



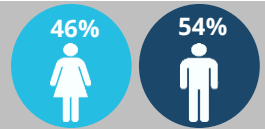
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief March 2022

In Numbers



27,175 people assisted in March 2022

US\$37,752 cash-based transfers made

61.5 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (April 2022 – September 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

- WFP continues providing technical support to the Ministry of Economy for the formulation of the National Food Security Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027. End of March, WFP submitted the "zero draft" of the Strategy to Ministry of Economy, based on inter-ministerial consultations.
- In March, WFP successfully launched cash transfers in Kotayk province (marz) benefiting 15,032 schoolchildren. WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 69 schools of Armavir reaching 10,813 children with nutritious hot meals in schools. 266 kitchen helpers and cooks (with their family members, in total 1,330 beneficiaries) working in Armavir schools also received in-kind assistance as compensation for their support.
- WFP facilitated a donation from Amazon valued US\$ 7 million which enabled the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MoESCS) in cooperation with the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency to ensure that school meals could be distributed to 100,000 children in a COVID-19 safe manner, by distributing personal protective equipment items to more than 1,400 schools.
- With WFP funding from the Innovation Accelerator's Sprint Programme, WFP Armenia is scaling up an innovative financing project where financing is made available to micro-enterprises to install climate-sensitive innovations in their businesses to enhance productivity and profitability. At least 22 micro-enterprises that typically struggle to get access to finance will be targeted from April 2022 to August 2022, promoting inclusive growth in Armenia.
- WFP organized a training on the design and implementation of programmes that integrate solar technology; it was attended by participants from line ministries, academic institutions, private sector, and WFP energy experts globally. The training was organised to keep momentum of the success of the installation of a solar station in a community building done through cooperation with WFP Centre of Excellence in China. The initiative aimed at reducing electricity cost and investing savings in community agricultural production.
- With the aim to strengthen national capacity and implement evidence-based campaigns, WFP has been supporting the Ministry of Health to develop three campaigns, including messaging, story boards, and behaviour change activities around three key health behaviours: salt reduction, healthy snacking habits, and ageing well.
- WFP together with partners celebrated the International School Meals Day (ISMD) in Armenia. The event featured the activities of WFP's School Feeding Programme. Flash mobs and games were organized for children and their parents to get them acquainted with the harmful effects of unhealthy diets and the importance of balanced, nutritious meals.

Photo Caption: Culinary event for cooks, parents and children in Vayots Dzor province (photo by Mariam Avetisyan)

Contact info: Anna Dalaryan, anna.dalaryan@wfp.org
OiC / Deputy Country Director: Nanna Skau, nanna.skau@wfp.org
[WFP Armenia 2021 Annual Country Report](#) **New**

Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
40 m	28 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April 2022-September 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 is supporting to develop curricula on physical activity and nutrition education. WFP organized a culinary event for cooks, parents and children in Vayots Dzor province. During the event the participants prepared healthy and delicious meals. In 2021, WFP began supporting the MoESCS to develop lesson plans and teacher training material for the new curriculum on healthy lifestyles for Grades 5-11. During the special cooking sessions some potential healthy recipes have been identified.

Monitoring and Assessments

- Analysis on possible disruption of food security as a result of the conflict in Ukraine was developed and shared with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Economy, UN agencies and other partners. Based on the assumption that the conflict will further increase food prices by 20 percent or more,

food insecurity in Armenia is expected to increase from 21.4 percent to 30 percent or more depending on the combined impacts of the expected low agricultural production in Armenia (due to below-average rainfall and high fertilizer prices) and the effect of the hostilities on the availability of food from Russia, the flow of remittances, the demand for Armenian goods and services, and the ability of the Armenian Government to compensate vulnerable Armenians for inflation.

- To have a solid analysis to guide early action and emergency response in support to the Government of Armenia, WFP designed and developed early warning indicators for food security and economic stability, defining thresholds to activate the response. Additionally, WFP designed targeting scenarios which prioritise the most vulnerable population, given the available resources and transfer values, considering also the food prices inflation.
- The Market Price Bulletin covering February 2021 to February 2022, revealed that the prices of food commodities keep increasing, with 11.4 percent inflation. The increase of food and non-food prices will affect the most vulnerable households in particular, decreasing their purchasing power. Factors influencing price hikes include price increase in countries of import, transportation costs, as well as domestic shocks such as inflation, availability of irrigation water, depreciation of Armenian dram, increasing fuel prices globally, etc.
- In March, WFP finalized the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report for in-kind distribution in Shirak province. According to the results, respondents were overall satisfied with the distribution process. In the reporting period, WFP started also a PDM survey for in-kind distribution to families of people displaced from Nagorno Karabakh, residing in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Kotayk and Syunik provinces. Distribution took place between December 2021 and January 2022.

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).