

# Alert

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**Country: Armenia/ Azerbaijan**

## Emergency Response to the Nagorno - Karabakh conflict

Geneva, 04 April 2016

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

#### Situation Overview

Heavy fighting erupted between Armenian and Azerbaijan forces on 2 April along the southern, south-eastern and north-eastern parts of the Line of Contact in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. This is the largest fighting since the ceasefire agreement of 1994. Official sources from the government of Armenia state that 18 soldiers and 3 civilians (among them a 12 year old school boy) have died and 35 are injured (including 2 children) as a result of the fighting. Unofficial sources estimated this number to be higher. Seriously wounded soldiers are being moved to Armenia.

The fighting was most prominent near the villages of Agdere (Martakert), Khojavend (Martouni) and Hadrut (Hadrou). As a result, a total of 14,400 people are affected. According to ACT Alliance member, the Armenian Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ART), the majority of the population in the affected territories have been evacuated to the regional centres.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

The concentration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in different areas has generated a serious security problem, lack of water, food and nutrition. Therefore, the people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Currently, ACT Armenia Forum members are conducting initial needs assessments on the ground. The forum is planning to request funds through the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) mechanism of ACT Alliance.

### 3. National and international response

There is no information to date on damage to infrastructure, number of evacuated civilians or humanitarian needs. As reported by UNHCR in Armenia, the State Migration Service of Armenia received a request for temporary shelter for some 50 people from Nagorno-Karabakh to Yerevan. These displaced will be temporarily housed in the state-run reception and integration facilities for asylum-seekers.

The International Committee Red Cross (ICRC) is the only international humanitarian agency present in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. For other international humanitarian actors, access to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone is limited, both from Armenia and Azerbaijan.

With the limited emergency stocks in the South Caucasus region, this would significantly impede timely humanitarian assistance in case of sustained hostilities.

The United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Program (WFP) are planning a mission to Goris in the south of Armenia to assess possibilities for population movement into Armenia. The majority of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh are ethnic Armenians.

#### **4. ACT Alliance response**

ACT Armenia forum is planning to apply to the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund to meet life-saving needs of the displaced and affected population.

#### **5. Planned activities**

The main activity is to purchase food items and distribute them to the neediest families. Activities related to it will include:

- Maintain communication with structures on the ground and coordinate the relief work with the other actors responding to the crisis.
- Set up an action group from the forum for the relief activities
- Reporting by the group to ART and ART to the ACT Alliance secretariat

#### **6. Constraints**

Currently there is limited communication with the people on the ground as it is difficult to reach out to them. Lack of timely information could affect implementation of an adequate humanitarian response. ACT Armenia Forum members will try its level best to ensure the response remains relevant, but also to reach out to its structures on the ground.

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**Forum/Member (where no forum exists) contact information**

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