



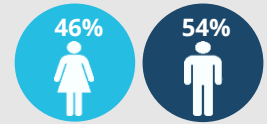
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief December 2022



## In Numbers



**21,580 people assisted**  
In December 2022

**US\$ 82,000** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 5.4 m** six months (January - June 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 dairy producer 'Yeremyan Projects' signed an agreement to implement a "Milk in Schools" pilot starting from January 2023. Around 350 schoolchildren from fifth to eighth grade in two schools of Vayots Dzor province (marz) will receive a cup of milk every morning for a healthy start of the school day. Prior to the project launch, WFP conducted awareness raising about the objectives of the project, and the health benefits of milk to 300 of the parents, and addressed parents' questions and concerns.
- In December, WFP continued to assist 15,067 schoolchildren in Kotayk province with cash transfers to their schools to receive daily nutritious hot school meals. In addition, 319 kitchen helpers and cooks (1,595 beneficiaries in total, including family members) received cash transfers for their engagement in the provision of daily meals. In January 2023, 86 schools in Kotayk province will be handed over to the Government. WFP will continue to provide technical support to strengthen the schools' staff capacity in the province after the handover.
- WFP in partnership with the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency (SFCWA) and Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) organized the annual "Best School Mini-Garden" competition among 55 schools. The competition promotes creating school gardens and the learning of children about organic agriculture.
- To ensure students from grades five to nine also receive healthy meals during school days, WFP in cooperation with the SFCWA developed a pilot model for commercial school feeding where parents will pay for the meals. The pilot is pending the approval of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.
- WFP and SIFI conducted a scoping mission to verify programming approaches to finalize the concept of expanding school feeding to the capital (Yerevan) and linking it to food value chain activities.
- WFP completed the establishment of 2.5 km irrigation system in Tsghuk village (in Syunik province). The system covers 100 hectares of land, benefitting 455 people. WFP, with the communities, continues establishing irrigation systems in more five villages.

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

**Photo Caption:** WFP and Yeremyan Projects signing a cooperation agreement within the framework of the "Milk in Schools" project.  
*WFP/Mariam Avetisyan*

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

| Total Requirements* (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD)                                  |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>84 m</b>                  | <b>30 m</b>   |
| 2023 Requirements (in USD)   | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2023) |
| <b>11 m</b>                  | <b>5.4 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 aims to strengthen resilience and enhance food security of Syunik population by increasing availability and accessibility of nutritious, quality and locally produced food types. In December, WFP distributed 8.5 tons of legumes seeds (including peas, lentils,

chickpeas and beans) to 69 farmers (345 people with their family members) intended to cover 60 hectares of land area.

- To enhance Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) along the food value chain to access to green energy, WFP introduced a blended finance activity for seven SMEs in Gegharkunik, Tavush, and Shirak provinces. WFP offered subsidies complemented by a financial service provider to the SMEs to be repaid in instalments.
- In December, WFP provided solar stations to seven schools in Gegharkunik province, in total with 210 kwt capacity, benefitting 3,327 people. Other components to scale-up the transformative school agriculture will be completed in the beginning of 2023.
- WFP continued the "Food Card" pilot, in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The pilot is a conditional cash transfer to household's card with an entitlement of US\$ 19 per member to buy food. In December, WFP made transfers to 442 beneficiaries in Shirak and Gegharkunik provinces.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In December, WFP organized a validation workshop to present findings and arrange discussion around the Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR). The CLEAR study will be finalized and published in January 2023.
- WFP started the data collection for the fifth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA) aiming at evaluating food security at the household level, taking into account the anticipated increase in costs, especially heating, arising from the onset of winter. Data collection will be completed in January 2023.
- WFP Market Price Bulletin of November 2022 showed that food price inflation increased to 11.1 percent and the Consumer Price Index increased to 8.8 percent in comparison with November 2021. Overall, the prices remain relatively high putting pressure on already strained purchasing power of vulnerable households.
- To review and assess the "Food Card" pilot, WFP continued qualitative data collection. The analysis is expected to be finalized in January 2023. Based on the results, WFP plans to scale-up the intervention in other provinces accordingly.

## 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).