



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Armenia Country Brief January 2022



## In Numbers

13,510 people assisted in January 2022

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

99 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (February 2022 – July 2022) net funding requirements

### Operational Context

In Armenia, WFP supports the Government and partners in their efforts to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to implement the Government of Armenia’s development agenda. Together with government line ministries and partners, WFP is contributing to the development of human capital, the improvement of health and the promotion of sustainable economic growth that benefits the whole population.

Through the adoption of its five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024, WFP Armenia’s interventions focus on shock-responsive social protection activities and policy development; enhancing food systems; developing evidence-based studies and policies on food security and nutrition; strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response instruments and capacities; enhancing and fully nationalising the School Feeding programme and, as needed, delivering emergency food assistance and supply chain service provision.

Following the adoption of its CSP in 2019, WFP undertook one Budget Revision in 2020 and two Budget Revisions in 2021. The first two Budget Revisions aimed at responding to growing food insecurity in Armenia brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and the hostilities/fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The third Budget Revision approved in November 2021, added capacity strengthening as an emergency response tool to support displaced and food insecure populations living in new border provinces (marzes) through skills and resilience building activities.

Armenia is an upper-middle income, landlocked, net food-importer country vulnerable to external shocks. Since its independence in 1991, the border closure with neighbouring Turkey and Azerbaijan has constrained the country’s economic development. According to the latest National Statistical Service data, the poverty rate reached 27 percent in 2020, while WFP’s nationwide assessments conducted in April 2021 point to 21.4 percent of households being food insecure.

Population: **2.97 million**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2020 Human Development Index: **0.77 (81 out of 89 countries)**

Chronic Malnutrition: **9% of children between 0-59 months**

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Photo Caption: WFP makes irrigation water accessible in Syunik province (photo by Vahan Arakelyan)

### Operational Updates

- WFP continued the distribution of 1,600 food parcels including canned meat in early January to 2,338 displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh (54 percent female beneficiaries) in Ararat, Kotayk, Gegharkunik and in Syunik provinces (marzes).
- WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 69 schools of Armavir reaching around 10,817 children with nutritious hot meals in schools. 266 kitchen helpers and cooks working in Armavir schools also received in-kind assistance.
- WFP started preparing the handover of the management of school feeding to the Government in Armavir and Kotayk provinces. The handover will take place by the end of 2022. WFP is finalizing the development plans for school kitchen renovation and equipment. Once finalized, 89 schools in Kotayk and 101 schools in Armavir will receive renovation material and equipment. WFP in cooperation with the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency, trained 89 school headmasters in Kotayk and will train 101 headmasters in Armavir (during February to March) on procurement, food handling and food safety.
- In January, WFP expanded operations in Syunik province to strengthen resilience of stakeholders (including communities, micro enterprises, farmers, and others) through investments in food systems that are climate sensitive and economically sustainable. Investments will cover three thematic areas: transforming food systems for economic growth, supporting resilience of food value chains; and inclusive economic growth that leaves no one behind. To contribute to the resilience of value chains, investment is made in irrigation infrastructure enhancement. Access to water for irrigation is a significant challenge for smallholder farmers in the province and limits the scale of harvest. WFP is working to irrigate 975 ha of agricultural land, impacting 8,835 individuals. Towards transformation of food systems, WFP will also replicate a successful food value chains model for beans and legumes implemented in Tavush. This project is anticipated to reach 6,000 people with increased availability of quality, nutritious, and locally produced food in the coming two years.
- Recognizing the importance of mainstreaming protection and accountability throughout its programmes, WFP identified a set of training modules on “Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)”. In January, four WFP staff members were trained to deliver training sessions to a range of partners in line with WFP’s values. To enhance the capacity of implementing partners, training sessions on partnership opportunities and registration process in UN Partner Portal were also organized.

## Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>40 m</b>	<b>26 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Feb 2022-July 2022)
<b>5.5 m</b>	<b>1.5 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activity 1:

- Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government

**Strategic outcome 4:** Vulnerable populations in Armenia have access to basic needs and livelihoods during and in the aftermath of a crisis.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

#### Activity 4:

- Support to Government and partners to identify and provide food assistance to vulnerable populations.

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 2:** National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activity 2:

- Provide technical support to national institutions to generate an evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia.

### Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable populations benefit from improved capacities of national entities and partners to prevent and respond to emergencies

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

#### Activity 3:

- Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.

- To improve feeding practices in Yerevan’s kindergartens, WFP in cooperation with the Yerevan Municipality is conducting assessments to identify existing gaps in feeding practices and make relevant recommendations for improvements. WFP will also make refinement and improvements of kindergarten menus.

Between October 2020 and December 2021 WFP chaired the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, established in response to the needs associated with the escalation of hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh. The response was guided by the Inter-Agency Response Plan. Thanks to the working group coordination, an average of 14,622 people were reached

monthly with food assistance throughout the response period. In addition, 9,398 people received nutrition support, and 2,586 livelihood support.

- Echoing the need articulated by the Government to support key priority areas in social protection, WFP hosted a social protection scoping mission to better understand the Government needs and validate WFP contribution and support. A newly established Social Protection unit has already embarked in a close collaboration with the Government around the following strategic outcomes: policy, social policy systems management, service delivery, governance and coordination, communication. In January, constructive preliminary discussions were held with the EU on the design of a joint programme with UNICEF and UNDP.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- The Market Price Bulletin covering November 2020-November 2021, showed that the cost of the School Feeding basket increased by 14 percent. At the same time, food inflation reached an all-time high of 17 percent, negatively influencing access to food, in particularly for vulnerable households. WFP adjusted the basket cost according to the commodities price increase to ensure the same amount of food was provided to the school children.
- The Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia, with the support from WFP, started collecting information on the use of livelihood coping strategies within the Integrated Living Condition Survey (ILCS). This enables a more comprehensive monitoring of food security in Armenia including the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) based on the national statistics databases.
- WFP conducted monitoring of in-kind distribution (done in December) to displaced people currently residing in Ararat and Kotayk provinces. In January, the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey for in-kind distribution in Shirak province was finalized.
- WFP finalized Gender and Age Marker (GAM) monitoring for 2021 activities, aimed at assessing how well were gender and age analysis integrated in the activities. GAM activities received the highest overall score of 4, meaning that gender and age analyses were systematically integrated.

## Donors

Armenia General Benevolent Union (AGBU), British Embassy Yerevan, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian companies, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Government of Flanders, Government of France, Fruitful Armenia Fund, Izmirlian Foundation, My step Foundation, Russian Federation, The Republic of Armenia, The Republic of Armenia Ministry of Health, Saint Sarkis Charity, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, UN SDG Fund