



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief April 2022

In Numbers



27,236 people assisted in April 2022

US\$0 cash-based transfers made

54.7 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (May 2022 – October 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

- The UN Resident Coordinator ad interim visited WFP's activities in Tavush Province to understand WFP's role and value added in changing lives in Armenia. The head and the deputy head of the Tavush Province also joined the two-day mission, to learn on the transformative school feeding and school agriculture investments, and food value chain activities focusing on availability and access to wholegrain products as well as community development programmes. The mission visited a school-based hydroponic greenhouse, where WFP provided a solar station which enables the school to save on electricity costs and re-invest in the school feeding programmes. A visit was also conducted to the first wholegrain mill in the country and to nearby bakeries that produce healthy wholegrain bread, which is being sold to the schools included in the National School Feeding Programme.
- In April, WFP together with the Deputy Minister of Economy and local authorities visited Syunik province to see WFP irrigation projects, which will benefit 14,377 people and lead to 1,480 hectares irrigated land. The huge investments in the province have led to the opening of a WFP field office in the province (Kapan) on the occasion of the high-level visit. WFP also signed a cooperation agreement with the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU), which will expand and upgrade agricultural extension and learning opportunities in Syunik.
- WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 69 schools of Armavir province reaching 10,813 children with nutritious hot school meals. 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. Also, WFP's cash transfers in last month to Kotayk province (marz) benefited 15,032 schoolchildren.
- WFP continues national capacity strengthening for school feeding. In April, 61 cooks and kitchen helpers from Lori province received practical trainings on food handling and cooking. Trainings were provided by Vanadzor college with guidance from the School Feeding Child Welfare (SFCW) agency.

Photo Caption: UN Resident Coordinator Ms Lila Pieters and Mr Vahan Arakelyan (WFP Food Value Chain Programme Associate) in a WFP's established greenhouse in Tavush Province (photo by Gohar Sargsyan)

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[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\$) (May 2022-October 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 in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Armenia, as well as the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute and the School Feeding Child Welfare agency launched 2 competitions in April. One was “the Second Annual Best School Mini Garden 2022” competition for schools across Armenia to promote green and clean school-based initiatives and to raise awareness about School Feeding. The other was “the Cooks Contest” aimed to praise the kitchen helpers and cooks’ efforts and engagement in the school feeding.
- In April, WFP continued its close engagement in the design of the five-year National Labour and Social Protection Strategy,

working on embedding food security and shock-responsiveness in social protection policies in Armenia.

- To increase awareness on the importance of behaviour change as part of public health, WFP delivered a Social Behaviour Change workshop for medical students and staff at the National Institute of Health, facilitated by the Ministry of Health.

Monitoring and Assessments

- To support the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) in mapping the business process to establish the Family Social Needs Assessment System, WFP provided two types of questionnaires. A questionnaire to measure food security levels among households was designed and provided to the MLSA and Unified Social Service (USS) to be incorporated in the needs assessment tool for eligibility of Family Living Standards Enhancement Benefit Programme (FLSEBP). Another questionnaire was elaborated for the measurement of food needs of households in emergency situations. In April, MLSA and USS reviewed the questionnaires and provided feedback.
- WFP announced and completed the tender for Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA) 4th round in April. Following the finalization of the tender, WFP conducted training of supervisors and interviewers. Data collection process for FSVA4 will start in May.
- In April, the tender for the Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR) was announced. The CLEAR study will assess the ability of households to cope with the climate risks as well as the impact of climate change on food security. Through this exercise WFP will map livelihood zones in Armenia and then will rank livelihood zones according to climate resilience. Lastly, analysis will explore the impact of predicted climate change on food security and livelihoods.
- WFP finished the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey and in-person household visits for in-kind distribution to families displaced from Nagorno Karabakh in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Kotayk and Syunik provinces. In total 2,392 people received in-kind distribution during December 2021 to January 2022. Survey results show that overall, respondents were satisfied with the distribution process.

- WFP started Mid-term Review (MTR) of 2019-2024 Country Strategic Plan (SCP). The main goal of the MTR is to assess the CSP programming and its results, as well as progress in the implementation of planned activities and delivery of outputs outlined in the CSP.

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).