





## Assessment of the education and protection needs of children who moved to Armenia as a result of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict



### The assessment:

-  Was conducted in the months of May and June, 2021
-  Covered Yerevan and 5 provinces of Armenia: Kotayk, Armavir, Ararat, Syunik and Gegharkunik
-  Includes 64 individual interviews
-  Includes 824 responses to the online questionnaire

Because of the Nagorno - Karabakh conflict that started in September 2020, thousands of families and children were forced to flee their homes. Many children living in Armenia also had many difficulties during those days.



“Institute of Public Policy” and “Save the Children International” spoke with children, their parents, teachers and other professionals to find out how the conflict affected the children.

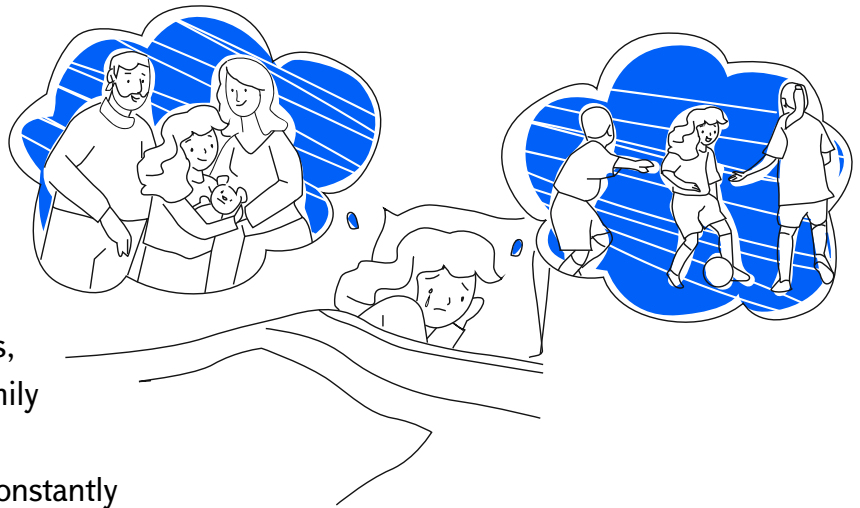
*The children told us what happened when they had to flee and move to Armenia.*

Many children had to leave everything they loved. They had to leave their home, friends, school, toys and playgrounds.

They missed all of it, and wanted to return home. They now lived in a new place with people they did not know before.

There were also changes to their families, because unfortunately many people lost family members and relatives.

Many children slept restlessly at night, constantly waking up, waiting for news from their relatives.



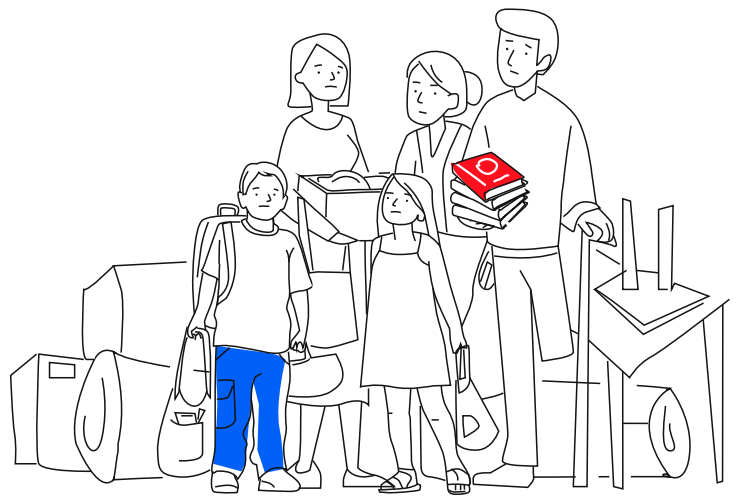
Due to the difference in dialect, some children find it difficult to understand the material provided at their new school and speaking with their new classmates.

It is a whole new environment for the children with new classmates and teachers. They need to get to know everyone and make new friends.

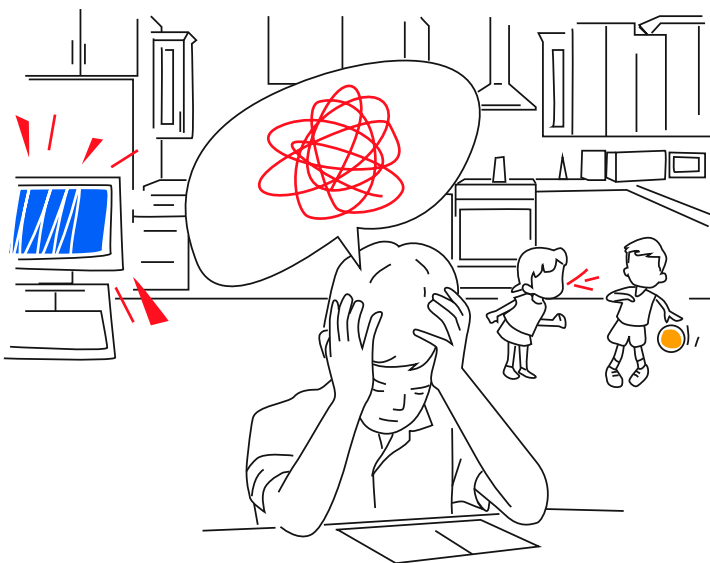
Before, in Nagorno-Karabakh they were used to smaller classrooms with fewer children and now many find it difficult to adjust to the large classrooms of the new schools.



