



Appeal: MDRAM016	DREF Allocated: CHF 80,000	Hazard: Population Movement	Country: Armenia
Population at risk (if available): -	Operation Start Date: 04-03-2026	Operation End Date: 30-04-2026	
Event Onset: Sudden	Forecasted day of event (or peak): 2026-03-25	Operation Timeframe: 45 days	
Targeted Regions: Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Yerevan			

Scenario analysis

When and where is the hazard expected to happen?

The hazard consists of a potential sudden cross-border population movement into southern Armenia due to regional escalation and continued airspace disruption. The primary impact would be in Syunik region, particularly at the Nurduz–Agarak Border Crossing Point (BCP) and Meghri municipality, Armenia's main land corridor with Iran. Secondary transit pressure may extend along the Meghri–Goris–Yerevan axis, with Yerevan functioning as a logistical and onward travel hub.

The risk window is immediate (0–4 weeks) and remains active as long as hostilities persist and regional air and land corridors are disrupted. Further deterioration could position Armenia as one of the few viable evacuation routes.

Iran hosts an estimated 60,000–80,000 ethnic Armenians, primarily in Tehran, Isfahan (New Julfa), and Tabriz, in addition to foreign nationals, students, business travellers, dual citizens and diplomats who may seek exit through Armenia. Strong familial, cultural and citizenship ties between Iranian-Armenians and Armenia may enable relatively rapid and organised movement compared to broader displacement patterns.

Arrivals are expected to be predominantly transit populations rather than individuals seeking asylum in Armenia. An estimated 70–80% are likely to transit independently or with embassy support, possessing valid documentation and financial means. However, approximately 20–30% may require short-term humanitarian assistance, including elderly persons, families with children, individuals without onward arrangements, those with limited financial resources, or persons experiencing distress following prolonged travel. Family separation and communication breakdowns may generate Restoring Family Links (RFL) needs. Overall, needs are expected to be short-duration and transit-related rather than large-scale internal displacement.

With regional airspace disruption, land routes are expected to serve as the primary evacuation corridor. Movement is likely from northern Iranian provinces toward Nurduz, entering Armenia at Agarak and continuing to Meghri, Goris and potentially Yerevan via private vehicles, taxis, buses or organised diplomatic transport. Travel time from Tehran to Meghri is approximately 10–14 hours under normal conditions and 4–8 hours from northern Iranian cities. In congestion scenarios, travel duration may exceed 24 hours, increasing fatigue, dehydration and psychosocial stress. The severity of needs will therefore depend on both caseload and journey conditions.

The Armenian Red Cross Society (ARCS) will intervene at the arrival and immediate transit stage, establishing a temporary rest and support point near Meghri BCP providing drinking water, ready-to-eat food, hygiene items, Psychological First Aid, RFL services and verified information on onward travel. If congestion or vulnerability cases increase, support may extend to secondary transit locations through targeted non-food item distribution, limited accommodation support and small-scale emergency cash assistance. The Government of Armenia will retain responsibility for border management, visa control and diplomatic coordination, while ARCS will complement state efforts by addressing immediate humanitarian needs in line with its auxiliary role.

Humanitarian impact would exceed existing capacities if arrivals surpass 300 persons per day for three consecutive days, exceed 1,500 cumulative arrivals within one week, or if congestion results in transit delays exceeding 24 hours requiring organised humanitarian support.

Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Yerevan

Explain the underlying vulnerabilities and risks the hazard poses for at-risk communities?

Local economies rely heavily on cross-border trade, and disruption to freight movement could have secondary socioeconomic impacts on host communities. Prepositioned humanitarian stocks in the region currently cover approximately 1,000 persons, which is sufficient for low-scale scenarios but would require replenishment in medium or high escalation scenarios.

Protection risks may arise for individuals lacking documentation clarity, language skills or onward travel arrangements. Sudden border policy changes could result in stranded individuals, while misinformation or rapidly evolving diplomatic advisories may increase confusion and anxiety among travelers.

