



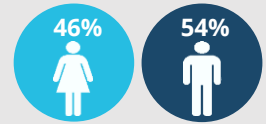
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief August 2022



In Numbers



1,587 people assisted
in August 2022

US\$53,067 cash-based transfers made

US\$1.7 m six months (September 2022-February 2023) 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, 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 border provinces (marzes) through skills and resilience building activities. The last revision (July 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

Operational Updates

- WFP opened the newly established Training and Resource Centre in Ijevan, Tavush province (marz). The Centre has been established as part of the Wholegrain Value Chain project which started in October 2020 with local farmers planting whole grain wheat and continued with micro-investments along the wholegrain value chain in Tavush province. The Centre has been established to build expertise around whole grain value chain management, as well as offer the possibility to sell products.
- In Lori province, 60 kitchen helpers from the schools and 40 bakers from bakeries participated in capacity strengthening events organised within the framework of "Scaling up wholegrain flour and bread products to schools in Lori province". The training was conducted by the newly established Training and Resource Centre in Tavush province.
- The implementation and management of school feeding in Armavir provinces has been handed over to the national school feeding programme. From September onwards, 10,813 school children of primary grades will receive school meals with the support of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and up to the end of the year. WFP will provide oversight and capacity strengthening for the school staff.
- WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia have signed an Addendum Memorandum of Understanding to launch the "Food Cards" pilot for 100 food insecure families living in Shirak and Gegharkunik provinces. WFP and the Ministry will jointly carry out the targeting, assessment and selection of food insecure families, including displaced families from Nagorno Karabakh residing in Armenia. The "Food Card" pilot aims to create preconditions and evidence to develop a national social assistance tool to rapidly address food needs and food insecurity of vulnerable populations.
- In August, the opening ceremony of WFP's irrigation system in Togh, Syunik province, took place. Around 1,000 people are benefitting from it. At the end of 2021, WFP started implementing the irrigation water infrastructure project in eleven villages across four

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Photo Caption: Opening ceremony of newly established Training and Resource Center in Ijevan, Tavush province
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
52 m	28 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2022 – February 2023)
17 m	1.7 m

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.

communities in Syunik. With the construction of these irrigation systems, beneficiary communities have access to water, which has been one of the most pressing issues for farmers living in the province. The construction of more than 35 km of irrigation canals will water more than 1,000 hectares of land, promoting agricultural development.

- As part of the irrigation project, WFP also paid cash for work to community members who participated in the construction of the system, or other related activities. Since April 2022, around 450 people from four communities in Syunik received compensation for their work. In August, 30 kitchen helpers and cooks from Armavir and Shirak provinces participated in on-site and remote capacity building trainings on the "Organisation of the state procurement process" and on the "Importance of the health component of school feeding and fundamentals of organisation of school feeding".

Monitoring and Assessments

- The first stage of the study "Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR)" is completed including mapping of livelihood zones across Armenia. Considering the susceptibility towards climate change as main factor, livelihood zones were drawn primarily based on agriculture.
- WFP [Market price and climate bulletin](#), covering July 2021 to July 2022, showed food price inflation of 13.6% and Consumer Price Index of 9.3%. Influencing factors of relatively high prices remain the political situation in the world resulting in changes in cargo and passenger logistics, transportation costs, price increase in countries of import, etc. Overall, the above-mentioned aspects may unfavourably impact food availability and accessibility in the country having adverse impact especially on vulnerable population.
- The questionnaire and targeting calculations for the "Food Card" pilot have been finalised and meetings with the social workers of Unified Social Services are being planned to build their data collection capacity.

WFP Armenia hosted the Iraqi Government delegation

In the framework of the South-South triangular cooperation, WFP hosted a high-level delegation from Iraqi Government and WFP Iraq Country Office. The extensive experience of Armenia in School Feeding was showcased which had transformed into a unique platform for community development and a crucial component of Armenia's vision for food security, education, and nutrition.

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).