

**Alert note**

*Nagorno Karabagh, Influx of displaced people to Armenia, 28 September 2023*

**Completed by:** Karine Baghdasaryan, Convener, Armenia Forum

**Date completed:** 28 September, 2023

**Forum:** Armenia Forum

**Type of emergency:** influx of displaced population

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** September 2023

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| <p><b>1. The nature of the emergency</b></p> <p>120,000 ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh home are rapidly leaving their native land in the result of hastening of a humanitarian crisis and fear of military attack of Azerbaijan army and blockage of the sole road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. As of 10 am 28 September, the total number of forcibly displaced people is 66,500. The intensity of arrivals is very high; their number is increasing by the hour. People are arriving exhausted physically and mentally after 10 months of blockade, long waiting hours to cross border with Armenia, in shock of military assault and fear of persecution.</p>   |
| <p><b>2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)</b></p> <p>Number of affected is less than 150,000, according to the estimations all 120,000 population of Nagorno Karabagh will be forced out. For Armenia, this has a huge impact. Forcibly displaced have lost their houses and land plots, nearly all belongings, managed to squeeze some clothing into cars and escape from mortal threats.</p> <p>UNHCR estimates: 90,000 people will arrive (first three months), 55% adult (80 female, 20 male), 30 % children (50/50), 15% elderly (60 %female, 40 %male), 2% people with disabilities, 4,6% pregnant and lactating mothers.</p> <p>Every third of those already in Armenia are minors, schoolchildren have been out of educational process. Malnutrition and stressful state disturb the health of all population in Nagorno Karabagh. Problems are especially present among children and pregnant women. Malnutrition and having an unhealthy diet leads to a decrease in resistance, and this causes various diseases. Hungry and exhausted families arriving in Armenia need also psychological support.</p>  |
| <p><b>3. Local and national capacity</b></p> <p>About 10,967 persons displaced from Karabakh, out of 66,500 already in Armenia, have received shelter, and the distribution of lodgers is almost the same throughout the country, but only there are a little more in Kotayk and Syunik Provinces.</p> <p>The Armenian government has been preparing to accept 40,000 displaced, but the actual number of arrivals is higher, it is expected that almost all population will flee from Karabakh. Local authorities provide shelter and may cover utility costs. Ministry of Social Affairs and Migration Service register arriving people and do rapid needs assessment at the entry point in Syunik and forward to shelters, those who chose not to stay in shelters find accommodation on their own or at relatives, the Ministry will elaborate on assistance programme after the needs assessment is over.</p> <p>Armenia Round Table is a part of UNHCR protection working group, the group shares information on type of support and areas of work, UNHCR invited so far one meeting with organizations and will follow up with 5 W matrix.</p> <p>Ministry of Social Affairs introduced a platform where organizations register and detail their support, type, number of beneficiaries, regions, communities, etc., ART has registered. Needs assessment is underway, a report will be circulated to those registered in their platform. ART has already received a request for support with food supplies from the Ministry, a psychologist participated in a Ministry run meeting on PSS from ART partner Gyumri social centre.</p> |

#### 4. Key needs and gaps

The number of new comers is increasing daily, people are in move, travelling spontaneously to find suitable accommodations. As the number of arrivals increases and people are scattering all over, it is getting more difficult to reach all for a proper needs assessment. According to initial findings from interviews at the border and social workers from field and home visits, it is difficult to track people who are now in search of accommodation on their own and chose to stay for initial period in the houses of relatives. This creates certain information gap on the needs and immediate access to those disbursed throughout the region.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

|  | Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> below |
|--|--|
| Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> ) | X  |
| Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )                         |  |

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

| ACT Member                     | Geographical focus   | Sectors of expertise | Support required                                  | Estimated Budget range |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Armenia Round Table Foundation | Gegharkunik, Ararat, Kotayk regions, and others based on number of arrivals and further assessments. | Emergency assistance | Funds to implement urgent needs (cash assistance) | USD 150,000            |
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|                                |  |                      |   |                        |

#### 5. Potential responses

All three members of Armenia Forum (Armenia Round Table Foundation, UMCOR Armenia and ECLOF Armenia) took part in distribution of food, hygiene and sanitary items, bedding and cash to more than 25,000 displaced from Nagorno Karbagh in 2020 and 2021. Armenia Round Table ensured provision of psycho-social assistance. Forum members will work jointly in the selected areas. ECLOF and UMCOR Armenia can support with their local offices and staff in particular.

We plan unconditional cash assistance to displaced families, total 1,000 people, funds needed stand at \$150,000.00. Cash modality is a dignified way of support, convenient for beneficiaries to cover their urgent needs, be it food, winterization, hygiene, clothing, etc.