



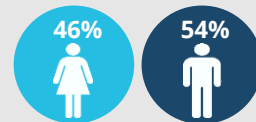
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief February 2023



In Numbers



2,536 people assisted
In February 2023

US\$ 60,900 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.7 m six months (March – August 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 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

Operational Updates

- Within the framework of the "Resilience and economic recovery of border communities in Armenia" (REBCA) project, WFP distributed food cards and completed the first tranche of cash transfers to 479 households (2,116 beneficiaries) to support vulnerable households in conflict-affected provinces (marzes) meeting essential needs of food.
- WFP, in partnership with UNICEF and UNDP, launched a five-year project entitled "Building a resilient social protection system in Armenia." The project, funded by the European Union, aims at putting in place a shock-responsive social protection system that builds an individual's resistance and resilience to adversity and vulnerability.
- WFP has designed the roadmap of action for the Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) inter-ministerial task force. The task force will include representatives of Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI), Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), Ministry of Interior and will be chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA). The task force will convene in early March to validate the roadmap and define ways forward.
- To help the sixth to ninth grade students receive healthy meals during school days, WFP jointly with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS) and in consultation with all 10 provinces in Armenia, launched the Commercial School Feeding model. The consultation covers analysis and calculations to set up the model in any school across the country.
- In cooperation with the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency (SFCWA), 163 teachers received trainings on coaching and methodological guidance regarding teaching materials on healthy lifestyle curriculum for grades six to eight in Tavush province.
- Within the framework of the "Strengthening socio-economic inclusion of smallholder farmers" project, the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU), supported by WFP conducted a session on sustainable farming practices for 26 farmers and cooperative members in Syunik province.

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Photo Caption: "Resilience and economic recovery of border communities in Armenia" (REBCA) project beneficiaries receiving food cards in Vardenis, Gegharkunik province
WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements* (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
84 m	35 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March – August 2023)
11 m	2.7 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.
- 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.

- Within the “Milk in schools” project, WFP in partnership with a milk producer “Yeremyan projects” distributed to 231 school students in fifth to eighth grades in Jermuk and Syunik schools their daily portion of milk. The project aims to enhance access to calcium for children and support nutrition-sensitive behavior change.

- WFP scaled up the “Green Energy for Productive Farming” project in Gegharkunik and Shirak provinces. To have more independent communities with sustainable energy supply, the project foresees the installation of 10 solar stations (20-kilowatt capacity each) in Shirak and Gegharkunik provinces. To strengthen community-level capacities and enhance farmers’ food security level, further support will be provided to 150 farmers from the same 10 communities, including the provision of high-value crop seedlings/saplings, drip irrigation systems, dehydrators, and trainings on new agricultural techniques.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP Market Price Bulletin of January 2023 showed that Food Price Inflation increased to 9.4 percent and the Consumer Price Index 8.1 percent in comparison to January 2022. The highest food price inflation was seen in capital Yerevan (10.3 percent).
- To better understand the impact of climate risks on food security, WFP implemented the [Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience \(CLEAR\)](#) study, with all the details published [here](#).
- WFP completed the analysis of interlinkages between poverty and food security. Analysis showed a moderate correlation between food insecurity and poverty. Key recommendations drawn: inclusion of food security indicators in the Government’s Family Livelihoods Enhancement Benefit Programme (FLSEBP) and establishment of shock responsive food security safety nets.
- To identify the availability of sufficient infrastructure and food items in the REBCA project targeted areas, and related risks, WFP conducted a Market Functionality Index assessment, including trader and market interviews in Vardenis, Sisian and Jermuk communities.
- WFP in cooperation with the Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE), assessed the socio-economic implications of mined and contaminated areas in Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces, as well as completed cost-benefit calculations of mine action. Key recommendations included conducting a technical survey and awareness-raising activities among other activities.

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).