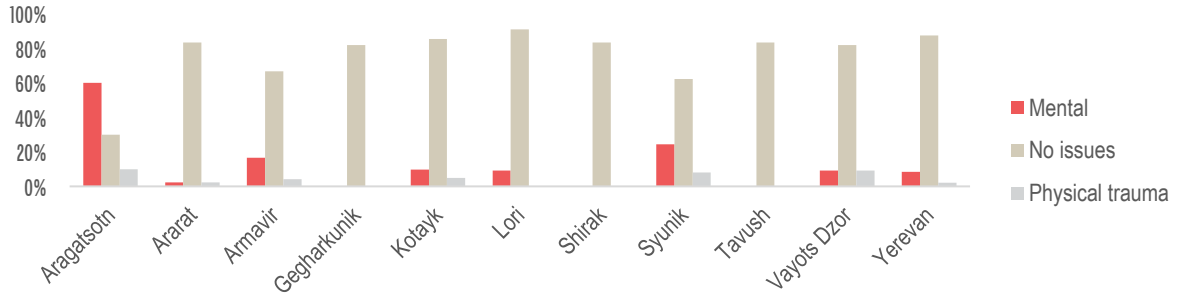
Figure 32. Proportion of hosting HHs reporting having needed specialized healthcare since December 2020



Only 2% of the assessed HHs reported having faced issues accessing needed healthcare services, and the major problem highlighted was the high cost of services and/or medicine. Only a few hosting HHs reported disruptions to the supply of their medication in the 6 months prior to the assessment.

While most of the assessed HHs reported not having conflict-associated health needs (78%), **12% of HHs reported having mental care needs, and 4% reported having needs associated with physical trauma.** The lowest proportion of hosting HHs reporting having no conflict-associated needs was found in Aragatsotn (30%), while in the case of the other marzes, the percentage of HHs reporting no issues was over 60%. The highest proportion of HHs (60%) reporting mental healthcare needs was also found in Aragatsotn.

Figure 33. Proportion of hosting HHs having conflict-associated health needs



A notably small proportion of HHs indicated they had a child due to receive vaccines during the three months prior to data collection (14%), 86% of them reported that the child had indeed received the vaccines. With 5% of these HHs refusing to answer, only 9% of HHs reported the child(ren) in the HH did not receive the vaccines.

More than half of the assessed hosting HHs reported knowing about mental health (emotional, psychological, and behavioral well-being) services available nearby in case someone in the HH needed it, the share of HHs aware of such services appears to have grown since the December RMSNA assessment, when 43% of HHs highlighted being aware of these services. Relatively high proportions of HHs not knowing about such services were found in Aragatsotn (60% of HHs) and Syunik (57% of HHs).

Livelihoods

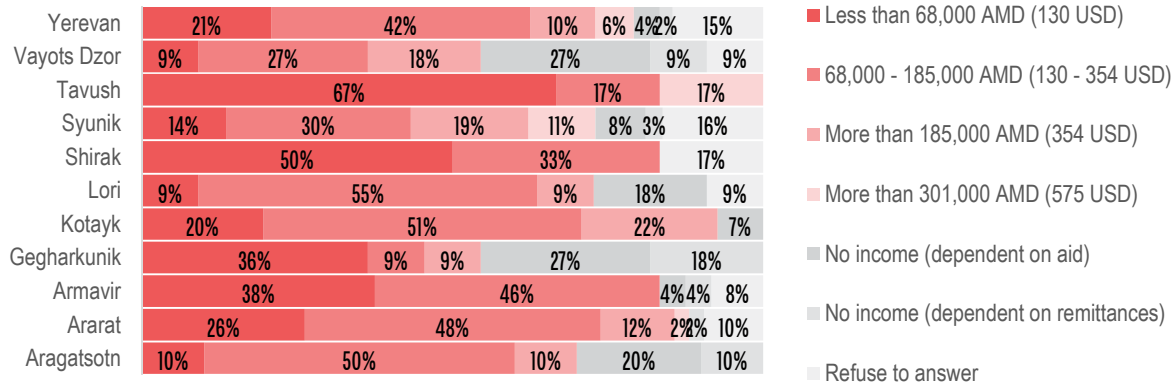
Similar to the previous round, **the most commonly reported primary source of income among hosting HHs was formal paid work (reported by 42% of HHs).** HHs in Yerevan (52%), Shirak (50%) and Syunik (49%) relatively commonly reported paid work as a primary income source, compared to other marzes. Other significant sources of income were pensions (for 34% of HHs), social protection (21%), and informal paid work (16%). Only 6% of hosting HHs reported having no primary source of income (down from 12% in the previous round), with the highest proportion of HHs reporting this found in Gegharkunik (18%).

