



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief July 2022



### 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, 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 four Budget Revisions: the first two (2020 and 2021) 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 (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. The last one (2022), aims at strengthening national food systems in Armenia and providing support to national institutions to strengthen the national social protection system.

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.

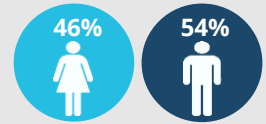
Population: **2.97 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children**  
between 6-59 months

### In Numbers



**1,756 people assisted**  
in July 2022

**US\$41,432** cash-based transfers made

**US\$8.6 m** six months (August 2022-January 2023)  
net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- The Government of Armenia expressed its interest to expand school feeding to Yerevan and thereby have full national coverage for children in grade 1-4. WFP, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), the Ministry of Education, Yerevan Municipality, and the Vice Prime Minister's Office participated in a round table discussion on the feasibility of expanding urban school feeding in Yerevan, and on which school feeding models could be implemented.
- In Kotayk province (marz), WFP provided cash assistance to 309 kitchen helpers and cooks of 84 schools under the school feeding programme (equal to 1,545 beneficiaries, with family members).
- Headmasters and cooks (in total 211 participants) from Armavir and Shirak provinces participated in on-site and remote training courses within the framework of capacity building activities for schools.
- To enhance schools' capacities and to ensure the continuation of school feeding activities, WFP provided support overseeing the renovation work of 70 schools across the country.
- In July, the Chinese Embassy in Armenia visited the "Green Energy for Productive Farming" project implemented by WFP in Lusakert community of the Shirak province. The government of China provided technical support through the South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Through the initiative, drip-irrigation systems and seedlings for backyard berry gardens were provided. In addition, a 20-kWh solar station was installed allowing significant savings to re-invest in agricultural development of the community.
- One of the food value chain projects has been successfully completed in Tavush province. WFP has brought farmers together in Berd community to increase the output of their small farms ensuring profitability and productivity of farming. As a result of this activity and farmers joint efforts, the cultivated land in Berd community increased by 422 percent, and the harvest yield increased by 318 percent, compared to the previous year (before the project started).

**Contact info:** Anna Dalaryan (anna.dalaryan@wfp.org)  
**OiC/Deputy Country Director:** Nanna Skau  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/armenia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/armenia)

**Photo Caption:** The beneficiaries of WFP's Berd project in the middle of the field, gathering the harvest  
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>52 m</b>	<b>28 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August – January 2022)
<b>17 m</b>	<b>8.6 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*

**Activities:**

- 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*

**Activities:**

- 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*

**Activities:**

- 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.
- Strengthen national food systems in Armenia, supporting actors along the food value chain.
- Provide support to national institutions to strengthen the national social protection system.

### 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*

**Activities:**

- Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.
- WFP supported smallholder farmers in Syunik to come together as a cooperative and establish a logistics hub. As a result, smallholder farmers have access to modern technology which allows them to process and store greater volumes of harvest, while simultaneously reducing post-harvest losses.

- WFP started the pilot project for testing the “food cards” service as a cash-based transfer tool in Armenia. The “Food Cards” pilot will include 500 food insecure households in Shirak and Gegharkunik provinces. The questionnaire for the pilot has been finalised and will be tested in August.
- The National Social Protection Umbrella Strategy has been put forward for public discussions among national, international, and local stakeholders. The Strategy includes a strategic goal on building the pro-activeness, resilience, shock response capacity of the social protection system. The indicators Framework of the Strategy incorporates two outcome indicators proposed and measured by WFP, including (1) the proportion of children aged 6-23 who receive the minimum acceptable diet, and (2) the aggregate value of food security among the population.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- The data collection of the 4th Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA) was completed in July. The preliminary data analysis shows that food security slightly deteriorated with 23 percent of the population found food insecure compared to 21 percent of the previous assessment (April 2021). The highest food insecurity levels were seen in Shirak province, which is among the poorest provinces in Armenia. The share of households applying negative coping strategies increased by 2 percentage points, mostly spending savings, and purchasing food on credit.
- WFP conducted phone-based monitoring of the cash distribution for work on irrigation system rehabilitation in several communities of Syunik province. The summary report will be ready by mid-August.
- WFP [Market price and climate bulletin](#) covering June 2021 to June 2022, showed that Armenia faces price increases of both food and non-food items. For the mentioned period, food inflation was 17.4 percent. Factors influencing price hikes remain price increase in countries of import tailored with domestic shocks such as inflation, transportation costs, increasing fuel prices globally, limited state regulation mechanisms to curb inflation and respond to shocks, etc.

## Donors

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