



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief September 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, 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 four Budget Revisions: the first two (2020 and 2021) 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 (November 2021) added capacity strengthening as an emergency response tool to support displaced and food insecure populations living in border provinces (marzes) through skills and resilience building activities. The most recent revision (July 2022), aims at strengthening national food systems in Armenia and providing support to national institutions to strengthen the national social protection system.

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.

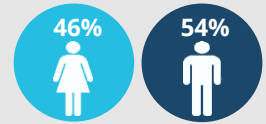
Population: **2.97 million**

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



25,973 people assisted
In September 2022

US\$ 57,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 14.4 m six months (October 2022-March 2023)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- The conflict in Ukraine is having a severe impact on Armenia in terms of increase in prices of both food and non-food items, as well as global supply chain delays. WFP Armenia estimates that the overall financial impact of the crisis on its operations amount to USD 500,000
- WFP and the Food Safety Inspection Body (FSIB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim to strengthen the capacity of WFP-supported small and medium enterprises (SMEs) along the food value chain and increase smallholder farmers' knowledge of minimum food safety standards. As a result of the cooperation, a guidance booklet on minimum food safety standards and requirements will be developed and distributed to 1,000 SMEs and smallholder farmers.
- In September, WFP assisted 15,073 schoolchildren in Kotayk province (marz) with cash transfers to their schools. In addition, 183 kitchen helpers and cooks (915 beneficiaries in total, including family members) in Kotayk province received in-kind assistance as compensation for their engagement in the provision of daily meals.
- Within the framework of scaling up wholegrain value chain activities in Lori province, a total of 65 schools provided whole grain bread to 9,500 schoolchildren in the province: of these schools, 27 are buying the bread from bakeries in Lori and 38 are baking it for school use. Also, practical training courses on preparation and use of whole grain bread and bread products were held for 100 parents and their primary school children in Lori province.
- In order to promote good food safety attitude and practices, the school feeding programme trained 18 cooks and 142 parents from Armavir on nutrition, food safety and hygiene
- In September, 225 participants from 44 schools across the country, took part in trainings on composting, rainwater management and safe use of pesticides for the intensive orchards, greenhouses and berry gardens established by WFP.

Photo Caption: Deputy Country Director/OiC Nanna Skau and the Head of the Food Safety Inspection Body of Armenia Georgi Avetisyan signed an MoU to ensure that people across the Republic of Armenia have access to safe and quality food
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Contact info: Anna Dalaryan (anna.dalaryan@wfp.org)
OiC/Deputy Country Director: Nanna Skau
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/armenia

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements* (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84 m	28 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2022– March 2023)
17 m	14.4 m

* Ongoing budget revision.

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.
- Strengthen national food systems in Armenia, supporting actors along the food value chain.
- Provide support to national institutions to strengthen the national social protection system.

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.

revealing that food insecurity in Armenia stands at 23.2 percent. In addition, 57 percent of surveyed households were marginally food secure suggesting that more than half of the population are at risk of becoming food insecure in case of a new shocks or prolonged crisis.. Compared to April 2021, food insecurity levels increased by 3 percentage points. The main drivers for this were increased adoption of coping strategies, as well as the disruption of income. Another factor that could have influenced food security levels is the food price inflation, negatively affecting people’s purchasing power. Highest food insecurity levels have been detected in Shirak, Lori, Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Syunik provinces. Meanwhile in urban areas of the country food insecurity rates are comparatively higher than in rural settlements and in Yerevan.

- WFP Market Price Bulletin covering August 2021 to August 2022, showed food price inflation of 12.6 percent and Consumer Price Index of 9.1 percent. As a result of this, WFP started to face challenges related to the procurement of certain items, price increase was recorded for procurement of seeds (107%), solar panels (52%), kitchen equipment (35%), construction materials (15%), etc. Additionally, the devaluation of USD against local currency, decreased the WFP Armenia country office revenue and increased the costs in USD.
- The second stage of the “Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience” (CLEAR) study started in September. WFP organized regional meetings in six provinces to validate the selected livelihood zones and elaborate on the impact of climate change on agriculture, employment opportunities, income dynamics and overall lifestyle of local people specific to the selected areas. Five other regional meetings will be organized in October in the remaining provinces.

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).

Monitoring and Assessments

- The fourth nationwide Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA4) narrative report was published