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SPR Reading Guidance



**Development of Sustainable School Feeding
Standard Project Report 2016**

World Food Programme in Armenia, Republic of (AM)



World Food Programme

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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

Armenia is a lower-middle income, landlocked, net food importer country vulnerable to external shocks. Despite significant macro-economic progress and structural reforms implemented in Armenia during the last decade, a rising state debt and weakening economic growth from 3.0 in 2015 to 2.4 in 2016 have strained the government budget, hindering implementation of adequate social safety nets, reducing investments in the education and health sectors to 2.2 and 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) respectively. Armenia ranks 85 out of 188 in the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report and 62 out of 155 on the Gender Inequality Index.

According to the World Bank, Armenia is listed in the top 60 countries exposed to multiple hazards, and is the most shock-prone country in Central Asia and Caucasus region [1]. Simultaneous natural earthquake, climate and environmental risks, together with conflict-related risks may prompt significant economic losses and adversely impact food security. Eighty percent of its inhabitants are at constant high risk of exposure to catastrophic events. In any given year, there is a 20 percent probability that a major disaster will result in losses of 12.7 percent of country's GDP. Since 2014, geopolitical risk rose, with a sharp escalation of the tensions within the region.

In 2015, the poverty rate in Armenia remained above the pre-2009-crisis level with 29.8 percent. Households headed by women are 33 percent more likely to be living in extreme poverty. Women's participation in the labour market is 54.2 percent compared to 72.6 for men [2]. The multidimensional poverty index offers insights into the complexity, depth and persistence of poverty, while measuring deprivations in education, health, employment, housing, and extreme poverty. The analysis of Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative shows a clear

correlation between poverty, food insecurity and education [3]. Educational (school attendance) and health indicators (child mortality and nutrition) are contributing as much as 90 percent to the overall poverty value. According to Comprehensive Food Security, Vulnerability, and Nutrition Analysis, undertaken by WFP in partnership with the National Statistics Service and United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), 15 percent of the households were food insecure and 28 percent at risk of becoming food insecure in 2015. Range of crosscutting gender considerations linked to cultural norms might result in disparities between men and women. These include gender-based disparities in access to and wage differences in the labour market, and limited opportunities for women to access economic resources. The coexistence of undernutrition (19 percent stunting), overweight or obesity (15 percent) and micronutrient deficiencies is a growing challenge.

In the past decade, Armenia progressed towards achieving universal primary school enrolment with almost equal proportion for girls and boys. A similar situation prevails in higher grades, with 94 percent of women who have reached secondary education compared to 95 percent of the men. Women's high level of educational attainment has not resulted always in corresponding gains in the labour market. Dropout rates and low secondary school completion rates indicate that education quality remains a major challenge especially in poor communities. According to UNICEF, 60 percent of pre-school age children do not attend pre-schools due to the absence of pre-school facilities in their communities or poverty. While school tuition is free, education remains costly for vulnerable families who experience difficulties to cover the minimal costs related to schooling supplies, clothing and associated necessities. Girls are less likely to be absent from schools than boys and perform better.

[1] World Bank, Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management in Armenia

[2] UNDP, Integrated Living Conditions Survey (LCS) 2014, HDI report, 2015

[3] Oxford Poverty and Human Development Index, Country Briefing, Armenia, 2016

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

The Government of Armenia has developed strategic frameworks for poverty reduction and social protection, together with sector-specific policies and programmes intended to strengthen agricultural development, and decrease malnutrition. The Armenian Development Strategy 2014-2025 is the principal framework for poverty reduction through sustainable economic growth. The Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2015-2025 aims at reducing rural poverty and promoting inclusive agricultural income-generation. The National Strategy on Child Nutrition 2014-2020 formulates the vision to target malnutrition, though only among children. Aligned with the government agenda, WFP is contributing to three out of the four pillars of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): 1) equitable, sustainable economic development and poverty reduction, 2) social services and inclusion and 3) environmental sustainability and resilience-building. WFP supported national efforts to inform the nationalisation of SDG 2, Zero Hunger, and 17, Partnerships, for the Goals. A Zero Hunger Strategic Review will identify policy and operational gaps in the current framework, and potential measures to reach the goal. It will contribute to bringing greater coherence to development planning and improve partnerships between stakeholders to maximize synergies and impact. Within the celebrations of 2016 World Food Day, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Armenia partnered for the first time to raise awareness on the Zero Hunger agenda. Joint activities promoted the importance of local agricultural development and sustainable safety nets to achieve the Zero Hunger goal.

Whereas the Government functions to achieve Zero Hunger lie across various ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture is the primary actor for food security. The Comprehensive Food Security, Vulnerability and Nutrition Analysis nurtured the country's agenda on hunger and malnutrition. The findings highlighted the importance of deepening coordination among actors to foster a comprehensive approach towards all dimensions of food security. The country's main focus is on food availability, while access, utilisation, and sustainability considerations are often undermined or not considered holistically. The functional areas' disaggregation might hamper coordination between line ministries and development actors around cross-sectoral themes.

School meals has become a national priority and the Government is gradually taking over the programme in four out of all ten provinces of Armenia. Funding was mainstreamed through the State Budget Medium-term Expenditure Framework: USD 3.9 million to cover the costs of three provinces for the period of 2016-2018 and additional USD 0.7 million for a fourth province from September 2017. WFP continued augmenting the Government's capacity at central and local levels through targeted interventions, with the vision for sustainable and quality hand-over of the programme in all provinces by 2023. After the roll-out of the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) in April 2016, in partnership with the World Bank and Partnerships for Child Development, WFP supported the Government in developing a new comprehensive National School Meals Policy. WFP is pursuing partnerships and joint advocacy with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to

promote nutrition-sensitive programming and integration of the school meals programme into the national social protection system. WFP also fosters coordination with FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to promote linkages between the school meals programme and the local agricultural production.

WFP contributed significantly to building the evidence for the Government's informed policy and programme planning. Advocating for all dimensions of food security, the life-cycle approach to nutrition, WFP brings added value to these sectors. A cost-benefit analysis of the National school meals programme, conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and MasterCard proved that each dollar invested in the National school meals has an economic return of USD 7.1. The 18th Global Child Nutrition Forum, which is the world-wide largest forum on school meals, was organized in Armenia in September 2016 and provided a sound platform for strengthening the South-South cooperation framework.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

WFP has initiated strategic thinking on SDG 2, Zero Hunger and positioned itself in the policy dialogue on the country's key challenges of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, through evidence building for informed policies and programming on social protection and emergency preparedness. Strategic and operational partnerships with international and national development actors became essential to influence cross-sectoral coordination, moving away from a fragmented approach.

WFP continued focusing on school meals, adjusting its role from direct implementer, and taking a greater facilitator role, introducing innovations in its implementation and scaling up technical support to facilitate the hand-over process. Launched in 2010, WFP's School Meals Development Project pursued a two-fold objective: 1) to support the food security and education of children, and 2) to support the Government in developing and implementing a sustainable national school feeding programme.

WFP engaged in policy dialogue not only with the Ministry of Education and Science, but with five line Ministries, to strengthen the benefits of school meals. Major changes have occurred already in the handover strategy with clearly defined milestones, including the design of a national school meals policy and a capacity-strengthening strategy.

