



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief October 2019

In Numbers

49,749 school children assisted in October 2019



189 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.4 million six months net funding requirements (December 2019- May 2020)

Operational Context

With the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024, WFP Armenia embraced a new phase of programme implementation with innovative interventions and new delivery modalities in the areas of nutrition, social protection, food value chains and disaster risk reduction. The new programmes continue contributing to the efforts to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030. To ensure sustainable and equitable impact, WFP programmes are inclusive and gender-transformative to empower women in key areas, ensure education for all, have a climate-sensitive design and improve the sustainable management of natural resources. WFP Armenia will continue nurturing its continuous and efficient partnership with the Government of Armenia, national and international partners, and involve stakeholders from the whole of society for a maximized and greater impact.

WFP has been in Armenia since 1993, initially to provide emergency support. Since 2000, WFP has shifted to development assistance and under the CSP focuses on enabling, supporting and strengthening an environment for the government to provide solutions for increased food and nutrition security.

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 25.7 percent in 2017.

Operational Updates

- WFP Armenia established a new farmer's Cooperative and Collection Center in Berd community as part of its food value chains pilot project. To best inform and engage the Berd community members, WFP organised a series of meetings with 50 farmers at the end of October. Participants showed great enthusiasm about the services of the Cooperative and Collection Center, which includes technical assistance to farmers to grow high quality and value crops, while decreasing harvesting and processing losses.
- The food value chain pilot, established in partnership with UNDP, aims to establish a farmers' cooperative and to engage farmers in the entire value chain. Since the launch of the project in spring 2019, a group of 15 farmers organized themselves into a cooperative, which is in the process of official registration. The Collection Center has warehouses and processing units, equipped with modern green technologies to reduce energy consumption and enhance productivity.

Population: **2.97 million**

2017 Human Development Index: 0.755
(positioning it at **83 out of 189 countries**)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children between 0 and 59 months**

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP) (July 2019 - June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
28 m	2 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Dec 2019–May 2020)
6 m	1.4 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

Activity 1:

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

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

Monitoring

In October, the monitoring team visited 68 schools in 4 marzes – Kotayk, Armavir, Gegharkunik and Lori. During the monitoring visits the team collected data on different aspects of the school meals programme and its organisation, including the school's technical capacity to prepare meals and their compliance with food safety norms and regulations. WFP monitoring team uses real-time data collection tools to ensure quick response mechanisms. In addition to their observations, the team also collects feedback from different stakeholders such as headmasters, parents, kitchen helpers and teachers. All schools visited benefit from WFP's direct food modality, receiving six food commodities – wheat flour, oil, rice, buckwheat, lentils and pasta for the organization of hot daily meals. According to the monitoring results, in general, interviewed stakeholders are satisfied with the school feeding programme and are ready to continue improving the implementation of the programme. Nonetheless, among the biggest constraints for the organization of hot meals, are the poor school infrastructural conditions, such as lack or absence of hand-washing stations, hot running water, malfunctioning kitchen's and dining halls, and lack of proper kitchen

equipment. The field monitors also observed the need for more information on food safety, and regulations related to the organisation of meals.

Partnerships

- October has been an exciting month for partnership, with WFP Armenia Country Director and team of WFP presenting and discussing the five-years plan with a wide range of partners, including the British Embassy to Armenia, the Swedish Embassy to Armenia and the ICRC;
- New engagements and discussions on the climate crisis have been a key topic for WFP while attending the Green Climate Fund workshop organised by the Ministry of Nature Protection. Furthermore, new discussions took place with the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership to further include SDG2 Zero Hunger in the climate change discourse;
- WFP also met with high-level representatives from the Ministry of Education to discuss the strategic directions of the School Feeding Programme, including but not limited to the sustainability of the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation, the inclusion of nutrition curricula for school children and capacity development activities;
- All WFP staff worked together to design innovative solutions to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia. 3 ideas were submitted to the WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich.
- WFP has also launched a food security newsletter, to be shared with partners and stakeholders. The newsletter will be circulated every quarter and will cover various topics related to data and analysis on food security and vulnerability. The objective of the newsletter is to share information among national and international stakeholders on the interlinked drivers of food insecurity in Armenia. Partners are encouraged to provide information, analysis or propose topics for the newsletter.

Donors

Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, WFP 2030 corporate funds.