



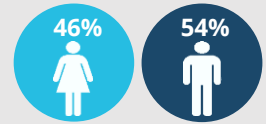
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief October 2022



In Numbers



17,285 people assisted
In October 2022

US\$ 116,400 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.1 m six months (November 2022 - April 2023)
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, 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

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Humanitarian Demining and Expertise Center (CHDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation to ensure that populations, especially farmers in the border areas that have been mined, have adequate knowledge about the potential risks and can access safe land to cultivate nutritious food. WFP will cooperate with CHDE to assist mine victims and their families to improve their livelihoods. In addition, WFP will cooperate in assessing socio-economic impact of uncleared lands and will help build the capacity of CHDE to engage in food security analysis. WFP will further conduct an impact assessment jointly with CHDE and International Committee of the Red Cross.
- In October, WFP assisted 15,073 schoolchildren in Kotayk province (marz) with cash transfers to their schools to receive nutritious hot school meals.
- A training session was delivered to 40 beneficiaries. They will be given legumes seeds and will be taught how to use them to the best advantage. The training included sessions on cultivation, harvesting and storage/processing of legumes in Syunik province. Additional 12 beneficiaries who formed a cooperative to manage the WFP-established logistics hub in Khndzoresk (Syunik province) were trained on the topic of Formation and Management of Cooperatives.
- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs are rolling out a new "Integrated Response to Increase Food Price in Armenia" project. The project, funded by USAID, includes two pillars: (1) Design and operationalization of the national shock-responsive social protection procedures, and (2) Scale up of the "Food Cards" pilot.
- WFP and the Ministry of Health have launched seven community-based public health campaigns aimed at uniting families around the idea of healthy lifestyle. The campaigns encourage the participation of different generations, and apart from the general emphasis on a Healthy Lifestyle, they promote the idea of "Healthy and Active Aging" for the elderly. In total, 2,100 school children and staff, parents, family members and elderly populations took part in campaigns across the country.

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Photo Caption: Deputy Minister of Finance of Russia, Timur Maksimov and the Head of the International Finance Department, Pavel Snisorenko visited Armenia to get a clear picture of the School Feeding in the country, implemented by WFP
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements* (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84 m	29 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2022– April 2023)
17 m	9.1 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.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP Market Price Bulletin covering September 2021 to September 2022 showed that food price inflation increased to 13.7 percent and the Consumer Price

Index increased to 9.9 percent. Overall, the prices continue remaining relatively high and putting pressure on already strained purchasing power of particularly vulnerable households in Armenia, lowering their standard of living.

- Within the framework of the “Food Cards” pilot, 239 households in cities of Sevan, Gavar, Artik and Gyumri were assessed for eligibility to receive the food cards. WFP have trained 24 social workers of Unified Social Service centers before they conducted the assessment. A total of 68 households were selected for the first transfer of cash.
- WFP joined UNHCR and UNICEF to Kotayk and Gegharkunik provinces to identify the needs and capacities of communities to host and accommodate internally displaced populations.

Russian Federation Delegation Mission

A delegation from the Russian Federation visited Armenia to assess the Transformative School Feeding model implemented by WFP in all provinces in Armenia. The aim is to see first-hand results of the support provided by the Federation since 2010. The model contributes to food security, human capital development, and community development and has enabled the handover of School Feeding in all the regions of Armenia to the Government.

Harvest Festival

In October, WFP took part in the two-day event “Harvest Festival: rural life and traditions”. WFP showcased School Feeding and Food Value Chain activities. The event contributed to sharing the best and most innovative agricultural ideas, and experiences, and helped WFP beneficiaries build a network and position their brands in the Armenian market.

World Food Day and WFP Armenia

Within the framework of the World Food Day, FAO requested WFP to partner with Austrian Development Agency and UNICEF in a conference to discuss the challenges in the fields of food and agriculture in Armenia and possible ways to overcome them. Additionally, an interactive theatrical performance and a masterclass on planting microgreens held in Matsamor school of Armavir province, aimed at bringing children together and developing the ability to choose healthy foods for their daily diet. In total, 60 children participated in the event.

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).