While actively advocating for the strengthened government ownership, WFP supported the creation of an enabling environment within the host Government. This has resulted in the Government's commitment for taking over the additional province of Tavush in 2017, and a firm assurance for allocating financial and human resources for taking over one province each year.

To facilitate the handover to the Government and improve the programme nutritional value, WFP initiated steps to move progressively its implementation from a fully centralized provision of in-kind food to a decentralized cash-based transfer modality.

WFP supported the Government in establishing the Republican School Meals Training Center, which will serve as the in-country resource for conducting capacity development activities and the State School Feeding Foundation, which will function as a management and implementation unit of the Government to sustain the National School Meals programme. WFP provided its expertise in the development of training materials, aiming at training the trainers to enhance their knowledge in the multiple components of school meals implementation: menu composition, food management and safety, procurement, accounting, monitoring.

WFP had two projects and a Trust Fund, which responded to the Government's needs to implement sustainable school meals and to strengthen the emergency preparedness in case of escalation of the tensions in the region over Nagorno-Karabagh. Both projects are contributing to the SDG 2, Zero Hunger, and SDG 17, Partnerships, for the Goals.

Development Programme DEV 200128 (2010-2017) with approved budget of USD 28 million to support the service delivery of school meals to 60,000 beneficiaries with the vision of a gradually completed handover by 2023; and provision of technical assistance to the Government to support the roll-out of the national and sustainable school meals programme.

Trust Fund worth USD 0.1 million was allocated by the Government to the WFP administered school meals to cover the cost of the internal transportation, storage and handling costs of food provided.

Immediate Response Preparedness (IR-PREP) 200968 (April 2016- November 2016) with the approved budget of USD 0.28 million to enhance the Government preparedness and coordination capacities and WFP's role and response activities in Armenia, should the tensions around Nagorno-Karabagh conflict escalate or an earthquake strike the country.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

WFP's project achieved tangible results due to the momentous multi-year directed, multilateral contributions from its single donor, the Russian Federation, together with the highest commitment of the host Government, which continued funding the food internal transportation, storage and handling costs of the WFP-administered project. Compared to previous years, annual funding needs have increased in 2016, resulting from a greater strategic positioning, the organisation of XVIII Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) contributing to South-South cooperation, the drastic scaling-up of the capacity reinforcement activities and the provision of technical support for the sustainable handover, while maintaining the direct provision of food to the schools.

The project has been receiving generous and predictable funding since 2010, amounting to a total of USD 21 million until mid-2016, which allowed WFP to reach defined targets and accomplish the expected activities. This contribution allowed to re-initiate a school meals programme in Armenia after decades of interruption since the 1980s. The programme has already reached results and is moving towards fully operational, nationally owned school meals, gradually incorporating multiple benefits.

An additional USD 7 million contribution from the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation was confirmed for the period covering 2016-2018. A USD 1 million contribution was donated by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation for 2016. The Government of Armenia continued funding the food internal transportation, storage and handling costs of the WFP-administered project worth USD 104,000. This new Russian contribution allowed organising the GCNF, and fostered the Government's ownership thanks to a major increase of WFP's technical expertise, provided at all levels. This technical support ranged from a series of comprehensive analysis to inform policy and programming, to trainings and experience exchange initiatives both on international and local levels. It also enabled WFP to initiate its support for the creation of the National School Meals Foundation and the Republican School Meals Training Centre, established by the Government decree N1391 of 22 December 2016, which will become the main implementation, coordination, and capacity development unit of the national programme. The funding will secure the continued provision of food assistance in WFP-supported schools, kitchen rehabilitation - enabling schools to provide hot meals, and the gradual introduction of the cash modality in three provinces.

WFP improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the supply chain for sound project implementation, and introduced a real-time monitoring tool, supported by information technology (IT). The newly installed IT equipment sped up all phases of the monitoring process, which allowed recording more accurately the food balance information and minimised the risk of end-of-year food losses. Moreover, conclusive negotiations with commodity suppliers to tailor the packaging to the actual school day's needs allowed minimising further the food balances in schools during the breaks to exclude losses of expired food.

Achievements at Country Level

WFP together with partners steered analysis and advocacy initiatives to raise awareness and strengthen the government capacity to tackle these issues. Findings and recommendations of comprehensive analyses provided a better understanding of multiple dimensions of food insecurity, especially on access and utilisation, and the prioritisation of these concerns on the agenda of Government and key development actors, including donors. These efforts fostered a holistic scrutiny of the root causes and implications of food insecurity and malnutrition on Armenia's sustainable economic development. The partnership engaged with the National Statistics Service and the Caucasus Research Resource Centre to support annual food security analysis in national research programming. Partnerships with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the World Bank resulted in the inclusion of food insecurity assessments during the evaluation and development of targeted social protection interventions for vulnerable households by social workers. WFP initiated its support of the Government by conducting a National Zero Hunger Strategic Review. This expertise combined with vigorously built partnerships provided a solid basis to position WFP as a sound capacity enabler at the policy-level dialogue, rather than sole implementer of school meals.

WFP significantly strengthened the understanding of multiple facets of school meals programmes, including educational, nutritional, social protection and local agricultural development benefits. The National programme's cost analysis proved that the provision of a nutritious school meal programme is a long-term investment with sturdy economic, social and educational returns. WFP support and advocacy on local and regional levels for the provision of universal nutrition-sensitive hot meals saw a gradual shift from the provision of snacks to nutritious hot meals in

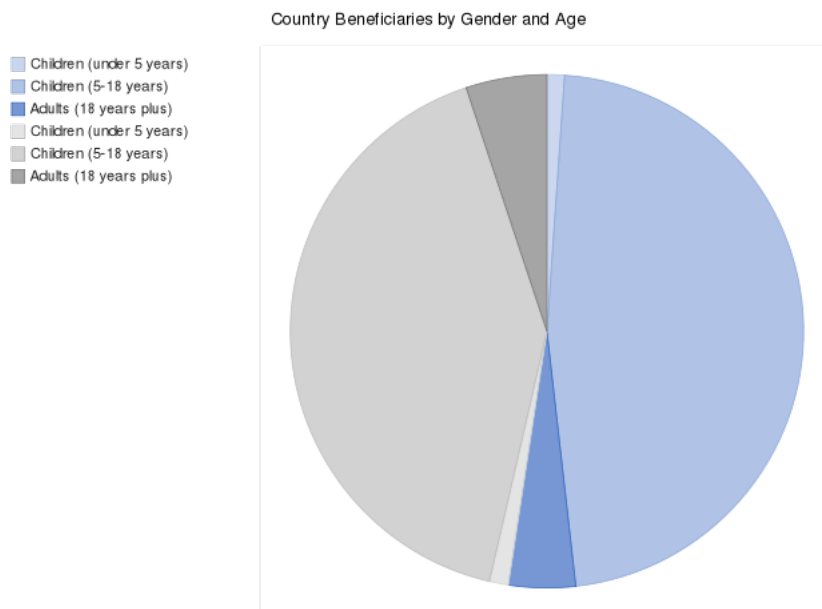
87.7 percent of schools under the National programme. The organisation of the 18th Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF), hosted for the first time in the Central Asia region, nurtured the central level government's strategic shift with the Minister of Education and Science actively promoting the provision of hot meals under the school meals programme. Discussions with the Prime Minister's Cabinet to establish the State School Meals Foundation highlighted the importance of linking the programme with local agricultural production.

