

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict-Sitrep

November 2, 2020

Situation overview

Armed conflict erupted on the 27th of September in Nagorno-Karabakh - a disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mainly populated by ethnic Armenians. Fighting along the line of contact continues with differing levels of intensity, with usage of artillery and armored vehicles. The roads to that region are reported to be unsafe for travel.

Agreement on ceasefire was negotiated three times during past weeks; however, it was broken each time, with both sides accusing one another on the violation of the agreement.

Over the past weeks, at least 36 civilians, including four children, are reported to be amongst over 1,000 casualties.

World Vision operates area programmes in areas impacted by the crisis. These include programmes of Sisian, Kapan, Ijevan, Noyemberyan, Tchambarak and Vardenis areas. Situation vulnerability is exacerbated by the rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases in Armenia. If before the escalation daily number of new COVID-19 cases were around 400, in around a month after the escalation of the conflict the daily number of new COVID-19 cases is more than 2,000.

World Vision Armenia's Response

On the very first day of the conflict, World Vision was on the ground to respond to the needs of the spontaneously arriving families. On October 22nd World Vision Declared CAT I National Office Response with the purpose **to respond to the needs of children and their families effected during and post-conflict period.**

World Vision quickly mobilised an emergency response team and started mobilising resources through the Partnership, grants and local fund-raising to provide items such as hygiene kits, blankets and food to support spontaneous arrivals to Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as civilians in the bordering communities in Armenia. Child protection and integration services is one of the key focuses of the response.

World Vision works closely with displaced groups, host communities, UN structures, and government response clusters to target those that are the most vulnerable. World Vision launched a rapid needs assessment process using the well-established criteria for child vulnerability and is collaborating closely with the network of Day Care Centres and local authority structure to better understand immediate needs of the most affected children.

World Vision currently has no operational presence in Nagorno-Karabakh or Azerbaijan. World Vision's efforts are concentrating to support conflict-affected families in Armenia.

Humanitarian need

- The Government of Armenia has not declared emergency, there is no clear-cut information on the number of spontaneous arrival families or individuals in Armenia due to the conflict. Thousands of children caught up in the conflict are deprived of their right to education as well as those fundamental rights of shelter, food and protection.
- Many of the arriving children are being sent to Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh, sometimes with relatives or other people, but are not accompanied by their parents.
- Relatives, local hotels and B&B facilities are hosting displaced families. These families often lack adequate warm clothing and necessities for cold weather. High number of people (multiple households) sharing one living area also increases risk of rapid spread of infection.
- Most of the response to the spontaneous arrivals is limited to the provision of in-kind support – food, hygiene, clothing - but little is being done to ensure specialised services including social work, psychological support, pregnancy consultancy, specialised support to newborns and their mothers.
- The crisis not only affects families and children from Nagorno-Karabakh; many vulnerable families involved in World Vision's programme, have their male bread winners conscripted into the army - being wounded or dead.