Table 7. Most commonly reported primary sources of income of hosting HHs, by marzes

	Aragatsotn	Ararat	Armavir	Gegharkunik	Kotayk	Lori	Shirak	Syunik	Tavush	Vayots Dzor	Yerevan
No source of income	10%	7%	4%	18%	2%	9%	0%	8%	0%	9%	2%
Paid work (formal)	40%	40%	38%	9%	41%	36%	50%	49%	33%	36%	52%
Pensions	20%	29%	29%	36%	32%	45%	33%	46%	33%	27%	35%
Paid work (informal)	30%	12%	21%	9%	20%	0%	33%	5%	0%	9%	27%
Social protection	40%	26%	17%	18%	20%	27%	17%	27%	17%	36%	6%
Financial support from friends and family	10%	10%	8%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Used savings	0%	5%	4%	18%	2%	0%	0%	5%	0%	9%	4%
Loans/borrowed money	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	0%
Remittances	10%	2%	4%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%

Overall, 11% of hosting HHs reported being dependent either on aid or remittances. For 23% of hosting HHs overall household income per month was less than 68,000 Armenian Dram (AMD) / 130 United States Dollars (USD).

Figure 34. Proportion of hosting HHs by the reported overall monthly income, by marzes



The average reported monthly expenditure for hosting HHs was 173,154 AMD (approx. 331 USD**). Average reported food expenditure for hosting HHs made up 51.6% of HH spending.** This percentage was particularly high in Tavush, where average spending on food made 59.3% of average expenditures. The share of indebted HHs continues to be high, more details can be found in the respective Protection findings section.

The most commonly reported items for purchased domestic consumption (in 30 days prior to the data collection) were food, utilities, communication, and soap/HH items (in descending order).

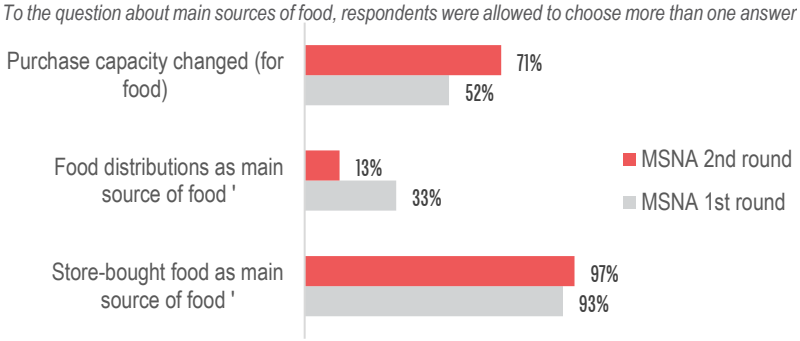
Food security

For over 90% of the assessed hosting HHs (across all marzes and separately in every marz), store-bought food was reportedly one of the main food sources, and, overall, only 13% of HHs (partially) relied on food distributions (down from 33% in the previous round). In Kotayk and Tavush, a relatively high proportion of HHs reported food distributions as a main source (37% and 33%, respectively), with the same share of HHs also reporting food assistance from their family and friends as a source. Noteworthy, 18% of hosting HHs in Vayots Dzor and 14% in Syunik highlighted (partially) relying on their own production (crops, animal).

Irrespective of the overall high reliance on store-bought food, simultaneous reliance on other food sources, including food distributions or assistance from family and friends, may mean that hosting households use these sources as a cost-reducing mechanism, which also may increase their capacity to continue hosting HHs in a refugee-like situation. Although this cannot be verified in the scope of this MSNA, it is reflected in the high proportion of HHs reporting change in their capacity to purchase food.

Figure 35. Food purchase capacity and main sources of food reported by % of hosting HHs, by MSNA rounds

' To the question about main sources of food, respondents were allowed to choose more than one answer



Most of the hosting HHs reported a change in their ability to purchase food compared to one year ago. In Gegharkunik, over 90% of the HHs reported purchase capacity changed, the highest share among all marzes. It is important to note that, in the survey, it was not specified whether this change was a relative increase or a decrease.