WFP supported the Government in conducting the Systems Approach for Better Educational Results (SABER), which allowed an assessment of the National school meals policies and strategies, for development of new comprehensive school meals policy, in line with five policy standards of SABER [1]. The Government endorsed the SABER report in August, which highlighted the need for inclusion of the multiple impacts, of the provision of school meals, in various sector's policies.

[1] SABER Five policy standards are: 1) policy frameworks, 2) financial and institutional capacities, 3) institutional capacity and coordination, 4) design and implementation, and 5) community participation.

Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	751	819	1,570
Children (5-18 years)	32,165	28,203	60,368
Adults (18 years plus)	2,868	3,483	6,351
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	35,784	32,505	68,289





Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	2,107	127	174	-	-	2,407
Total Food Distributed in 2016	2,107	127	174	-	-	2,407

Supply Chain

Armenia is a landlocked country and has closed borders with neighbouring Turkey and Azerbaijan since 1991. This has resulted in restricting the number of supply chain corridors to only two. The first potential corridor is from the North, using the Georgian port of Poti, and the second one is from the South, through the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. The majority of importers, including the humanitarian community, are using the northern corridor to bring goods to Armenia, especially when importing goods from Europe and the Russian Federation, as the northern corridor is shorter and infrastructure is better developed.

All food consignments were purchased from the Russian Federation, under the agreed delivery terms with the supplier delivering the commodities directly to the WFP warehouse in Armenia. Consignments were received at the WFP warehouse located in the North of Armenia, from where storage was arranged and subsequent delivery of food organised to the schools under direct WFP programme administration. Six food commodities were regularly delivered to 600 schools throughout seven provinces. Transportation of these commodities was organised with commercial trucking companies selected through a competitive and transparent tendering process.

WFP systematically ensured that the quality and safety of imported commodities are in line with the highest standards. In addition to the commodity quality certification documents issued in the supplier's country, WFP contracted an external independent company for quantity and quality check of commodities imported in the host country, which provided additional guarantees for food safety. The in-country transport, storage and handling (ITSH) costs were covered by the host government.

Starting from 2015, Armenia joined Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), represented by the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation. With its mission of regional economic integration, the EEU brought to Armenia minimised external transportation and associated costs. As a result of Armenia's accession to EEU, WFP revisited its supply chain procedures and obtained release from customs clearance and food certification related fees. Another adjustment improving the cost efficiency of the supply chain was the shift from the rail-car transportation to land-line car option. This change avoided the substantial fees related to the detention and storage charges of the rail-car, which brought a decrease of 10 percent to overall transportation and handling costs.

Significant improvements in planning and distribution cycles successfully minimised the food losses and obstructions in delivery, compared to previous years. WFP performed good warehouse practices, with measures related to dis-infestation and repackaging, which induced negligible post-delivery losses. To prevent potential pipeline breaks, the supply chain is tailored to have two to three months of required food commodities at the

warehouse. Although there was no local procurement in 2016, WFP prepared a procurement plan to initiate the local procurement of wheat flour, pasta and buckwheat in the coming year.

As of June, WFP began using the Logistics Execution Support Services (LESS) for commodity tracking system, which improved commodity tracking at all stages, including the online review of the commodity balance and expiration dates, minimizing the Internal Transport, Storage and Handling (ITSH) costs through avoiding potential double dispatching and improving food safety considerations, in addition to better monitoring and reporting practices.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Buckwheat	-	20	20
Pasta	-	40	40
Rice	-	40	40
Split Peas	-	80	80
Vegetable Oil	-	80	80
Wheat Flour	-	1,320	1,320
Total	-	1,580	1,580
Percentage	-	100.0%	

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

An independent operation evaluation of the DEV 200128 project undertaken in February 2015 provided seven strategic and operational recommendations on improving the implementation's effectiveness: 1) facilitate transitioning from direct implementer towards enabler of national ownership through a well-defined handover plan; 2) rethink the school meals strategy; 3) improve gender equality impact; 4) reinforce knowledge transfer to the Government; 5) strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system; 6) improve partnerships and; 7) invest in studies to build evidence for solid policy and programme design.

Noteworthy advocacy efforts combined with a major scale-up of technical support and training activities for strengthening national ownership brought to the formal establishment of a State School Meals Foundation by the Prime Minister. The Minister of Education and Science agreed on a full handover by 2023, taking on a minimum of one province every year and securing resources.

The Systems Approach for Better Educational Results (SABER) exercise, establishing a comprehensive diagnostic and gap analysis of existing regulatory frameworks of relevant sectors, will be the basis for the development of the new National school meals policy reflecting on the programme's multiple dimensions. This allowed WFP to define a clear capacity strengthening strategy for Armenia and serves as a baseline for the National Capacity Index.

A Gender Action Plan was developed, encapsulating strategic and operational interventions focusing on women economic empowerment – a major gender equality gap according to the 2016 Country Gender Assessment report of Asian Development Bank [1]. Emphasis was put on gender-sensitive programme implementation, including defining output level indicators disaggregated by age and gender, intentional targeting of unemployed women from rural communities for activities within its school meals programme.

Lessons learned from the handover of the first provinces revealed the need for a gradual approach with adequate forward planning and targeted local and regional capacity development activities to prevent reversing the programme quality. In preparation for the forthcoming handover of schools in Tavush province, WFP revisited its school infrastructure assessment methodology, mobilised partners for infrastructure improvements and fostered

coordination of interventions among state agencies for hygiene and sanitation, construction, finance and education. To empower the school administrations and regional authorities in their implementation of the National school meals programme, WFP prepared to shift from its current centralised provision of in-kind assistance to decentralised cash-based transfers, provided together with corresponding training. This model developed will be replicated in all provinces.

To increase the accuracy and timeliness of information related to programme implementation, WFP strengthened its monitoring and evaluation system, revisited the indicators and introduced a real-time electronic mobile system, with the aim of gradually transferring monitoring capacity to the Government.

WFP's major effort to build multiple partnerships with donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) created synergies, enabling the provision of essential infrastructure support packages to schools, including nutrition-sensitive programming with new greenhouses and school gardens established in 20 percent of schools. These efforts brought multiplier effects of WFP resources for school rehabilitation and refurbishment and enriched food diversity in schools with fresh fruits and vegetables.

WFP invested in comprehensive studies and research, including food insecurity and malnutrition analysis, the Investment Case proving the economic returns of national school meals programme, and Integrated Context Analysis. These analytical exercises meaningfully strengthened evidence-based policy and programming and supported advocacy efforts.

[1] Asian Development Bank, Armenia, Country Gender Assessment, 2015

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

In 2016, WFP redefined its strategic engagements reflecting on lessons learned and the changing environment. WFP sought to continuously improve direct implementation, and the strategic priorities aimed to facilitating the hand-over of a sound and sustainable school meals programme in its multiple facets, while contributing to the development of national food security and nutrition strategies and policies.

