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2021 Conflict Risk Diagnostic: Nagorno-Karabakh



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Agenda

- **Key Findings and Overall Assessment**
- **Background**
- **Stakeholder Analysis**
- **Conflict Indicators**
- **Scenarios**
- **References**

Key Findings and Overall Assessment

- The fallout of the September 2020 conflict has left a precarious situation in Nagorno-Karabakh
- The influence of third party actors will continue to play a major role in the development of a peace deal or the outbreak of war
- Despite a ceasefire there has not been significant progress made toward a peace deal, and tensions remain between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Background

- The First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988-1994)
 - Russia-brokered provisional ceasefire agreement
- Frozen conflict (1994-2020)
- September - November 2020 War
 - Russia-brokered ceasefire agreement



Primary Stakeholder Analysis



Armenia

- Seeks ownership of region

Azerbaijan

- Seeks reintegration of region
- Turkey-backed

Republic of Artsakh

- Seeks independence
- Armenia-backed

Russia

- Ceasefire broker
- Arms dealer to all belligerents

Secondary Stakeholder Analysis

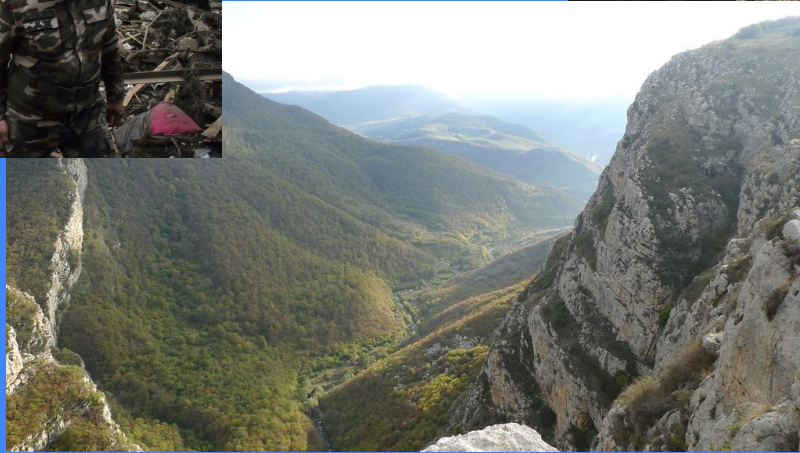
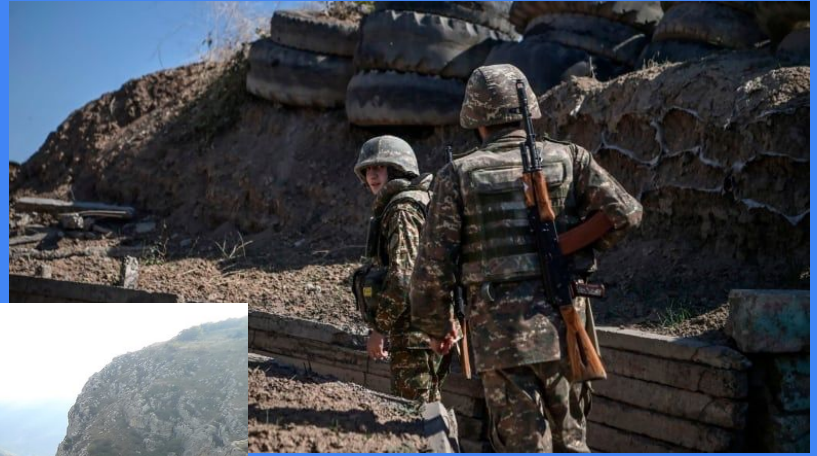
Turkey

- Azerbaijan's strongest ally and backer

OSCE Minsk Group

- Led by Russia, France and the US
- Has made little progress to resolve the conflict

Conflict Indicators



Governance and Political Stability

High Risk - Stable

Armenia:

- Partial Democracy
- Corruption slowly declining
- Civil liberties slightly improving

Azerbaijan:

- Highly Autocratic
- Civil liberties slightly improving (still highly restricted)
- Corruption remains rampant



History of Armed Conflict

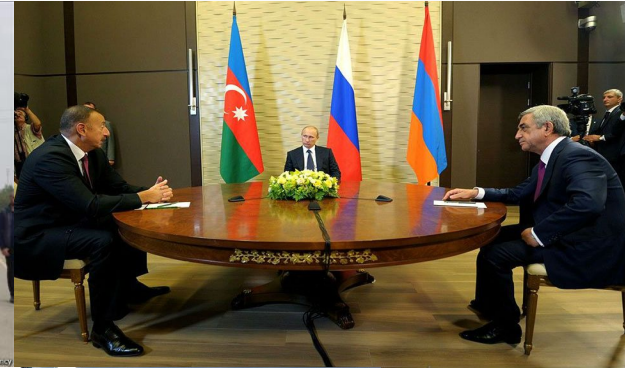
High Risk - Stable

Number of IDPs on the rise

New Ceasefire deal signed on November 9, 2020;

