



World Food Programme

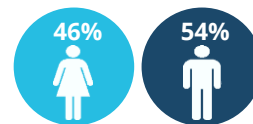
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief November 2022

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In Numbers



15,268 people assisted
In November 2022

US\$ 118,800 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 8.4 m six months (December 2022 - May 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 most recent 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 signed an agreement with the Swiss Government (Swiss Development Cooperation) to implement development and humanitarian assistance projects (a nexus programming approach). The project targets over 3,000 households in fifteen conflict-affected settlements of Vardenis (Gegharkunik), Sisian (Syunik) and Jermuk (Vayots Dzor). The new partnership will support people in need, and will provide psycho-social services, cash assistance, as well as support to longer-term economic recovery to help them overcome the difficulties caused by conflicts and shocks.
- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is piloting a "Food Card" project. The first transfers of US\$ 19 per member in a household was delivered in November to 68 households (340 beneficiaries). The target of reaching 100-family was not met due to technical banking challenges. Additional 32 vulnerable households will benefit from the "Food Card" programme from December onwards.
- In November, WFP assisted 14,915 schoolchildren in Kotayk province (marz) with cash transfers to their schools to receive daily nutritious hot school meals.
- To promote green and resilient economic development, WFP supports efforts to reduce costs by providing access to solar panels to small and medium enterprises. So far, 13 solar stations (in total 240 kw) in Gegharkunik, Lori, Shirak, and Tavush provinces were set up, and seven more are in process of installation.
- To strengthen community capacities and food security, WFP scaled up the Green Energy for Productive Farming project in Gegharkunik and Shirak provinces. The project will select a total of 150 smallholder farmers from those provinces starting in 2023.
- Within the framework of developing a curriculum that addresses adequate nutrition among sixth, eighth and ninth grades students, WFP and the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency organized and held a workshop and testing healthy recipes in Charentsavan school. The headmaster, a teacher, five cooks and 20 students participated in the workshop.

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Photo Caption: The Ambassador of Switzerland in Armenia H.E. Lukas Rosenkranz and the WFP Armenia Officer-In-Charge Nanna Skau signing agreement of cooperation.
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)		Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84 m		29 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2022– May 2023)
17 m	11 m	8.4 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.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP started data collection of the fifth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA5) aiming to evaluate food security at household level in light of the increase of prices related to winterization.

- WFP Market Price Bulletin of October 2022 showed that food price inflation increased to 12.5 percent and the Consumer Price Index increased to 9.5 percent in comparison with October 2021. Overall, the prices remain relatively high putting pressure on already strained purchasing power of particularly vulnerable households in Armenia, lowering their standard of living.
- In cooperation with the Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE), WFP developed and provided a socio-economic analysis of five bordering regions of Armenia (Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Gegharkunik, Ararat and Tavush). A joint impact assessment is planned with CHDE starting with a workshop to determine role division and plan future actions. WFP organized a session for the CHDE staff presenting WFP operations in Armenia, food security pillars and WFP methodology for food security assessment.
- To review and assess the project model of the “Food Card” pilot, which will become a national prototype of shock-responsive social protection procedures in Armenia, WFP started qualitative data collection and analysis process. In total three households, three social workers and one supermarket staff was interviewed. More interviews will be implemented in December 2022. Findings will inform the project’s future implementation, identify lessons learned and plan a scale-up interventions accordingly.

WFP and COP27

The 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change brought together world leaders and stakeholders to find solutions and address urgent issues related to climate change. Ms. Corinne Fleischer, the Regional Director of the UN World Food Programme, met the Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Armenia Ms. Gayane Gabrielyan. At the meeting, they agreed to deepen the cooperation between WFP and the Government of Armenia. A follow up meeting with the Armenian Government will be held on 7 December.

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).