The Government of Armenia considers school meals as holding a significant role in improving both learning performance and retention of children at school, and as an important social safety net in fighting short-term hunger and malnutrition. This school meals programme became a national priority, and the Government is gradually taking over implementation from WFP, with firm intentions to strengthen the procurement of commodities from local smallholders.

Building sound evidence to strengthen stakeholders' holistic understanding of food security and malnutrition, together with an analysis of the root causes and impact on the country's development, contributes to the development of solid information for policy formulation and programme design.

Launched in 2010, the sustainable school meals programme predominantly concentrated on direct support to food insecure communities and the education of children. The emphasis on direct implementation sought to firmly establish the programme, allowing for scaling-up ahead of the hand-over to government, which has been prioritized since 2015. Augmenting the understanding of the multiple benefits of the school meals programme to support the development of a comprehensive national school meals policy and enhance the design of the national programme were essential. This explains the priority given to the analysis of five policy dimensions of Systems Approach for Better Educational Results (SABER); the refinement of the national school meals policy formulation and readjusts the national programme implementation, while accompanying the process with a major augmentation of the technical support provided to the Government. Nutritional considerations and linkages with local production were further considered in the development of the national school meals programme.

The development of strategic and operational partnerships was of paramount importance. WFP focused on creating synergies around school meals' essential package among existing programmes. Stimulating South-South cooperation with the organisation of 18th Global Child Nutrition Forum in Armenia was part of global partnership enlargement.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	4,582,202
Cash & Voucher and Related Costs	315,132
Direct Support Costs	6,032,965
Food and Related Costs	15,353,496
Indirect Support Costs	1,839,866
Total	28,123,661

Project Activities

To achieve the set objectives and predefined priorities, the project provided diversified nutritious hot meals to 60,000 children enrolled from pre-school to grade 4, in most food insecure communities. Food assistance provided five days a week over 166 days of the school year, comprised of wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice, buckwheat and

pasta. While a local procurement plan was prepared for 2017, in 2016 all six basic commodities remained imported from the Russian Federation, in line with the donor agreement. These were complemented by the provision of locally available fruit and vegetables purchased with voluntary contributions from parents and local communities. Contributions were mobilised and administered by parent-teacher associations (PTAs). Ninety-two percent of PTA participants were women, empowered continuously through training and counselling provided by WFP to increase the effectiveness of school meals implementation, strengthen planning and monitoring of food preparation. The programme provided food entitlements to 1,700 women kitchen helpers, as remuneration for their preparation of the school meals.

The Comprehensive Food Security, Vulnerability and Nutrition Analysis (CFSVNA) was completed with the National Statistics Service and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in March. The CFSVNA introduced an innovative approach linking food insecurity and malnutrition with risk analysis. Conducted in June, the Integrated Context Analysis identified the most vulnerable areas to determine where to geographically position and combine social safety nets, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and early warning actions in different regions, with particular focus on recurrence and severity of food insecurity and disasters.

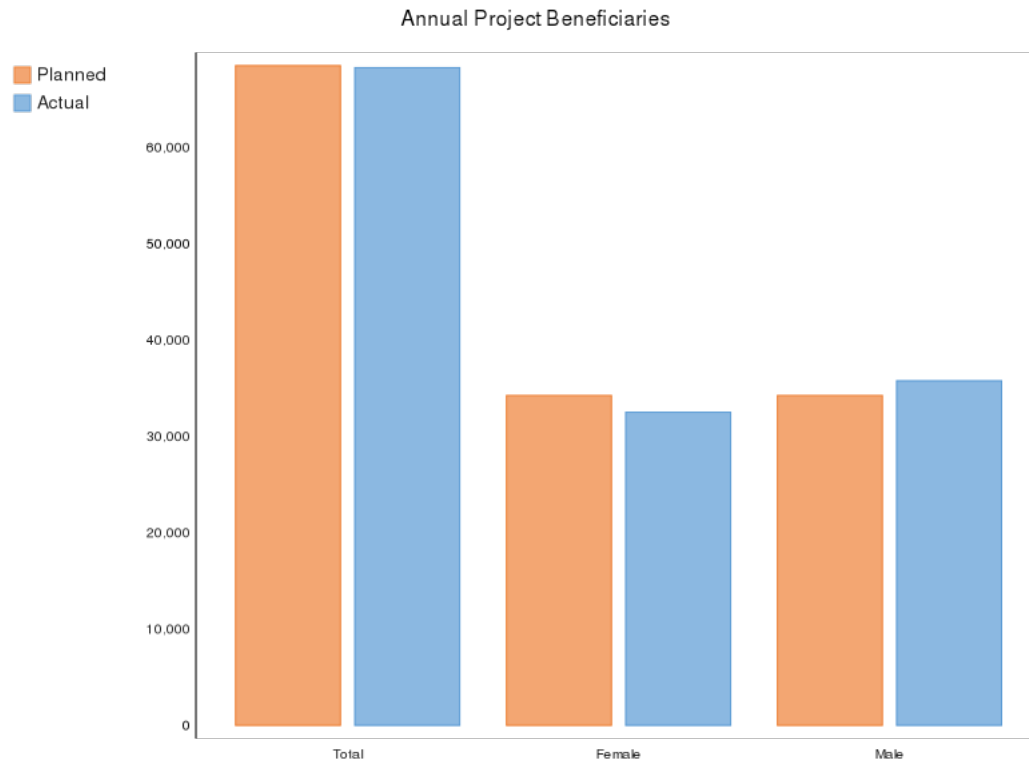
Highly supported by Ministry of Agriculture, a long-term partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) was established with an inception mission to explore the potential for conducting an impact review and formulate recommendations for potential future policy and programming. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), WFP developed a Food Security Cluster Response Strategy to ensure a coordinated and cohesive response to food insecurity in case of humanitarian crises. The Strategy was discussed with the government structures and key partners during the Food Security Coordination Group meeting, organised for the first time in Armenia. As a result of advocacy and partnership efforts, the Caucasus Research Resource Centre embedded regular food security analysis in its annual operations framework.