Many children also had to move several times. So, after first getting used to a new place, they had to change their house or apartment and had to adapt to the new environment and people all over again, which is not so easy.



*Half of the children displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh have changed their school in Armenia at least once (and more times) due to a change of residence.*



Many students are finding it hard to focus in class. Many of the Armenian classmates are experiencing this as well.

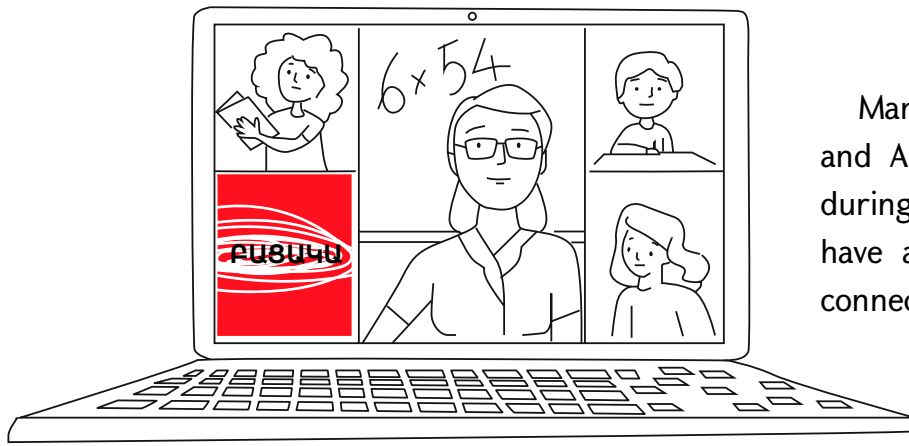
Doing their homework in the new environment, especially when there is no separate, quiet room, desk or computer is also a big challenge.

Unfortunately, there were many cases when children did not attend school for several weeks because they were moving from one place to another or the family was going through a hard time.

*One in three children displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh missed classes for 3 to 6 weeks.*

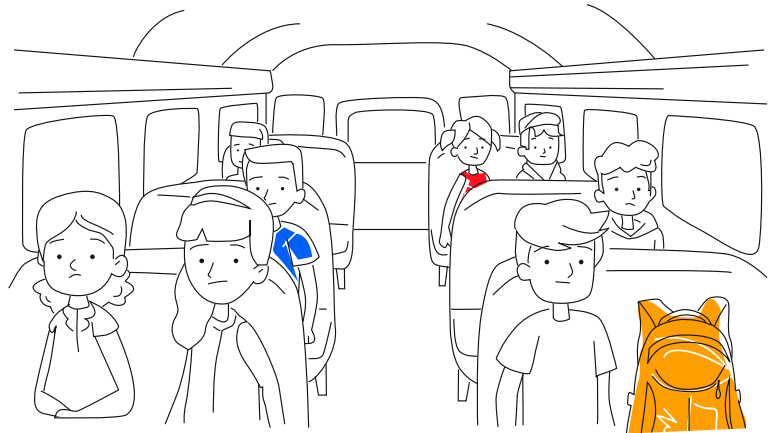
Many children also need help to make up for classes they have missed. Both teachers and family members have tried to help with this. However, there are children who have not received support like this from anyone. They have tried to fill in the gap on their own, for example, by reading textbooks.





Many children in both Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia did not attend online classes during pandemic, because they did not have a computer, smartphone, or internet connection.

Children were used to going to school on foot in their home villages or towns, but now, in the new community, some of them have to use transport and spend a lot of time on the road.



Some of the children displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh have started learning new, unfamiliar subjects at school. For example:

- French
- English
- German
- The history of Armenian Church
- Chess

Learning any new subject is difficult and time consuming.

In the new schools, many children also did not have textbooks for all subjects making it even more difficult.

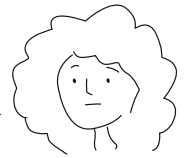
*Remember, every child in Armenia must study for 12 years, as 12-year education is compulsory.*

*Children and adults presented their ideas and suggestions for what can be done to help with this situation.*



*Teachers also need support, for example, special courses. The more prepared and strong they are, the better they can work with new students.*

*There should be different specialists at schools (social workers, psychologists, teacher's assistants) to help the children quickly adapt to the new school.*



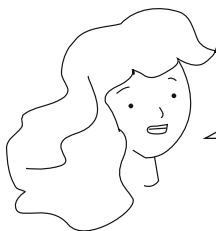
*Laws on education need to be changed so that no child is left out of school and receives the support he or she needs.*

*If the school is far away, children should have safe transportation that will take them to class every day.*



*Parents and children need to be informed that 12-year education is compulsory. Children should attend either a school or a college.*

*In the same way, students who are taking completely new subjects (especially foreign languages) should be supported.*



*Children who have missed a lot of classes should receive support. Additional classes and extracurricular clubs can be organized for them.*



*Books on all subjects should be provided on time.*



*As a result, every child will feel protected and accepted at school.*