- However, all past ceasefire deals have been violated, casting doubt on durability of the new deal

5,000+ deaths in 2020 as a result of the armed conflict



Economic Performance

Moderate Risk - Improving

Armenia:

- GDP growth
- GDP per capita
- Inflation



Azerbaijan:

- GDP growth
- GDP per capita



FDI decreased for both countries**



Foreign Direct Investment



Population Heterogeneity

High Risk - Worsening

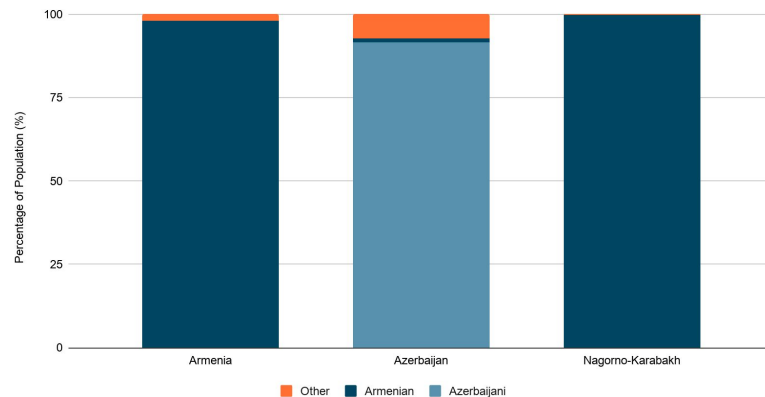
Destabilizing Factors

- Ethnic Diversity Score
- Religious Diversity
- Risk of Ethnic Rebellion



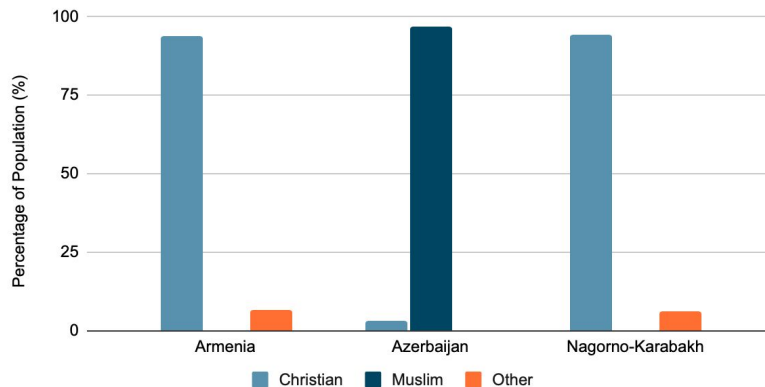
Ethnic Diversity Score

Post 2015



Religious Diversity Score

Post 2015



Militarization

High Risk - Stable

Stabilizing Factors:

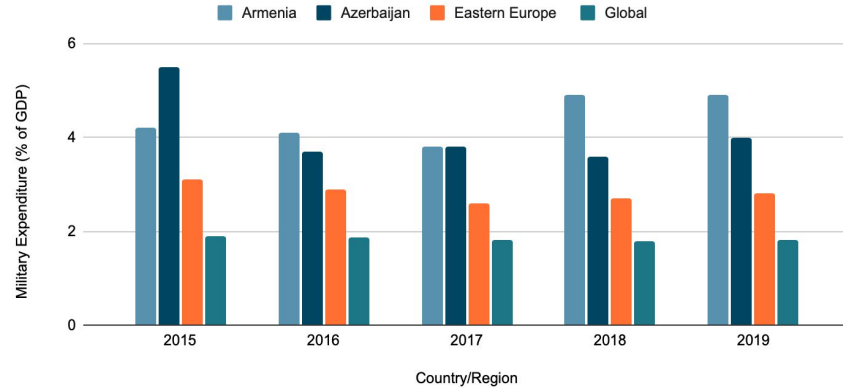
- Total armed forces

Destabilizing Factors:

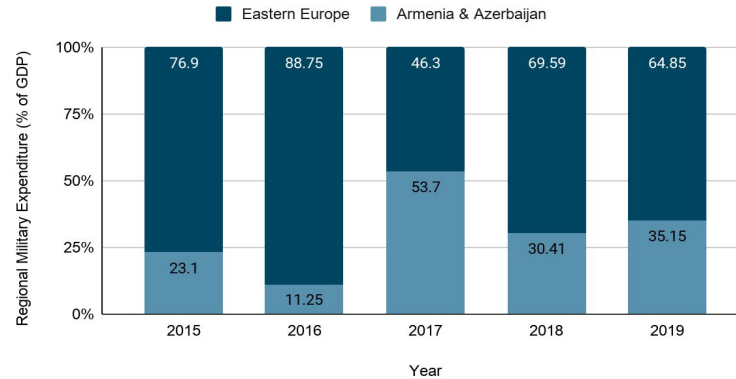
- Military expenditure
- Fraction of regional military expenditure
- Arms trade