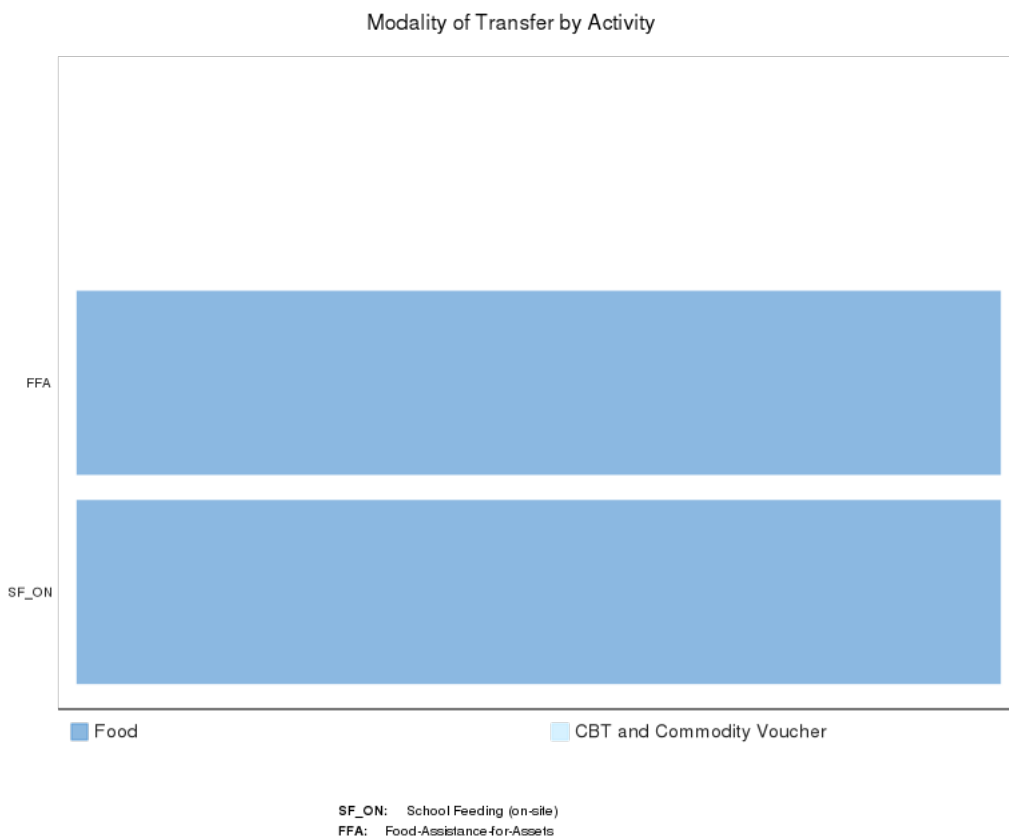
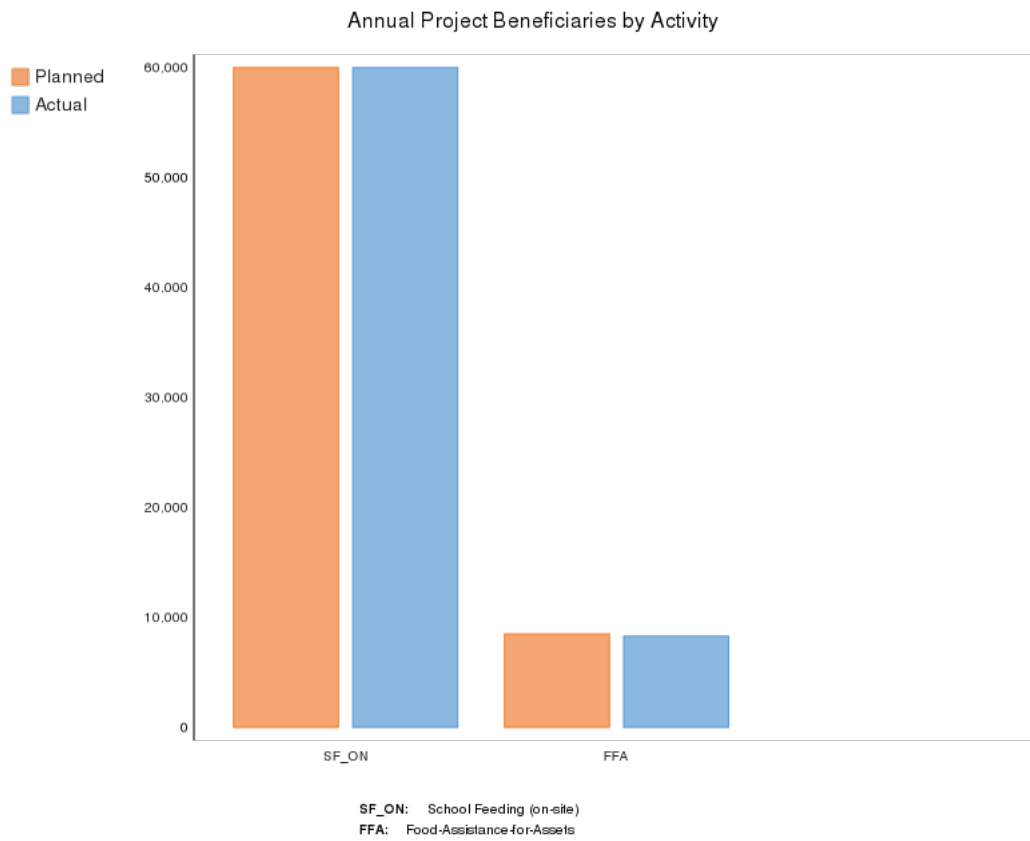
WFP pursues the objective of fostering government ownership of the national school meals programme through capacity development and augmentation activities. To support the Government's advocacy efforts in fundraising and position the programme well with internal and external stakeholders, a cost-benefit assessment of the national programme was initiated by WFP in partnership with MasterCard in June. An intensive awareness raising campaign on the importance of hot meals for child health and development was organised by WFP and partners, including public interviews with the Minister of Education promoting the provision of hot meals, publications of analytical reports on malnutrition and its consequences, and persistent advocacy to foster higher level government influence and support to schools for the shift to the provision of hot meals at schools. These efforts, combined with the provision of kitchen equipment and counselling in schools under the Government-administered provinces, prompted a gradual shift from a snack modality to nutritious hot meals, increasing the percentage of schools reached from zero percent in 2015 to 45 percent in early 2016, and reaching 87 percent by the end of the year. Together with its cooperating partners, Social and Industrial Food service Institute (SIFI) and the Government of Armenia, WFP organised an advanced training for 33 school headmasters and kitchen helpers in Tambov, Russian Federation. Numerous in-country inter-school and inter-province exchange of experience were organised. WFP continued to promote school gardens for complementary inputs to school meals and to educate children on food and nutrition. The valuable technical support and expertise from the Government of Israel and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), introduced a modern drip irrigation system in two school gardens in Armavir and Ararat provinces and provided capacity development training for schools and communities on nutrition and garden cultivation.

To ensure a smooth handover of operations to the government in Tavush province in September 2017, WFP suggested to introduce cash-based transfers (CBT) in all 75 schools in the province. Following the feasibility assessments, WFP together with central and local authorities completed arrangements to provide training for school headmasters and kitchen helpers to administer cash. In the framework of WFP's capacity development activities, during the last quarter, an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Education and Science to provide technical support for the establishment of a Republican School Meals Training Centre and the State School Feeding Foundation. WFP's multiple consultations with the Ministry of Education, together with its official advocacy with the Prime Minister's Cabinet and commitment to provide training for staff managing and implementing the school meals programme, triggered the official creation of the Foundation by the Prime Minister. WFP shared best international practices with these government units and supported the formulation of the functional structure of the Foundation.

The five pillars of Systems Approach for Better Educational Results (SABER) were analysed during the WFP-supported workshop in April. The workshop was followed by the establishment of five technical working groups comprised of government experts representing the ministries of: education, social affairs, health, agriculture and territorial administration to further analyze the gaps and provide recommendations for new National School

Meals Strategy. Together with Ministry of Education and Science and SIFI, WFP extensively supported the organisation of Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) and facilitated hosting 250 participants from 45 countries. WFP support included identification of the venue and the hotels, organisation of school visits, transportation and related arrangements. WFP gave presentations during the GCNF showcasing the success of both, WFP's and the national school meals programme, while addressing current challenges which could undermine the successful transition to national ownership.







Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Buckwheat	105	105	99.9%
Lentils	202	-	-
Pasta	105	94	89.2%
Rice	105	101	96.1%
Split Peas	-	174	-
Vegetable Oil	150	127	84.5%
Wheat Flour	2,111	1,807	85.6%
Total	2,778	2,407	86.6%



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	82,640	-	-
Total	82,640	-	-

Operational Partnerships

To enhance synergies around strengthening the comprehensive understanding of food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as to develop the sustainability and maximise the impact of multiple facets of school meals programme, WFP continued building strategic and operational partnerships with governmental structures, UN agencies, private sector and civil society organisations. The intensive engagement with national statistics service and United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) around development of the comprehensive food security, vulnerability and nutrition analysis allowed to sensitize highest governmental levels to the malnutrition burden combined with the deteriorating vulnerability situation in the country. This contributed to the establishment of concise and comprehensive policy and programming, in turn institutionalising a holistic approach to food security analysis in national institutions. Collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) resulted in evaluating potential areas for further impact review of school meals programme and revision of the national programme objectives. Together with Yerevan State University and Caucasus Research Resource Center, WFP organised a public lecture on “making social protection more nutrition sensitive” delivered by the IFPRI senior research adviser.

In recognition of the world food day, WFP and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) partnered for the first time in Armenia to raise the awareness of the zero hunger agenda and organised a number of visibility events throughout the country.

WFP conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the national school meals programme in partnership with MasterCard, which proved to be a powerful tool for advocacy and investment. Verbal agreements were obtained between FAO and WFP to initiate joint programmatic interventions around strengthening smallholder farmer’s capacity and better linking local agricultural production to school meals programme in 2017. In December, WFP initiated discussions on joint programming and strategic partnering with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), especially in light of the support to small-holder farmers for the home grown school meals approach. WFP continued its successful operational partnership with Social and Industrial Food Service Institute to

contribute to the handover of the Government, and eventual ownership of the school meals programme.

The field-level operational partners for the effective implementation of the school meals programme continued to be the schools themselves, the local communities and the regional authorities of all ten provinces of Armenia. The schools, which are the primary responsible entities for provision of timely and nutritious meals, played a crucial role in reaching WFP programmatic objectives. Within the introduction of a cash transfer modality in Tavush province, arrangements were made with the Yerevan Regional College N1 to conduct trainings on financial and food management, procurement, reporting and accounting, as well as hygiene and sanitation for school headmasters. Regional authorities were intentionally engaged in the needs assessment and capacity development processes, as they are in charge of the local institutional control over the schools. Tripartite field level agreements between WFP, Tavush schools and the regional authorities on implementation of school meals through a cash-based modality were prepared to ensure roles and responsibilities of each partner were clearly defined. Parent-teacher associations throughout all provinces were regularly trained and counselled to ensure resource mobilisation and management of community contributions was effectively adopted. This has proved to be crucial to the programme as well as an important forum for women to play a more active role.

To enhance synergies around capacity augmentation activities, specifically on kitchen equipment and rehabilitation in all provinces, WFP mobilised non-governmental organisations, including Children of Armenia Fund, World Vision, Fund for Armenia Relief and Paros Foundation, to multiply the efforts on infrastructure rehabilitation of schools. As a result, kitchens and cafeterias in 15 schools were rehabilitated for the preparation of hot meals. A productive partnership with the Israeli Government and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) was reactivated, which resulted in strengthening school gardening systems and knowledge building on nutrition-sensitive programming in selected communities. WFP was officially invited by the World Bank to join the working group on "nutrition sensitive social safety nets" created in the framework of the World Bank project on rapid social response. The group is comprised of the line ministries, United States Agency for International Development and UNICEF to coordinate nutrition-sensitive social protection and food security interventions.

Performance Monitoring

The monitoring team consists of one national programme policy officer and three monitoring assistants. The team is visiting 588 schools under direct WFP administration and 260 schools under the government administration, four days a week of the school year. WFP's Monitoring Evaluation Tool (COMET) includes a wide range of gender and age sensitive indicators, allowing to measure the parity of boys and girls enrolled, attended, dropped-out and passed to the next grade.

Following the external evaluation of the DEV 200128 project and the recommendation to improve the monitoring system, WFP made successive enhancements to improve information timeliness and accuracy, and regular reporting.

The following areas for improvement were identified: 1) the need for a sampling approach to ensure statistically representative data; 2) the strengthening of the tracking of process-related issues; and 3) the necessity to ensure timely and accurate reporting for programmatic course correction.

The monitoring plan identified two sources of data to assess the programme implementation and the achieved results. Primary data collection was mainly on process and output level indicators, while outcome level indicators (enrolment, retention and attendance rates) relied on secondary data collection and analysis based on school records and national statistics. Regular monitoring reports included basic output level and process dimensions of the school meals programme.

WFP adjusted the routine output monitoring forms and the database to include additional indicators and information to accurately capture the quality of the implementation. A standardised quarterly reporting format was introduced. The functions of the monitoring team were adjusted to the evolving project needs. The mid-year introduction of the mobile application technology, the Geo-referenced Real-time Acquisition of Statistics Platform (GRASP) mobile data collection system, allowed for a reduction in time of data collection and processing and resulted in faster information management. Data was collected by the monitoring assistants with mobile devices (tablets) and automatically synchronised to the GRASP centralised database. This ensured appropriate security and confidentiality of individuals' information. The migration to GRASP was combined with the enhancement of the output and process level monitoring indicators.

This real-time monitoring system includes the following dimensions: 1) the implementation of the school meals; 2) assessment of the general conditions of the school infrastructure including hygiene and sanitation, 3) kitchen, cafeteria, equipment and warehouse utilisation; 4) community's involvement; 5) partnerships; 6) agro-production potential; and 7) nutritional composition of the menus.

Data gathered are analysed and summarised in newly established monitoring formats to encompass analyses both at regional and central levels.

Results/Outcomes

The project registered close to 100 percent achievement against planned benchmarks attained regarding the number of beneficiaries reached, disaggregated by age and gender, food distributed per commodity type and implementation of activities under each beneficiary category. Relatively lower achievement is reported for the caseload of children under 5, the corresponding actuals are part of the current household demography. These results were achieved due to generous multi-year funding and WFP's vigorous efforts to improve the programme planning and implementation. The delay in introducing the cash-based transfer (CBT) modality planned for November resulted from the legitimate request of the Regional Governor to postpone the introduction of this new modality to February 2017, to allow schools to align with the financial reporting cycle and better equip head-masters to administer cash and food procurement. The number of actual days on which school meals were provided was slightly below planned as the January flu epidemic saw many schools close for a week.

Equitable access to primary education, including gender-equitable child enrolment, attendance and pass rates remained consistently high in 2016 throughout WFP-assisted schools. Combined with the State regulation on compulsory education for primary grade students, these positive trends might be also attributed to the social protection effects for family budgets generated through the value transfers from the school meals programme. The Cost-benefit Analysis of the school meals programme in Armenia, conducted together with MasterCard in July 2016, proved that each dollar invested in the programme will generate benefits of USD 7.1 over the lifetime of a beneficiary. Out of these benefits, 82 percent are generated from increased productivity and 12 percent from the value transfers to the households, which allows to free-up resources to invest in other productive assets. In addition, during the regular Parent Council's meetings, many parents highlighted the social protection benefits of the programme that generated additional incentives to send and keep their children in schools.

