

Nagorno-Karabakh – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- On January 22, the UN launched the 2021 Interagency Response Plan for Armenia, calling for \$62.6 million to support populations affected by recent fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan.
- Relief actors have identified cash, food, psychosocial support, and shelter services as priority needs among conflict-affected households in Armenia.
- USG partners aim to support 74,000 people with emergency food assistance in Armenia and provide essential commodities and winterization support to conflict-affected populations in Armenia and Azerbaijan, among other activities.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Nagorno-Karabakh Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$2,500,000
		State/PRM ²
	Total	\$5,000,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 4

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UN Launches 2021 Interagency Response Plan for Armenia

On January 22, the UN released an Armenia Interagency Response Plan (IA-RP) in response to humanitarian, early recovery, and long-term integration needs throughout Armenia resulting from recent clashes in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict—which occurred from late September to early November—and subsequent population displacement. The IA-RP requests nearly \$63 million to reach 90,000 spontaneous arrivals from Nagorno-Karabakh and 18,000 host community members through June 2021. Preliminary survey results found that approximately 70 percent of arrivals in Armenia remained unsure or had no intention to return to Nagorno-Karabakh in the immediate future, primarily due to security concerns, severely damaged infrastructure, and winter weather conditions. The plan estimates that the number of people in need in Armenia will decrease if security conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh improve and populations are able to return.

The IA-RP identified cash, food, shelter, and winterization items—such as heaters, shoes, and warm clothing—as priority humanitarian needs in Armenia. The conflict has compounded deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in the country due in part to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with displaced persons in Armenia reporting a lack of livelihood opportunities and overstretched resources within host communities. As of December 31, approximately 30 percent of spontaneous arrivals in Armenia were sheltering in community accommodations, such as hotels, schools, and other communal living facilities. The IA-RP aims to support the Government of the Republic of Armenia in providing protection to vulnerable populations; expand access to basic services, food, relief items, and shelter; and bolster resilience among both spontaneous arrivals and host communities until adequate return conditions are met in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Relief Actors Cite Urgent Need for MHPSS Among Displaced Populations

The recent conflict has increased the need for health and protection assistance—including mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS)—in Armenia, particularly among displaced households, relief actors report. Approximately 85 percent of surveyed households reported some form of displacement-related stress, including a general loss of hope in the future, according to recent assessments conducted by the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. The socioeconomic burden of displacement, compounded by the lack of livelihood opportunities in host communities amid the COVID-19 outbreak, has increased child protection concerns, particularly the risk of emotional abuse and neglect. In addition, the IA-RP highlighted an increased need for gender-based prevention activities in MHPSS service provision, with women and girls making up nearly 90 percent of displaced persons. As of early December, State/PRM partner the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had provided MHPSS assistance to more than 720 households and trained 45 community volunteers to provide psychosocial services aimed specifically at children and young people.

USG Assessment Notes Reduced Needs Despite Long-Term Challenges

A USAID/BHA Regional Advisor and State/PRM Refugee Coordinator for the South Caucasus conducted a joint assessment and monitoring visit to Armenia from January 18 to 22. Following visits to program sites and meetings with partners, USAID/BHA and State/PRM staff reported a reduction in the overall level of humanitarian need compared to November, due primarily to a larger number of returns to Nagorno-Karabakh than relief actors had previously projected. However, humanitarian needs remain among vulnerable populations living in shelters, including difficulties accessing sufficient food as a result

of limited income-generating opportunities. Approximately 60 percent of spontaneous arrivals to Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh require food assistance, with many households utilizing negative coping strategies, including selling productive assets or accruing debt to pay for basic needs, according to a food security assessment conducted by USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) in December. In addition, U.S. Government (USG) representatives noted the emergence of longer-term challenges in Armenia, including economic and social integration into host communities for those unable to return to Nagorno-Karabakh. According to a REACH multi-sector needs assessment released on January 22, only 11 percent of households displaced to Armenia reported a family member with employment. Furthermore, 27 percent of displaced households reported no source of income, while 30 percent and 26 percent reported social protection and pensions to be their primary source of income, respectively.

KEY FIGURES



\$1.1 Million

In dedicated FY 2021 USG support for essential health and WASH services



74,000

Number of people targeted to receive USG-supported food assistance



50,000

Number of people targeted to receive USG-supported cash assistance

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

HEALTH AND WASH

The USG supports Catholic Relief Services (CRC), People in Need (PIN), and ICRC to implement health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in Armenia and Azerbaijan, with a focus on reaching people displaced by recent fighting. With approximately \$1.1 million in combined USAID/BHA funding, CRS and PIN distribute hygiene kits to displaced individuals living with host communities or sheltering in communal facilities, helping mitigate the transmission of communicable diseases in Armenia, including COVID-19. In addition, PIN is developing public information materials focused on COVID-19 mitigation measures for displaced populations. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner ICRC is distributing hygiene kits and providing critical medical supplies to health care centers and hospitals in areas affected by the conflict. As of early December, ICRC had provided medical supplies to 15 hospitals and health facilities.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide food assistance through cash-based transfers for vulnerable populations in Armenia. WFP aims to reach approximately 54,000 spontaneous arrivals and 20,000 host community households with food assistance through May 2021, with a focus on vulnerable populations such as pregnant and lactating women and households with young children.

CASH ASSISTANCE

State/PRM supports ICRC to provide cash to households in Armenia and Azerbaijan displaced by conflict, helping cover basic needs, including heating costs during the cold winter months. From September to December, ICRC reached approximately 8,000 households across the region with financial assistance.



3

Number of USG implementing partners providing shelter and settlements services

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With USG funding, USAID/BHA partners CRS and PIN, as well as State/PRM partner ICRC, have provided blankets, beds, and other services to households sheltering at community facilities in Armenia and Azerbaijan, ensuring safe and dignified living conditions. In addition, ICRC is helping maintain sanitation facilities, upgrade heating systems, and provide infrastructure repairs at communal shelters.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- On September 27, 2020, clashes between Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan forces in Nagorno-Karabakh sparked a six-week military conflict, triggering widespread population displacement and resulting in the deaths of approximately 150 civilians in Armenia and Azerbaijan. On November 9, the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia announced a ceasefire agreement to end hostilities, which went into effect on November 10. The agreement also stipulated that the Republic of Armenia transfer control of Aghdam, Kalbajar, and Lachin districts to the Republic of Azerbaijan, prompting further population movement.
- On October 9, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Lynne M. Tracy declared a disaster for FY 2021 due to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations in Armenia.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
CRS	Health, Shelter and Settlements	Armenia	\$100,000
PIN	Health, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Armenia	\$1,400,000
WFP	Food Assistance – Cash Transfers	Armenia	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$2,500,000
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Armenia, Azerbaijan	\$2,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$2,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$5,000,000

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 5, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)