



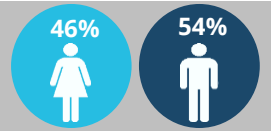
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief February 2022

In Numbers



11,083 people assisted in February 2022

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

99 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (March 2022 – August 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

Photo Caption: Workshop on Shock-responsive Social Protection (SRSP) capacity assessment tool and the methodology of improving emergency response through social protection, with participation of WFP, MLSA, UNICEF and UNDP representatives.

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 69 schools of Armavir reaching around 10,817 children with nutritious hot meals in schools. 266 kitchen helpers and cooks working in Armavir schools also received in-kind assistance.
- WFP continues effective dialogue and engagement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) on the design of the five-year umbrella Labour and Social Protection Strategy, promoting a food security and nutrition lens and enabling more shock-responsive social protection mechanisms and rapid response services. WFP’s recommendations have become a key element integrated within the draft Strategy document. To this end, in February WFP hosted a mission to assess the capacity of the Social Protection system and evaluate the scope of WFP engagement in supporting MLSA.
- The assessment of the shock-responsiveness of the social protection system in Armenia will be undertaken utilising WFP Shock-responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Capacity Assessment Tool. As part of the first phase of capacity assessment, WFP conducted a workshop for the representatives of the MLSA, UNICEF and UNDP on SRSP and the methodology to be used for improving emergency response through social protection.
- WFP conducted a capacity building workshop with the Ministry of Health’s public health team, under the social behaviour change/nutrition workstream. Representatives from the Ministry attended the workshop to explore how social behaviour change tools and theories can be used to develop more effective campaigns, messages, and support interventions. As a continuation of this workshop, WFP is closely working with the Ministry of Health to support the development of a project plan for their national campaign activities, which aim at influencing people’s food choices and dietary habits leading to improved health and nutrition outcomes. Parents of schoolchildren, adolescents, and older people (as part of an ageing well initiative) will be the main target of the activities.
- WFP had a successful meeting with the Governor of Gegharkunik province to discuss the extension of the transformative school agriculture activities in Gegharkunik province (School Feeding in Gegharkunik province was handed over to the Government in 2021). Starting from May, transformative school agriculture activities will be introduced in eight schools of the province, to establish greenhouses, berry gardens and intensive orchards, which will provide school children with nutritious food all year round.

Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
40 m	26 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (March 2022-August 2022)
5.5 m	1.5 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 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.

- WFP Representative and County Director in Armenia Jelena Milosevic had a meeting with the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia to discuss the Ministry's request to WFP to support the Government of Armenia in preparation of the National Food Security Strategy and Action Plan. The experts' team, which includes senior food security experts from WFP and the Ministry of Economy, was tasked with the development of the Strategy and Action Plan. During the meeting, the Minister of Economy stressed the importance of the strategic aspects of food security based on development investments and opportunities. The Food Security Strategy and Action Plan will serve as a platform to enable synergies and coherence between existing sectorial strategies and actions to achieve a consistent action plan with defined costs.

Monitoring and Assessments

- The Market Price Bulletin covering December 2020 to December 2021, showed that the prices of food commodities kept increasing with 7 percent inflation during the reporting period. The inflation increase is mainly due to price increases in countries of import, transportation costs, as well as domestic shocks such as inflation, availability of irrigation water, increase of fuel prices globally, etc. Additionally, as of January 2022, the price of drinking water has increased by 11 percent, while the cost of electricity increased (based on consumption) as of February 2022. As per Government decision, these changes will not apply to socially disadvantaged families.
- WFP conducted a survey of beneficiaries (50 parents of schoolchildren and headmasters) of 41 schools as part of the assessment of Transformative School Agriculture project. The assessment was done to assess the success, document the lessons learned, as well as lay the foundations for future evidence-based planning and improved delivery of subsequent iterations of the project. The assessment is done jointly with the main cooperating partner Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI). The datasets are based on in-person interviews and will be used by SIFI to do the analysis and develop the assessment report.
- WFP finalized Gender and Age Marker (GAM) monitoring for 2021 activities for the Strategic Outcome 4. GAM activities received the highest overall score of 4, meaning that gender and age analyses were systematically integrated.

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