



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief June 2022



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.

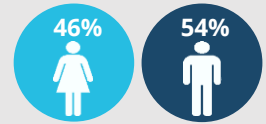
Population: **2.97 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **0.77**
(**81 out of 89 countries**)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children**
between 6-59 months

In Numbers



24,700 people assisted
in June 2022

74 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (July-December 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP provided nutritious hot meals to 13,800 children in 89 schools of Armavir province. In addition, 295 kitchen helpers and cooks (equal to 1,475 beneficiaries, with family members) received in-kind assistance in compensation for their engagement in the provision of school meals.
- Food assistance was provided to primary grade school children from Nagorno Karabakh enrolled in schools of Armavir and Kotayk provinces. In total, 183 children in Kotayk province and 282 children (equal to 2,325 beneficiaries, with family members) in Armavir province received support.
- In cooperation with the Social and Industrial Food Service Institute and local authorities, two donor coordination meetings were organised in Armavir and Kotayk provinces to mobilize resources for the renovation of schools' kitchen and canteen infrastructure for the transition into the National Cash-based School Feeding programme.
- WFP is scaling up the wholegrain wheat value chain to ensure increased production and consumption of the healthy alternative to white bread. Currently, wholegrain wheat has been integrated into the school meals of 7,100 children in Tavush province; and will be also provided for children in Lori province in the future. WFP was awarded with a Stop Hunger Grant to scale up this approach to an additional province.
- In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization, WFP has successfully been awarded with an SDG Grant to scale up food value chain programming in Syunik province. Agricultural production is the main source of income and has great potential for poverty alleviation through investment in actors along food value chains, contributing to the enhancement of national food security. Building up the socio-economic resilience is fundamental to strengthening food and nutrition security in Armenia, at the household, community, and national levels, particularly due to the current price shocks on food.

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Photo Caption: WFP Armenia supports farmers with drip irrigation systems for backyard berry gardens and intensive orchards & provides them with seedlings to ensure more harvest
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
52 m	28 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2022)
17 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*

Activities:

- 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*

Activities:

- 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*

Activities:

- 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*

Activities:

- Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.

- WFP Armenia Country Office (CO) is unique in having set up a cross-cutting Social Behaviour Change Unit, which supports programmes in utilizing behavioural science tools to facilitate the achievement of planned impacts. In June, WFP Armenia CO presented its experience in integrating social behaviour sciences across changing lives activities in the UN's Innovation Week and at a WFP-wide brown bag.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In June, WFP launched the Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR) in Armenia which will assess the impact of climate change on food security per livelihood zones. WFP will cooperate with the Government, international and local organizations engaged in livelihoods, climate change and resilience.
- The [market price and climate bulletin covering May 2021 to May 2022](#), showed that Armenia faces price increases of both food and non-food items. Food inflation was 14.7 percent. The increase of food and non-food prices in combination with other factors, such as the price increase of agricultural inputs, services, etc., will affect the vulnerable population in Armenia and their access to food. The appreciation of the Armenian Dram over US dollar may decrease the prices of imported goods and commodities, as well as many internal prices of high-value items. Related to climate, the volatility of rainfall affects agricultural production in Armenia.
- In June, WFP visited vulnerable families in Shirak and Gegharkunik provinces, to understand their vulnerability level because of food price inflation in the country and assess their potential need for emergency and additional support. Many interviewed households did not have basic housing conditions. The households had poor and limited food consumption and did not have food stocks. With the price increases, they had to limit the purchase of food commodities that they used to be able to afford and change consumption behaviours. Changes in consumption and food purchase behaviour includes reducing the portions for adults, limiting the types of food, and decreasing the amount and types of food purchased.
- WFP is currently undertaking the 2019-2024 CSP mid-term review (MTR). The main goal of the MTR is to assess the CSP programming and results, as well as the progress in the implementation of planned activities and delivery of outputs outlined in the CSP. In June, the reviewers team organised meetings with Finance, Planning and Budgeting, as well as Supply Chain units to gather inputs for the MTR report, based on the MTR questionnaire. The report is planned to be finalized by the end of September 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).