ADVOCACY

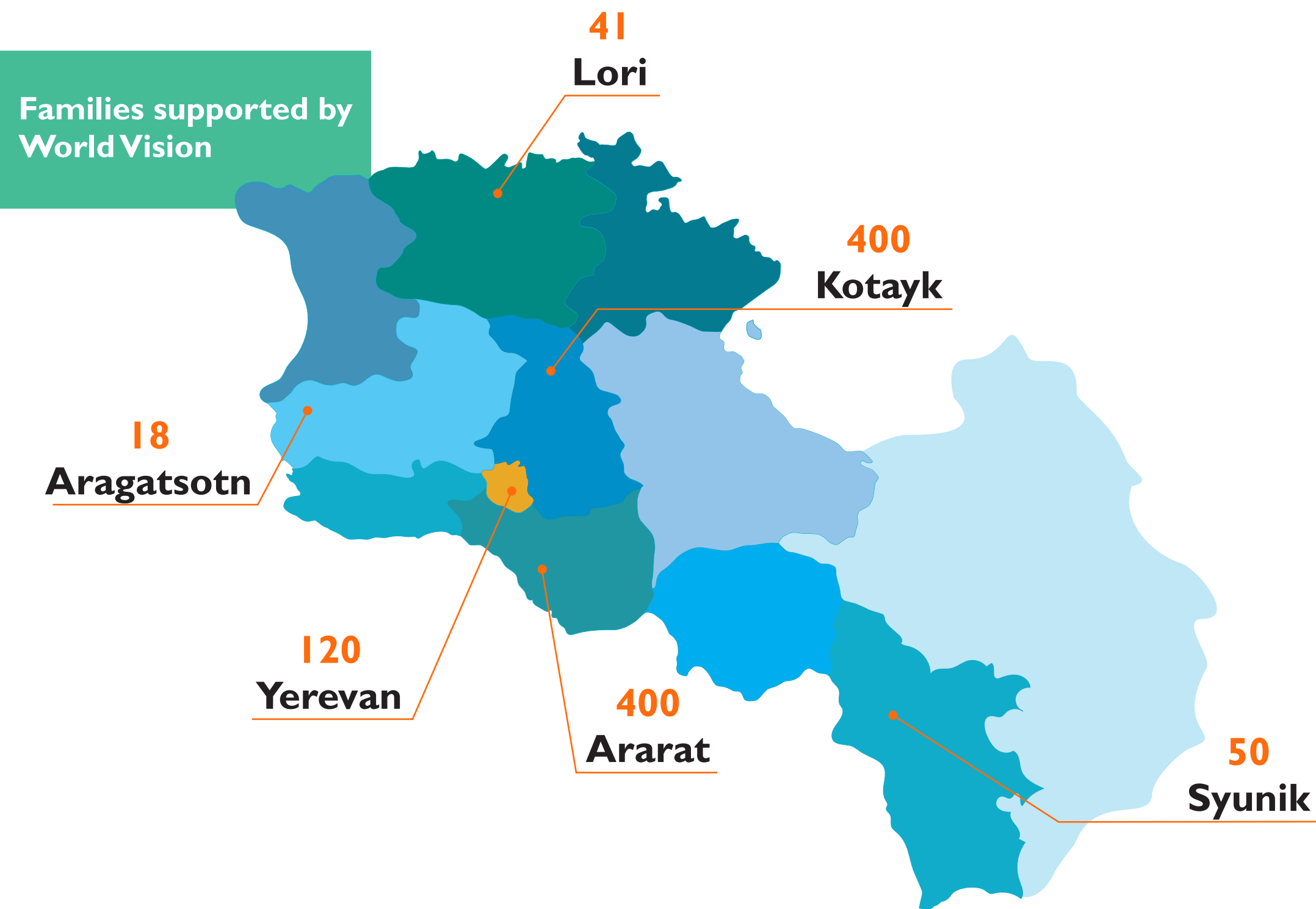
In the loop: understanding the need and shaping strategic response

World Vision currently works with the Government of Armenia to shape more strategic response mechanisms towards the spontaneous arrivals and the hosting communities with a long-term standpoint.

World Vision believes that besides in-kind support, extra efforts are needed to help families and small businesses hosting or assisting spontaneous arrivals thus reducing the need for further material support.

World Vision also urges local and international partners to work together to identify and address the protection needs of the children.

Currently World Vision is part of a number of working groups, including Protection Working Group, Food Working Group, Shelter and NFI, Early Recovery.



Funding goal | **US\$ 2,000,000** | **Funding achievement** | **US\$ 600,000/30%**

World Vision aims to support 9,000 affected families, that includes

- Spontaneous arrivals from Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia
- Hosting families in Armenia
- Most vulnerable families in Armenia affected by the conflict

Humans behind the conflict

"The most frightening sound for me was the sound of the drone flying right above our house, and the sound of it being destroyed. I was thinking that the drone would drop a bomb on us sooner or later,"

12-year-old Mariam whose family arrived into Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh.



US\$ 600,000
raised



1,029 families
received food and non-food items



4,148 children
benefitted from World Vision's assistance



32 children
received social and psychological support

Thankful for support

World Vision offices in

- USA
- United Kingdom
- France
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Taiwan

International donors

- US Agency of International Development
- US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

Local supporters

- Workfront
- Carrefour Armenia
- Soft Papyrus
- officepro.am
- Art ev Ar
- Farmer to Farmer Armenia
- More than 200 individuals



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