Table 8. Coping strategies by % of hosting HHs

Coping strategies	% of HHs applying the strategy for at least 1 day in the 7 days prior to data collection
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	68%
Borrow food or rely on help from relative(s) or friend(s)	45%
Limit portion size at meals	48%
Restrict consumption by adults for small children to eat	37%
Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day	45%

On average, **over half of the assessed hosting HHs reportedly did not have to employ coping strategies (because of a lack of food or money to buy it),** such as borrowing food or relying on help from relatives or friends, limiting portion sizes at meals, restricting consumption by adults for small children to eat, reducing the number of meals eaten in a day. **The most commonly reported employed strategy was relying on less preferred or less expensive food,** which had reportedly been employed by 21% of hosting HHs during the 7 days prior to the assessment. In Syunik and Aragatsotn, a relatively high proportion of HHs reported having used this coping mechanism (by 32% and 30% of HHs, respectively), which may be reflected in the relatively high head of HH unemployment rates in Aragatsotn and Syunik, where 59% and 57% of surveyed HHs, respectively, reported their heads of HH were unemployed.

In Tavush, a considerable proportion of HHs limited portion sizes at meals and/or reduced number of meals eaten each day (33% of HHs reporting this in the case of both coping mechanisms) to cope with the lack of food or money

to buy it. This is consistent with the average income rate in Tavush, with the findings demonstrating the highest proportion of HHs (67%) reporting an income of less than 68,000 AMD compared to other marzes, in addition to its high apparent unemployment rate in the surveyed hosting HHs (with only 17% of HHs reporting head of HH engaged in a permanent paid work).

Table 9. Key commodities consumed by hosting HHs during seven days prior to data collection

	0 days	1 days	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7 days
Vegetables and leaves	16%	13%	20%	17%	8%	4%	2%	19%
Fruits	12%	11%	19%	18%	9%	8%	2%	17%
Meat or fish	19%	21%	26%	13%	9%	3%	1%	5%
Eggs	6%	9%	17%	19%	22%	7%	4%	15%
Pulses, nuts, seeds (lentils, beans, nuts)	8%	14%	18%	22%	13%	13%	3%	8%
Dairy products	8%	6%	14%	15%	14%	11%	4%	26%
Oil and fat (salo, butter, sunflower oil)	0%	0%	1%	4%	4%	6%	8%	74%
Sugar or sweets (cakes, chocolate, sugary cold drinks)	2%	4%	7%	14%	18%	13%	6%	34%
Condiments and spices (tea/coffee, spices)	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	3%	6%	85%
Cereals (grains, bread, pasta)	0%	0%	1%	4%	6%	8%	7%	70%
Roots and tubers (potato, onion, beet)	1%	0%	4%	8%	11%	13%	11%	51%

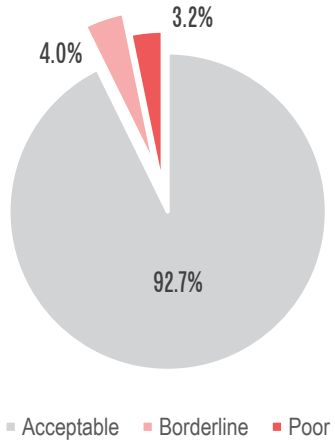
The proportion of hosting HHs with a "poor" FCS was 3.2%. Furthermore, 4% of hosting HHs were found to have a "borderline" FCS. Across all assessed marzes, findings suggest FCS scores were relatively lower in Aragatsotn, where 20% of the assessed HHs had a "borderline" FCS, as well as in Lori and Gegharkunik where in both marzes 18% of HHs had either "borderline" or "poor" FCS. The highest share of HHs with a "poor" FCS (10%) was found in Ararat.

It is noteworthy that the FCSs were highest in Shirak, Tavush, and Vayots Dzor, where 100% of the assessed HHs had an acceptable FCS.

Table 10. Proportion of hosting HHs by FCS, by MSNA rounds

	MSNA 1st round	MSNA 2nd round
Acceptable	96.4%	92.7%
Borderline	3.2%	4.0%
Poor	0.4%	3.2%

