



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief January 2023

### 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 (November 2021) added capacity strengthening to support displaced and food insecure populations living in border provinces (marzes). The fourth (July 2022) aimed at strengthening national food systems in Armenia and the national social protection system. In January 2023, a further revision of the CSP extended its duration for one and a half year extending it until the end of 2025, to align it with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia (2021-2025). 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.

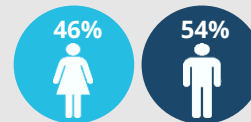
Population: **2.97 million**

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



**368 people assisted\***

In January 2023

\* Teachers received trainings within the framework of "Milk in Schools" and school children received morning milk

**US\$ 7.9 m** six months (February – July 2023) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- As of January 2023, WFP's School Feeding programme implementation in all 10 provinces (marzes) was successfully handed over to the Government of Armenia. WFP will continue to provide technical support to strengthen the capacities of schools' staff while continuing investments in transformative school feeding. This includes investing in circular economy approaches in schools by setting up greenhouses and intensive orchards.
- In cooperation with Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS), WFP developed nutrition education materials for fifth to ninth grade students. To equip teachers to deliver the nutrition and physical activity curriculum, WFP partnered with the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency (SFCWA). So far, they conducted trainings for 95 teachers in Tavush province.
- National data shows that children's diets in Armenia are lacking calcium. To mitigate this, WFP in partnership with a milk producer "Yeremyan projects", started the daily distribution of milk among 273 students in fifth to eighth grade students in Jermuk and Yeghegnadzor schools. The pilot will be implemented over two semesters in 2022.
- WFP piloted a renewable energy model within the framework of "Productive Agricultural Practices" in two provinces Gegharkunik and Syunik at the borders. The pilot aims to strengthen community level capacities by investing in the renewable energy solutions for bordering and vulnerable communities, aiming to enhance their energy independence and sustainability, as well as create a source of economic regeneration for communities and settlements. The revolving model foresees installation of 10 units of 40 kilowatt solar stations in 10 bordering and vulnerable communities (4 four communities in Gegharkunik and six communities in Syunik), with the commitment to reinvest generated savings in community settlements each year over the 5-year period, by providing 10 kilowatt solar stations.

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**Photo Caption:** Beneficiaries of "Milk in School" pilot marking their daily portion of milk intake in Jermuk school  
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)	
Total Requirements* (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
<b>84 m</b>	<b>31 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2023)
<b>11 m</b>	<b>7.9 m</b>

\* 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.

- WFP launched the "Improving Emergency Response through Social Protection" project in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA), the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) and the Ministry of Emergency

Situations (MES). The project aims to improve national ability of social protection programmes in the country to respond to shock-related needs of any scale, adding a complementary instrument to the national emergency response strategy and to improve its coherence, timeliness, and efficiency.

- WFP launched the first activity of the "Resilience and economic recovery of border communities in Armenia" (REBCA). The project intends for selected vulnerable households in conflict affected provinces to meet essential needs of food and to restore psycho-social conditions. Data collection for 3,000 people entitled to receive cash for food through food card modality is underway. The assistance will be provided in February and March covering 3,000 people (750 households).

**Monitoring and Assessments**

- WFP Market Price Bulletin of December 2022 showed that food price inflation increased to 10 percent and the Consumer Price Index 8.3 percent in comparison to December 2021. The highest food price inflation was seen in the capital Yerevan (10.8 percent), then Tavush (10.4 percent), Armavir (9.6 percent) and Kotayk (9.5 percent) provinces.
- WFP in cooperation with the Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE), collected qualitative data to assess the socio-economic impact of mined and otherwise contaminated by unexploded ordinances (UXOs) territories on food security and wellbeing of the population in bordering areas of Gegharkunik and Syunik provinces. The impact assessment encompasses the perceptions of local population about the existence of mined lands, includes analysis of the influence of mined lands on the livelihood sources of local population, as well as estimates the cost-benefit of the mine action on enhancement of more income generating activities and opportunities.
- Within the framework of "Milk in Schools" project, WFP performed a baseline survey among 420 beneficiary and non-beneficiary schoolchildren from fifth to eighth grades, studying in two schools in Vayots Dzor province. The baseline aimed to determine snacking and drinking habits, attitude towards milk, as well as to detect possible behaviour change among schoolchildren of receiving morning milk in schools.

**Donors**

Armenia General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), British Embassy, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Embassy of Japan, EMERCOM, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union, Fruitful Armenia Fund, Government of Flanders, Government of France, Izmirlian Foundation, Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian companies, My step Foundation, Russian Federation, Saint Sarkis Charity, Swiss agency for Development and Cooperation, South-South Opportunity Fund, 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).