



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Armenia Country Brief December 2021



### In Numbers

39,461 people assisted in December 2021

US\$25,675 cash-based transfers made

320 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (January 2022 – June 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

### Operational Updates

To support the most vulnerable and food insecure displaced families from Nagorno Karabakh, WFP distributed in-kind commodities to 5,770 displaced people (1,224 families): 2,400 beneficiaries in Ararat, 2,500 beneficiaries in Kotayk, 800 beneficiaries in Gegharkunik and 70 beneficiaries in Yerevan (in December, WFP also dispatched food for Syunik, which will be distributed in the beginning of January 2022).

In December, WFP provided in-kind assistance to the schools in Armavir (69 schools) and Kotayk (86 schools) provinces to cook hot meals for 26,568 children. WFP supported 89 schools in Lori province with cash transfers for the schools to cook hot meals for 6,212 children. Additionally, in December 612 kitchen helpers and cooks working in Armavir and Kotayk schools and 299 kitchen helpers and cooks working in Lori schools received 80 tons of in-kind assistance. In 2022 the national government will take over the school feeding programmes in schools in Armavir and Kotayk provinces currently supported by WFP - the other eight provinces are already now under the National School Feeding programme. WFP will continue to technically support these schools.

With the guidance and support of WFP, the Government of Armenia joined the School Meals Global Coalition, an international coalition of countries promoting school feeding with the goal to ensure every child can access a healthy meal every day in school by 2030. With this initiative WFP and the Government of Armenia will have an opportunity to showcase best practices and lessons learnt tailored to national and local context, as well as work collaboratively with various stakeholders across the sectors at regional, national, and subnational levels.

In the reporting period, a comprehensive research has been commissioned by WFP to provide the Government with best available research and contextual evidence serving as a basis for identification of urban school feeding modality for Yerevan-based schools. Based on the consolidated outcomes of the research, a project proposal for expanding the urban school feeding in Yerevan will be developed and presented to the stakeholders for final decision making and fund raising.

At the end of 2021 WFP started an extensive assessment to evaluate the feasibility of scaling up a Food Value Chain programme in Syunik in 2022. 7,572 beneficiaries in 10 villages are planned to be reached in the first half of 2022 with climate sensitive investments to increase agricultural production and improve food processing therefore enhancing livelihoods of the population of Syunik.

**Photo Caption:** Christmas party in Teghut school with whole grain bread baked in school and vegetables grown in the school greenhouse (photo by Vahan Arakelyan)

**Contact info:** Anna Dalaryan, [anna.dalaryan@wfp.org](mailto:anna.dalaryan@wfp.org)  
**Representative and Country Director:** Jelena Milosevic

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\$) (Jan 2022-June 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.

In December, the United Nations Christmas Bazar in Yerevan hosted 4 Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) supported by WFP as vendors, showcasing the quality of nutritious products they are now selling on the market. On average each SME had US\$150 net profit from participating in the event.

To build the capacity of WFP beneficiaries on how to run micro-enterprises and best meet food safety standards, WFP agreed with the Food Safety Inspectorate Body of Armenia (FSIB) to develop a short and simple booklet targeted to small businesses engaged in food production and covering all important processes and regulations related to food production safety standards in Armenia. Food safety standards booklets will be developed during the first quarter of 2022.

In December, Jelena Milosevic, WFP Representative and Country Director in Armenia, and the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, Arman Khojyan visited several communities in Lori and Tavush provinces to observe the innovative agricultural practices implemented in the schools supported by WFP. The officials visited modern greenhouses where traditional, high-value crops are being grown and schoolchildren are actively involved in the works carried out in the greenhouses.

Recognizing the importance of the private sector organizations' involvement in creating food value chains and the overall food security, WFP Representative and Country Director in Armenia, visited the cow cattle breeding farm of the "Yeremyan Projects" located in Vayots Dzor province. WFP Country Director and General Director of the "Yeremyan Projects", discussed the approach "from seed to table" as an important concept to ensure food security, as well as cooperation opportunities and perspectives between WFP and the company.

## Monitoring and Assessments

In December, the [Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment \(FSVA\) 3](#) was published. FSVA3 was carried out in all regions of Armenia and took place from February through April 2021 to track the food security situation in the country, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the hostilities/fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

WFP conducted monitoring of the in-kind distribution (done in December) to people displaced from Nagorno Karabakh currently residing in Ararat and Kotayk provinces, as well as cash transfer provision done in June to 11,469 beneficiaries displaced as a result of the hostilities. Results of both monitoring activities revealed that the majority of beneficiaries were fully satisfied with the distribution process which was well organized.

## External WFP audit

WFP Armenia Country Office was among one of the eight WFP country offices to go through an external audit in the second half of 2021. The external audit took place in Armenia from 29 November to 10 December 2021.

## 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](#)