Expected Humanitarian Impacts (Scenario-Based Projection)

Syunik region's geographic position makes it directly exposed to any sudden cross-border surge. Meghri and surrounding communities have limited accommodation capacity, and border processing infrastructure is designed for regular commercial and passenger traffic rather than rapid humanitarian influxes. A sudden increase in arrivals could lead to congestion at the Nurduz–Agarak BCP, prolonged waiting times and temporary pressure on municipal services, including water, sanitation and waste management systems.

Local economies rely heavily on cross-border trade and freight movement with Iran. Any disruption to commercial traffic, particularly if security measures intensify or crossings become restricted, could generate secondary socioeconomic impacts on host communities, including reduced income for transport operators, small businesses and service providers. This economic pressure may reduce community coping capacity if the situation is prolonged.

Prepositioned humanitarian stocks currently cover approximately 1,000 persons. While this is sufficient under low-scale scenarios, a medium or high escalation scenario would rapidly deplete available supplies and require replenishment or reallocation from other



regions. Human resources capacity is similarly calibrated for routine operations; sustained high arrivals would require rotation of volunteers and potential surge support.

Protection risks may arise for individuals lacking documentation clarity, language skills or confirmed onward travel arrangements. Sudden regulatory changes, evolving visa requirements or partial border closures could result in stranded individuals requiring temporary assistance. Prolonged travel may increase fatigue, dehydration and psychosocial distress, especially among elderly persons and families with children. Family separation, loss of communication due to network disruption, and misinformation circulating through informal channels may further heighten anxiety and generate Restoring Family Links (RFL) needs.

While the projected caseload remains lower than large-scale displacement events previously experienced in Armenia, the rapid-onset and transit nature of the movement could create concentrated short-term humanitarian pressure at specific entry points, particularly Meghri, requiring immediate but time-bound response capacity.

[Supporting Documentation](#)

Plan

Which of the expected severe humanitarian impacts of the hazard are your actions addressing? Why were these impacts chosen?

The proposed actions prioritize:

1. Immediate humanitarian assistance at BCP – water, hygiene, rest support.
2. Protection and Restoring Family Links (RFL) – ensuring separated or stranded individuals can reconnect with families.
3. Psychological First Aid (PFA) and MHPSS – providing mental health and psychosocial support to affected people.
4. Essential NFIs for vulnerable travelers – distribution of hygiene kits, blankets, and other immediate relief items.
5. Risk Communication and Community Engagement – Dissemination of verified public information related to CBRN risks in alignment with official government advisories and relevant IFRC technical guidance, including support to address misinformation and community concerns.
6. Cash assistance (limited emergency grants) - to cover immediate basic needs of people.



These impacts were selected because:

- They are most likely in low-to-medium escalation.
- They are feasible within 45-day timeframe.
- They prevent deterioration into larger humanitarian needs.
- They align with ARCS auxiliary role.

All actions will be carried out in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, ensuring neutrality, impartiality and independence.



Proposed Actions

	Sector	Activities	Budget (CHF)
 Early Actions	CEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community awareness and risk communication related to CBRN risks, aligned with government advisories and IFRC technical guidance 	CHF 72,500
	Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activation of Syunik, Vayots Dzor disaster response teams Setup of temporary rest/support point at Meghri BCP Prepositioning and replenishment of hygiene kits (1,000 units) Distribution of water and ready-to-eat food Cash assistance (limited emergency grants) Short-term accommodation support (case-by-case) Targeted NFI distribution for vulnerable individuals PFA and RFL desk deployment Fuel and transport readiness Volunteer insurance and PPE Daily monitoring and reporting of arrivals, vulnerabilities, and response coverage Coordination with local authorities, border officials, international partners and diplomatic missions 	
 Early Response	Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid Needs Assessment 	CHF 2,500
Sub-total			CHF 75,000
Indirect Cost			CHF 5,000
Total			CHF 80,000

Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

