



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



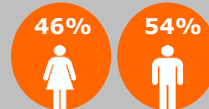
WFP Armenia Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

49,749 people assisted in November 2019

0 cash based transfers made

183 mt of food assistance distributed



WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

Operational Context

With the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024, WFP Armenia embraced a new phase of programme implementation with innovative interventions and new delivery modalities in the areas of nutrition, social protection, food value chains and disaster risk reduction. The new programmes continue contributing to the efforts to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030. To ensure sustainable and equitable impact, WFP programmes are inclusive and gender-transformative to empower women in key areas, ensure education for all, have a climate-sensitive design and improve the sustainable management of natural resources. WFP Armenia will continue nurturing its continuous and efficient partnership with the Government of Armenia, national and international partners, and involve stakeholders from the whole of society for a maximized and greater impact.

WFP has been in Armenia since 1993, initially to provide emergency support. Since 2000, WFP has shifted to development assistance and under the CSP focuses on enabling, supporting and strengthening an environment for the government to provide solutions for increased food and nutrition security.

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 25.7 percent in 2017.

Operational Updates

- On the 11th November, WFP officially handed over the WFP supported School Feeding programme in Aragatsotn region to the Government of Armenia. The ceremony took place in Ashtarak Basic School After V. Petrosyan, and was attended by the Armenian Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Arayik Harutyunyan, WFP Representative and Country Director Ms. Jelena Milosevic, representatives from WFP's implementing partner Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) as well as representatives from the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, which have provided consistent financial support for the last decade. The financial support from the Russian Federation has sustained school feeding for thousands of Armenian children and contributed to building capacity to enable hand over to the Government of Armenia. Presently, WFP has handed over to the Government the school feeding programme run in six out of ten regions, including the above mentioned Aragatsotn one. WFP continues to build the capacity of the Government and prepare the remaining 4 regions for the programme hand over. Each school year one region will take the consignment form WFP, aiming to have a full nationalization of school feeding by 2023. During the ceremony, partners and key stakeholders reconfirmed their commitment for further cooperate to support and invest in the Human Capital Development of the children of Armenia. The speeches were followed by a tour of the renovated kitchen and cafeteria in which guests had a school lunch with school children.
- In the Berd community, where WFP in partnership with UNDP is piloting a food value chains programme, the supported farmers established a cooperative and officially registered it under the name "Tavsho Hatik". Through the cooperative nutritionally diversified high-quality pulses will be increasingly available in markets. The cooperative will also provide community members with technical support and equipment, as well as facilitating access of small-holder farmers to markets.

Population: **2.97 million**

2017 Human Development Index: 0.755
(83 out of 189 countries)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children**
between 0-59 months

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Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP) (July 2019 - June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
27.9 m	7.9 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Jan-June 2020)
6.2 m*	0

* Includes requirements for Jan-June 2019 (under TICSP) and July-December 2019 (under CSP).

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

Activity 1:

- Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government

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

Activity 2:

- 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

- During the month of November WFP has organised four trainings on nutrition and food preparations in Gegharkunik province to prepare schools for their forthcoming 2020 hand-over. The trainings are conducted with school headmasters and kitchen workers to educate them on the importance and advantages of nutritious food, and to train them on food safety standards.

Monitoring

- In November the monitoring team visited 46 schools in 4 provinces - Kotayk, Armavir, Gegharkunik and Lori. According to the monitoring results, in general, the stakeholders are satisfied with the school feeding programme and are ready to continue improving the implementation of the programme.
- In 78 percent of the 46 monitored schools, WFP's and parents' contribution are the only sources of financial support for the renovation of kitchens. According to the monitoring results, 89 percent of the parents make contributions (670 AMD) which cover other necessary food and products including potato, onion, greens, peppers, cabbage, carrot and cleansers.

Partnerships

- "It's an opportunity, Invest in Food Security". On November 27 WFP Armenia, in partnership with the Italian Embassy to Armenia, organised a conference on business and development opportunities to invest in food security.
- This one-day conference gathered representatives from the public and private sector to mark yet another step forward in finding new solutions to improve food value chains in Armenia. Panellists from key Armenian line ministries, China, the EU, Italy, the Russian Federation, as well as the private sector discussed opportunities and areas in which investments and the strong partnership between public, private and institutional partners can create new synergies.
- Two major recommendations have been highlighted by the panellists through the conference:
 - Government officials highlighted and recognised the negative impacts of food insecurity on the health and productivity of the Armenian population. There is the need and there are the opportunities to set up policies, facilitate investments and support changing nutrition-sensitive food value chains to invest in the human capital development and the macroeconomic growth of the country.
 - Private Sector representatives called for the need to further integrate the government, the private sector and institutional partners into joint areas of collaboration to create new models of food value that are profitable yet socially responsible in their endeavour to create new job opportunities, stimulate new drivers of growth and support the food security of the Armenian population.

Donors

Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, WFP 2030 corporate funds.

Photo Caption: Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Armenia, Head of Delegation, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Armenia, WFP Representative and Country Director in Armenia and Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia during the Food Security Conference