Marketing opportunities for local producers and traders of food products remained low, due to a significant delay in the local large-scale production of buckwheat and pasta, planned to be purchased by WFP in 2016. The centralisation of local production by small farmers of selected food commodities into one large-scale processing company was initiated under the European Union funded project entitled ENPARD, and was the only option to obtain locally produced buckwheat for the school meals programme. WFP had made all arrangements to start purchasing in September, but technical constraints faced by ENPARD postponed to April 2017 the production of ready for sale commodity.

Despite serious political changes and economic challenges faced by Armenia during 2016, the Government has managed to reach almost half of its annual planned contribution towards school meals project implementation for the technical assistance and capacity development support.

The recent accession of Armenia to Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) provided new opportunity to increase the purchase of food commodities from countries in the EEU, including host country. These changes allowed WFP to prepare a 2017 procurement plan to purchase buckwheat, wheat flour, and pasta in Armenia as well as explore further opportunities for purchasing locally cultivated agricultural production. Moreover, the introduction of cash transfers will augment the share of locally produced food in the school meals programme.

WFP's intensive counselling provided to school administrations stimulated the creation of new school gardens, bringing to 51 percent the coverage of productive school gardens.

As a result of enhanced advocacy efforts and WFP-led analysis, the Government augmented its commitment towards the sustainability of the National programme, through dedicated funding for the Government-administered programme, internal transportation and handling costs for WFP-administered programme and establishment of the State School Meals Foundation, which will institutionalise governmental functions related to programme administration. WFP's drastic increase of expenditures for technical assistance to strengthen Government capacities stirred the Government decision to secure funds for taking over all schools in the province of Tavush in 2017. This political decision on the increase in budgetary allocations from the State budget to national school feeding programme was considered as an essential milestone reached, within the recent unprecedented trend of cutting budgetary expenditures for development programmes and public costs.

WFP set-up the School Meals National Capacity Index (NCI) to measure the overall capacity of school meals programmes transitioning toward nationally owned programmes. It is calculated based on results obtained from the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment tool. The 2016 NCI will serve as the baseline and re-conducting SABER exercise every two years will track progress towards achieving transition.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

The Country Gender Assessment of Asian Development Bank indicate limited progress in the last five years regarding gender equality. Government policy related to gender equality has evolved from measures aimed at addressing women's issues to a more comprehensive view of disparities between women and men. Although the country has scored consistently high in equal access to education and positive health outcomes for women, this is counterbalanced by limited progress in women's political empowerment and women's declining access to economic opportunities.

Armenia had a Gender Inequality Index (GII 2014) value of 0.318, ranking it 62 out of 155 countries in 2014 [1]. In Armenia, 94 percent of adult women have reached secondary education compared to 95 percent of the men. Despite high levels of education among women and an electoral code which sets a 20 percent quota for women in party lists, political participation among women is low: In 2015, there were 11 women in ministerial positions (out of 89), 11 in parliament (out of 131), and zero head of state during the last 50 years. There were no women governors or heads of urban communities. Given the limited economic opportunities for women, households headed by women are vulnerable to poverty, food and nutrition insecurity [2].

The school meals programme directly and indirectly promoted gender equality and women's economic empowerment. WFP fostered men and women's equal participation - school head-teachers, parent-teacher associations (PTAs) and kitchen helpers - in capacity development activities, decision-making and implementation processes. Women represented over half the total number of school head-teachers targeted in 2016 who steered the project, augmenting coordination between schools, local and regional authorities. Out of 15 head-teachers attending the training in Tambov, 12 were women.

WFP monitors put special emphasis on engaging men in the PTAs, through promoting the importance of men engagement in children's development and upbringing. Periodic meetings were organised with parent councils, headmasters and communities, where the challenges of the programme implementation were discussed. WFP highlighted the important role of fathers in coordination and management of the programme on school level, including resource mobilisation to complement the meals with nutritious fruits and vegetables. The out-migration of men combined with the gendered division of roles within the family in Armenia, where women have greater responsibility for children's education compared to men, limits the participation of men in PTAs. The PTAs were instrumental in the planning and monitoring of food preparation in the schools and were regularly counselled and encouraged to complement the programme activities.

WFP monitors encouraged the participation of men in activities related to food management, menu composition and resource mobilisation. Men were also engaged in project activities involving manual labour, such as the repair of kitchen facilities and furniture, fixing broken water pipes, splitting firewood, loading and unloading food items and cultivating school gardens. The involvement of men in PTAs and overall support to school meals activities increased over time due to WFP's advocacy efforts. Parent and teacher participation had a visible impact on the accountability and transparency of school meals activities.

The programme provides opportunity for 1,700 women kitchen helpers to contribute to their households' food security by receiving food entitlements calculated for five family members. The programme intentionally encouraged the enrolment of unemployed women from local communities to provide this opportunity to the most vulnerable women. As reported by post-distribution focus group discussions, women increased their confidence and self-esteem by being employed in the programme, as they realize their potential outside their homes. School nurses, in 98 percent of the schools women, played a crucial role in activities related to hygiene and sanitation, diversification of nutrition-sensitive menus, and control of alignment of the programme with state regulations. These functions are a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the programme and an important foundation for women empowerment. WFP systematically organised specialised trainings, experience exchange study tours and counselling sessions for kitchen helpers and nurses, on techniques to develop a nutritious menu composition, storage of food and various cooking skills, as well as hygiene and sanitation, health related regulations and standards.

[1] UNDP, Human Development Report, 2015

[2] World Economic Forum, The Global Gender Gap Report, 2015; DHS 2010; ILCS 2014; UNDP HDP 2015; EU 2015; UNDAF 2015

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP is committed to ensure full transparency of its assistance to the people it serves, and continued strengthening the mechanisms for collecting and analysing feedback from direct and indirect participants of the school meals programme. WFP equipped all schools with 'information corners', where children, parents, and teachers are provided with information on WFP's programme, the weekly menu, the food entitlement for children and kitchen helpers. All stakeholders in the school meals programme were encouraged to avail of the confidential hotline to report any issues or concerns. The most common queries reported through the hotline were related to the parents' voluntary contributions in support of specific school meals needs, including the provision of salt and sugar, fresh vegetables, detergents and other housekeeping supplies. WFP advised that the decisions on expenditures related to these contributions were made by the parent-teacher associations (PTAs), based on the ongoing needs of the programme. The interested parents, especially fathers, were encouraged to join and actively participate in these associations to be informed of the expenditures and to influence the decisions on budget management.

WFP conducted periodic meetings separately with parents, PTAs, kitchen helpers, headmasters and regional authorities on the quality of the food provided, children's consumption and cultural food preferences, hygiene and sanitation, together with any potential risks to the protection, safety and integrity of beneficiaries.

