

Conflict in South Caucasus Situation Report #1

15 October 2020

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy fighting broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh region. More than 50% of the region's population and 90% of women and children have fled.
- Reported needs include pharmaceuticals, medical consumables and equipment to support hospitals and health facilities as they respond to an increase in trauma cases and related injuries. Health needs of the displaced population are a growing concern as well as heightened COVID-19 transmission risk.
- Project HOPE is shipping critically needed medicines and medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), to support hospitals and health facilities in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding conflict-affected areas.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health, Project HOPE will deliver a training of trainers on COVID-19 to front line health workers to mitigate the spread of the virus.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

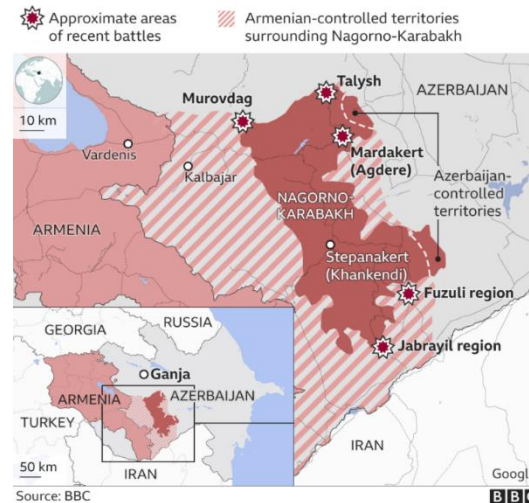
On September 27, heavy fighting broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh region. The region is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but has been governed by a self-declared republic run by ethnic Armenians since the mid-1990s. The recent fighting is the most serious escalation since 1994 with reported shelling and rocket fire targeting densely populated cities and essential civilian infrastructure including schools and hospitals in Nagorno-Karabakh as well as in Armenia and Azerbaijani.ⁱ

A ceasefire was agreed to on October 10; however, there are reports of continuous fighting and targeting of civilians. More than 530 military deaths and more than 70 civilian deaths have been reported since September 27 although these numbers are likely much higher.ⁱⁱ Thousands more are estimated to be wounded.

Nagorno-Karabakh officials estimate approximately 50 percent of the region's population and 90 percent of the region's women and children (an estimated 70,000 people) have been displaced by the conflict, fleeing to Yerevan, Goris and other nearby cities.ⁱⁱⁱ At this time, the exact scale of displacement to localities is unknown.^{iv}

On October 14, the Deputy Speaker of Armenia's National Assembly issued a call for international humanitarian assistance through a letter to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh



Source: [BBC](#), 14 October 2020.

Quick Facts

- Heavy fighting broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan on September 27 in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.
- Fighting has continued despite a ceasefire negotiated on October 10.
- 600+ military personnel and civilians have been killed.
- 70,000+ people have been displaced.
- 90% of the women and children from Nagorno-Karabakh have fled to Yerevan and other nearby localities.

of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).^v

Project HOPE is working with the Armenian Ministry of Health and local civil society actors to respond to the crisis. Reported priority needs at this time revolve around pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and consumables to support hospitals and health facilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and affected surrounding areas as they care for wounded while also addressing the needs of displaced populations.

COVID-19 remains a grave concern with a steady increase in cases over the last 10 days. The vast displacement resulting from the conflict heightens the transmission risk due to communal living spaces limiting the ability to socially distance as well as insufficient hygiene supplies. Other concerns and anticipated needs include protection of civilians affected by the conflict, food security and livelihoods and shelter and non-food items.

PROJECT HOPE RESPONSE

At the request of the Armenian Ministry of Health and in coordination with local organizations, Project HOPE is shipping urgent humanitarian assistance to the conflict-affected populations in Nagorno-Karabakh as well as displaced populations in surrounding areas of Armenia. Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is in Yerevan and continuing to assess the growing need, prepared to scale up if the conflict intensifies.

In addition to delivering medical supplies and personal protective equipment, Project HOPE is also coordinating with the Armenia National Institute of Health to support the scale-up of training in COVID-19 preparedness and response for health care workers as needed. The virtually delivered COVID-19 training, translated into Russian, was developed by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies of Brown University's Watson Institute and Project HOPE, and has already reached over 80,000 front line responders in more than 50 countries.

SOURCES:

ⁱhttps://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20201011_acaps_short_note_azerbaijan-armenia_conflict.pdf

ⁱⁱ<https://apnews.com/article/international-news-azerbaijan-armenia-europe-russia-0845976f485115d0dca2f054be1e892b>

ⁱⁱⁱ<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/08/half-of-nagorno-karabakh-population-displaced-by-armenia-and-azerbaijan-clashes>

^{iv}<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54465172>

^v<https://iravaban.net/en/295663.html>

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