Figure 36. Proportion of hosting HHs by FCS

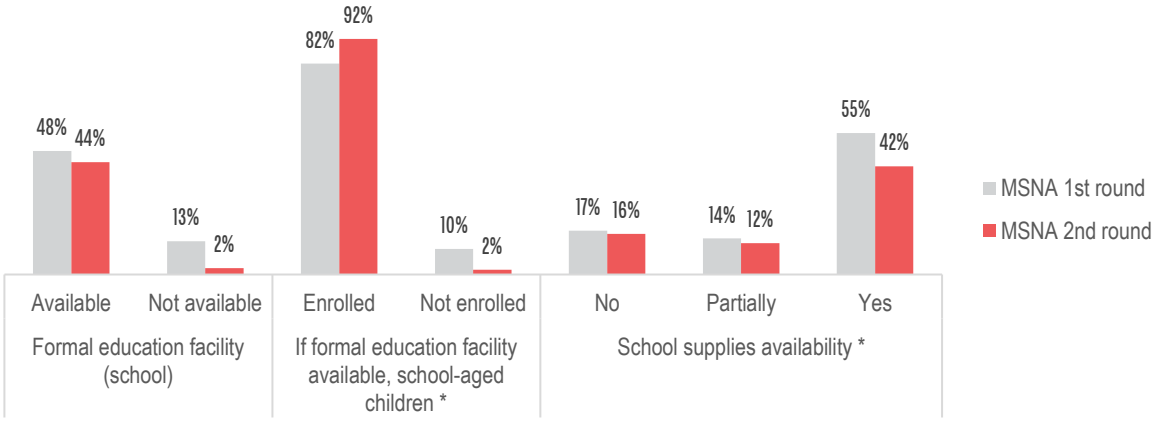


The proportion of hosting HHs with "borderline" and "poor" food consumption is slightly higher than those registered during the first round of the MSNA in December 2020 (according to RMSNA findings, only 3% of hosting HHs had a "borderline" FCS, and almost 0% - "poor" FCS), which may, among other things, relate to the prolonged challenges of hosting other HHs, as well as the socio-economic situation in the country.

Education

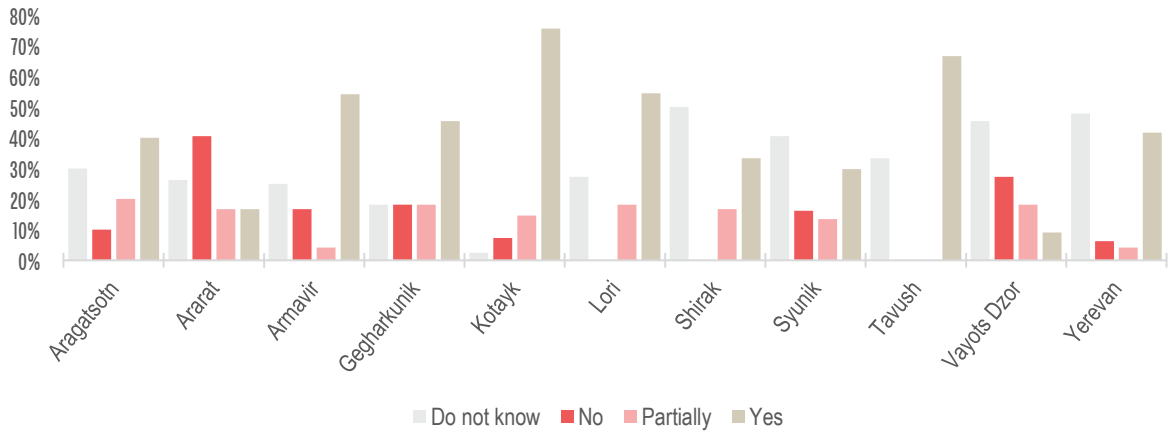
A considerably low proportion of HHs reported no education or childcare facilities available to children of kindergarten/pre-school/school-going age in the HH (2% of hosting HHs). Among the 44% of HHs that reported availability of a formal education facility for child(ren) in their HH, 92% reported school-aged children were enrolled in school, with 6% not sure/refusing to answer. O**nly 2% of hosting HHs reported their school-aged children were not attending formal education,** including remote studying. Of the 8% of hosting HHs that reported availability of a formal education facility (kindergarten), no HH reported any eligible children in their HH that were not enrolled.

Figure 37. School availability, attendance, and school supply availability rates among hosting HHs, by MSNA rounds
** Findings relate to a subset of HHs reporting on the availability of a formal or informal educational facility for HH children (55%)*



Overall, **of those HHs who did not report having no children in the HH or having children too small to attend an educational facility, 16% reported not having all the school supplies needed for education (stationery, textbooks, etc.).** Findings demonstrate the highest percentages of HHs reporting this in Ararat and Vayots Dzor– 40% and 27%, respectively. On the other hand, the highest shares of HHs reporting full availability of school supplies were found in Kotayk (76%) and Tavush (67%). While 100% of the assessed HHs in Vayots Dzor reported all their school-age children attended school, only 59% of assessed HHs in Ararat reported school attendance (41% not sure/refusing to answer). Nevertheless, no causal path can be established between the lack of school supplies and the non-attendance rate based on the findings of MSNA.