Armenia was scored the 9th spot among 141 safest countries covered in Gallup's Law and Order Index of 2015, with 82 percent of adult Armenians feeling quite safe while walking home alone at night in the city or area where they live. In 2016, there were no incidents reported related to the safety of children travelling to and from schools, and no significant safety incidents of public concern took place in schools. These are also determined by the fact that there are schools in almost all villages, even in very small ones, which allows to minimise the travelling distance to and from schools.

XVIII Global Child Nutrition Forum, Yerevan 2016

The Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) is the largest school meals congregation in the world. The 2016 session was held in Yerevan and promoted an opportunity for countries to share their experience, successes and challenges with school meals programmes and to interact with experts from across the globe. WFP, together with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) provided extensive support to the Government of Armenia, the Global Child Nutrition Foundation and the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in organising the Forum. The theme of the Forum was "Building Powerful and Durable National School Meal Programmes".

By promoting South-South and triangular cooperation, the Forum encouraged networking among government representatives and fostered their interest to invest in nutritious, locally-sourced national school meals programmes. The 250 participants included representatives of governments, the public and private sectors, and academia. Government delegation attendees came from 45 countries, representing ministries of education, social protection, agriculture, finance, health, and budget and planning. Participants catalysed deeper insight into the experience of Armenian school meals at both the implementation and policy levels, and learned about the importance of the gradual and sustainable transition from WFP implemented programmes to national ownership. Study tours to six schools served as a repository for knowledge about monitoring and evaluation systems, the specifics of buying locally and explanations on the national school tendering processes. Simultaneously, the Forum provided a valuable source of inspiration for the Government of Armenia to learn about best international practices and available tools to strengthen the efficiency of the programme and network for resource mobilisation.

The Forum increased understanding on how to nationalise successful local initiatives. Besides demonstrated improvements in child nutrition, physical and cognitive development, the Forum further discussed how school meals can serve as a strategic tool that fosters other important social or economic impacts. Since school meals can act as an incentive for both, boys and girls to attend school, they also address the challenge of gender discrimination by promoting the same opportunities to both genders.

During her speech at the Forum, WFP Executive Director highlighted the link between school meals programmes and smallholder farmers, providing farmers with new potentially sustainable markets, and improving agricultural food systems, which can benefit students through the consumption of culturally diverse, familiar, nutritious and locally grown food. Special attention was given to school meals programmes by the President of Armenia who officially acknowledged WFP for the quality of support provided to Armenia and significant achievements reached so far.

The GCNF enhanced the Government's policy dialogue on the sustainability of national ownership of the school meals programme and influenced the policy formulation process, highlighting the need for a holistic approach including the linkage with the local agricultural value chains.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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Lori Province, primary school age children eating school meals

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	34,250	34,250	68,500	35,784	32,505	68,289	104.5%	94.9%	99.7%
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	959	959	1,918	751	819	1,570	78.3%	85.4%	81.9%
Children (5-18 years)	30,140	30,140	60,280	32,165	28,203	60,368	106.7%	93.6%	100.1%
Adults (18 years plus)	3,151	3,151	6,302	2,868	3,483	6,351	91.0%	110.5%	100.8%
By Residence status:									
Residents	34,250	34,250	68,500	34,528	33,761	68,289	100.8%	98.6%	99.7%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)	60,000	7,000	60,000	59,999	-	59,999	100.0%	-	100.0%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	8,500	200	8,500	8,290	-	8,290	97.5%	-	97.5%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)	60,000	7,000	60,000	59,999	-	59,999	100.0%	-	100.0%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	1,700	200	1,700	1,658	-	1,658	97.5%	-	97.5%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	30,000	30,000	60,000	30,179	29,820	59,999	100.6%	99.4%	100.0%
Total participants	30,000	30,000	60,000	30,179	29,820	59,999	100.6%	99.4%	100.0%
Total beneficiaries	30,000	30,000	60,000	30,179	29,820	59,999	100.6%	99.4%	100.0%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets									
Activity supporters	-	1,700	1,700	37	1,621	1,658	-	95.4%	97.5%
Total participants	-	1,700	1,700	37	1,621	1,658	-	95.4%	97.5%
Total beneficiaries	4,250	4,250	8,500	4,147	4,143	8,290	97.6%	97.5%	97.5%

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Increased marketing opportunities for producers and traders of agricultural products and food at the regional, national and local levels				
Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country				
<i>ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS Access database, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, WFP programme monitoring, Distribution data, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, Distribution data</i>	=25.00	-	3.00	0.00
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, NSS, WB, UNICEF, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, NSS, WB, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, NSS, WB	=3.00	-	3.00	2.85
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS database, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	=3.00	-	2.70	2.75
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS access database, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	=3.00	-	3.00	2.99
Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, School headmasters, Base value: 2008.12, Secondary data, UN DATA. UNICEF_SOWC-Special edition on Children rights, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, WFP programme monitoring, School headmasters survey, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, School headmasters survey	>96.40	96.25	96.27	96.29
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS access database, Base value: 2008.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	>96.40	96.19	96.08	96.09
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS access database, Base value: 2008.12, Secondary data, UN DATA. UNICEF_SOWC-Special edition on Children rights, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, WFP programme monitoring, KI interviews, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, KI interviews	>96.40	96.28	96.80	96.85
Drop-out rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, NSS, WB data, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, NSS, WB data, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, NSS, WB data	<2.00	-	1.45	1.44
Drop-out rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS access database, Base value: 2013.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	<2.00	1.45	1.45	1.45
Drop-out rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS access database, Base value: 2013.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	<2.00	1.44	1.44	1.44
Pass rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS database, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, WFP programme monitoring, KI interviews, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP programme monitoring, KI interviews	>70.00	-	98.75	98.88

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Pass rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS database, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	>70.00	-	98.70	98.79
Pass rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, MS database, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, WFP monitoring	>70.00	-	98.90	98.89
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
ARMENIA, Project End Target: 2017.06, SABER working groups decision , Base value: 2016.04, Secondary data, SABER working groups decision	>2.10	2.20	-	-

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO4: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness				
Number of contingency plans created	contingency plan	1	1	100.0%
SO4: Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (school feeding)	national programme	1	1	100.0%
Number of technical assistance projects conducted by WFP to strengthen the national capacity	project	1	1	100.0%
SO4: School Feeding (on-site)				
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	individual	700	584	83.4%
Government contributions to WFP for technical assistance and capacity development support (USD)	US\$	210,978	104,000	49.3%
Number of WFP-assisted schools that have school gardens for learning or complementary food input	school	300	299	99.7%
Number of feeding days	instance	180	169	93.9%
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (school feeding)	national programme	1	1	100.0%
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	700	588	84.0%
Number of schools with revitalised school gardens	school	100	99	99.0%
WFP expenditures for technical assistance to strengthen national capacity	US\$	1,000,000	860,205	86.0%

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>60.00	90.00	92.00	92.00
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>60.00	85.00	87.00	88.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2015.12, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>95.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	=150,000.00	135,624.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	=5.00	5.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>ARMENIA, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.06, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12</i>	>90.00	100.00

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2016 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00032-01	Buckwheat	-	13
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00033-01	Pasta	-	40
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00033-01	Rice	-	40
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00033-01	Split Peas	-	80
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00040-01	Wheat Flour	-	100
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00050-04	Buckwheat	-	7
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00050-04	Wheat Flour	-	1,220
		Total	-	1,500