Military Expenditure 2015 -2019

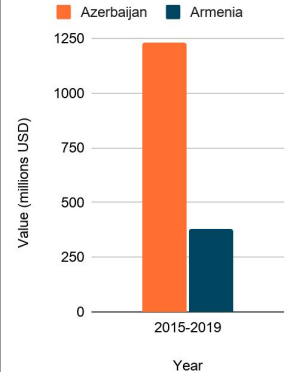


Regional Military Expenditure 2015-2019



Value of Arms Trade

2015-2019



Demographic Stress

Moderate Risk - Worsening

Stabilizing Factors:

- Youth Bulge
- Urban Population
- Population Density

Destabilizing Factors:

- Population Growth Rate
- Urban Population Growth Rate



Human Development

Low Risk - Stable

Stabilizing Factors:

- High primary school enrollment
- Increasing life expectancy
- Reduced infant and maternal mortality

Destabilizing Factors:

- High secondary school drop-out rate
- Urban-Rural disparity

Table 1. Water and sanitation services, % of households¹⁵

	2016	2017
Centralized water supply, total	90.7	90.7
Urban	98.2	98.2
Rural	83.1	81.5
Sanitary services, total	49.5	47.6
Urban	87.6	84.5
Rural	10.3	9.5
Solid waste collection and discharge	51.9	51.0
Urban	91.5	92.6
Rural	11.3	8.1

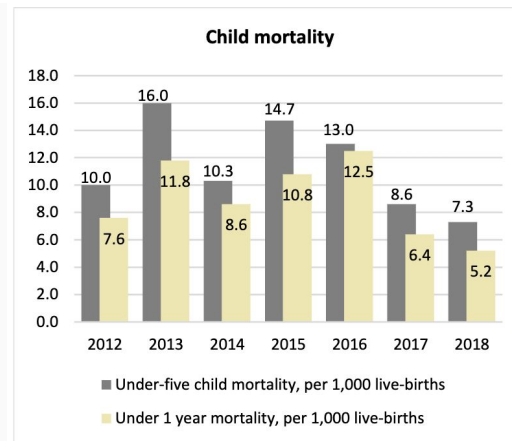


Figure 7: Child mortality rate. Source: NSS Artsakh

Environmental Stress

Moderate Risk - Worsening

Stabilizing Factors:

- Cultivated land increasing

Destabilizing Factors:

- Maintenance of water infrastructure
- Disputed control over key reservoirs and dams
- Damage to infrastructure

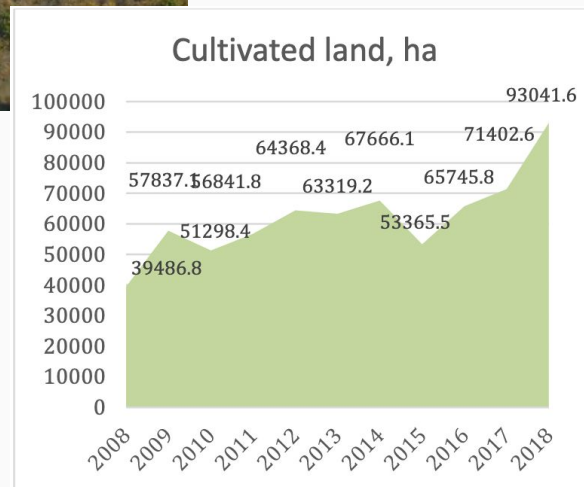


Figure 5: Cultivated area. Source: NSS Artsakh

International Linkages

High Risk - Worsening

Stabilizing Factors

- International recognition of territorial integrity

Destabilizing Factors

- Continued involvement of regional powers
- Reliance on Russia and Turkey for arms and security



Scenarios



Most Likely Scenario

- Little progress is made in resolving conflict
- Turkey supplements Russian peacekeeping efforts with their own
- The number of IDPs fall as order in the region is maintained
- Occasional ceasefire violations & threats between the belligerents continue
- Azerbaijan replaces the former Artsakh government
- Economy grows gradually but FDI is constrained
- Social system and infrastructure continues to deteriorate

Worst Case Scenario



- Cease-fire is violated
- Russia and Turkey are drawn into the conflict
- NATO members back Turkey
- CSTO members back Armenia
- Conflict expands within the region

Best Case Scenario



- Sustainable peace in the region - no longer a need for external intervention and enforcement
- Protection of historical, religious and cultural landmarks
- Increased human security and delivery of consistent services to residents of Nagorno-Karabakh
- Re-establishment of diplomatic relations
- Opening of borders and trade routes

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Kirişci and Özkan.

Thank you

Any questions?