Figure 38. Proportion of hosting HHs by the availability of school supplies, by marzes *
**** Findings relate to a subset of HHs reporting on the availability of a formal or informal educational facility for HH children** (55%)*



Conclusion

The second round of the MSNA aimed to evaluate the change in core humanitarian needs after the winter and the intentions of people in a refugee-like situation in terms of durable solutions. The findings indicate that the current displacement situation is less dynamic compared to the previous round; with regard to HHs' intentions to move or return to their area of origin, **almost all (93.4%) HHs in a refugee-like situation expressed having no intentions to move** (including those who would move only if it was safe to return home) **or were unable to communicate their intentions,** suggesting their displacement situation is entering a more protracted phase. Those HHs that were planning to move most commonly reported intending to go back to large cities of NK such as Stepanakert and Martuni, or other cities in Armenia.

Compared to the previous round of MSNA in Armenia, HHs in a refugee-like situation were specifically asked if they knew about the status of their shelter in the AoO in terms of conflict-related damage. While **most HHs (54%) did not know what the status of their shelter in their area of origin was,** 17% believed that their shelter had sustained no damage due to the conflict.

Findings suggest that people's perception of safety at the current place has worsened among the population in a refugee-like situation since the previous round in December 2020, especially in such marzes as Syunik. Overall, **10% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation reported not feeling safe at all and 6% reported feeling rather unsafe.**

While the reported sector-specific needs did not drastically change compared to the previous round, findings indicate that the employment status of the population in a refugee-like situation has changed considerably after the conflict**; the share of unemployed HHs has tripled since the conflict, while the share of those who had permanent paid jobs has decreased twice**. However, since the previous round of the MSNA in December 2020, an indicative but relatively positive trend has been observed in terms of engagement in income-generating activities for the HHs in a refugee-like situation since December 2020, although the proportion of HHs reporting this remains low. Similarly, the proportion of HHs in a refugee-like situation with unemployed HH heads appears to have decreased slightly.

Priority needs for hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation appeared to be similar to those reported in the previous round. Findings suggest that **shelter, cash, and food were the main priority needs among the HHs in a refugee-like situation** (descending order). For host HHs, these needs are relatively similar: cash and food.

Considering eating habits of hosting HHs and HHs in a refugee-like situation, assessed HHs in both population groups were found to have similar dietary diversity with slight variations in terms of consuming specific food categories, particularly oil and fat products, cereals, and roots/ tubers, which were less commonly reported by HHs in a refugee-like situation. In terms of food consumption, the vast majority of HHs were found to have an acceptable FCS across both population groups, indicating that most people have access to sufficient and relatively diverse food. While for HHs in a refugee-like population a slight decline could be observed in the share of HHs with "borderline" and "poor" FCS (compared to the first round in December), these indicators appear to have increased for hosting HHs, suggesting growing challenges faced by the hosting HHs. Additionally, average reported food expenditure for HHs made up 50% or more of HH spending for both population groups.

Overall, **75% of the HHs in a refugee-like situation reported not facing any issues and barriers related to receiving humanitarian assistance,** and only **13% reportedly did not know where to receive it.** In case the HHs were to receive humanitarian assistance in the future, **HHs most commonly indicated they would prefer receiving it in the form of physical cash** (88% of HHs in a refugee-like situation and 80% of hosting HHs), and in some cases in-kind assistance such as food and shelter/NFIs. **In a similar vein, cash and food were also identified as the kind of primary assistance that hosting HHs would need to continue hosting HHs in a refugee-like situation.**

While these findings inform the humanitarian community in Armenia on the key sector needs across marzes, they also illuminate persisting limitations and knowledge gaps, which could be further explored in future assessments. For instance, information gaps continue to exist concerning the situation in collective centers and the movements to and from NK. Additionally, with the movement situation becoming less dynamic and most of the assessed HHs in a refugee-like situation not intending to move or being unable to communicate their concrete intentions, their prolonged stay in Armenia may create the necessity for longer-term response plans and assistance in ensuring proper livelihoods during their extended stay. This correlates with the observed positive trend in terms of income-generating activities undertaken by HHs in a refugee-like situation. While the current assessment cannot independently make predictions for the upcoming months, livelihood development forms an important sector for further and more in-depth research and analysis, to better advise the respective response plans and interventions.

Annexes

Annex 1. Enumerator training agenda

1. **About REACH**
2. **Objectives of the assessment**
3. **Sampling and the outreach strategies**
   - Sampling methodology
   - Sample size for population groups
   - Outreach strategies
4. **Structure of the questionnaire**
   - Duration
   - Target groups of population
   - Sectors covered
   - Ethical considerations
   - Overview of the questions
5. **Introduction to Kobo**
   - Why Kobo?
   - Structure and hierarchy of the questions (including skip logic)
6. **How to work with mobile data collection app**
7. **Test of the questionnaire in Kobo**