



WFP Armenia Country Brief

April 2018

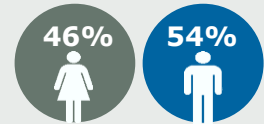
In Numbers

300 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 202,800 cash based transfers made

59,910 school children
assisted

in April 2018



Operational Context

Armenia is a landlocked country, lower-middle income, net food-importer country, vulnerable to external shocks. Since its independence in 1991, the border closure with neighbouring Turkey and Azerbaijan have constrained the country's economic development. According to the latest National Statistical Service data, the poverty rate reached 29.4 percent in 2016

WFP has been present in Armenia since 1993. Initially an emergency operation, WFP's work has since evolved to development assistance since 2000. The results of the ongoing National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition (NSR) will shape WFP five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP (2019-2023) will leverage its current core programme towards an inclusive, innovative and transformative model to strengthen national capacities and systems, including in nutrition, and explore pilot approaches and systems for greater impact. WFP is currently operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) since January till December 2018, until the CSP is finalised and ready to be operational in 2019.



Population: 2.97 million

2016 Human Development Index:
84 out of 188

Income Level: Lower middle

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

Operational Updates

- Evidence-based programming:** WFP Armenia is currently conducting an Impact Evaluation of the Nutrition-sensitive Aspect of the "Development of Sustainable School Meals" Project in Armenia. The evaluation aims to enhance the impact of school meals on learning. The first meeting of the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) took place on 28 April 2018. The ERG includes the key stakeholders and aims to support a credible, transparent, impartial and quality evaluation process. WFP presented the purpose and scope of the evaluation to jointly plan further steps.
- Meeting with WFP partners the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) and the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation (SSFF):** On 17 April, WFP Armenia Country office organized a meeting with SIFI counterparts and SSFF representatives to discuss SSFF draft strategy. The strategy outlines that WFP will be handing over the five remaining provinces to the national school feeding programme by 2023. The SSFF highlighted the need to adapt and develop procurement laws by the Government to facilitate Armenian smallholders' participation in WFP procurement process for school feeding.
- National School Feeding Programme – Aragatsotn province:** WFP Armenia plans to transfer Aragatsotn province schools to the National School Meals Programme during 2019. Currently, WFP School Meals Programme covers 50 percent of the schools in the province. The 2017 assessment by WFP and SIFI identified 111 schools out of 118 that require rehabilitation of their kitchens and cafeterias. WFP aims to prepare all schools for the smooth handover through its transitional model.
- National School Feeding Programme – Shirak province:** WFP will hand over schools in Shirak province to the National School Feeding Programme in September 2018. One of the main challenges is inadequate infrastructure. WFP Armenia, Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), Caritas and Birthright Armenia jointly implemented renovation works in 63 schools. Donor coordination meeting organised in March 2018 by WFP and its cooperating partners enabled securing funding from public and private sources to renovate kitchen and cafeterias in additional 22 schools.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Tatev
Caption: Horom school students during lunch served under WFP School Meals Programme

Contact info: Hripsime.ohanyan@wfp.org;
Country Director: Yessai Nikoyan, OIC
Further information: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/armenia>

WFP Armenia TICSP

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
-------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP January-December 2018)

5.42 m

6.7 m

0

* May – October 2018

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 *Provide and facilitate technical, policy and institutional support to the Government*

Conduct school meals activities (in-kind and cash-based transfer) to targeted schools and children

Monitoring

- WFP Armenia Outcome Monitoring Survey showed that only 47 percent of children in zero to four school grades have breakfast every day before going to school. Tea, sweets (e.g. candies, cookies), and dairy products are the most consumed breakfast foods. This finding reflects the need of nutritious meals at schools and importance of awareness raising on healthy eating habits among the population. WFP Armenia will publish survey results for the public in May 2018.
- From 23 to 27 April 2018, WFP Armenia Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Ms. Porsughyan visited WFP Kyrgyzstan on an experience exchange mission. The visit included six schools in Chui and Osh provinces implementing School Meals Programme. The Kirgiz programme experience will be shared with WFP Armenia team to identify how the local School Feeding Program can be strengthened.
- In-kind food basket delivered by WFP to 411 schools consisted of wheat flour, sunflower oil, rice, buckwheat, pasta and split peas. WFP is exploring the possibility to expand the food basket allowing for more diversified menus, while supporting local production from small-scale farmers.

The Highlight: For village community, it is more than food assistance, it boosts development, Horom village, Shirak province

WFP Armenia has put in place a cash based transfer programme in the Horom School in Shirak province since January 2018, allowing the school to purchase up to 20 different commodities to prepare school meals for the children. Horom's community faces extremely tough challenges with high unemployment, poverty and migration rates. Diversifying the diet, improving their nutrition and educational opportunities are the main outcomes of this programme. The Horom School, built in 1978, has only had few renovations since its construction. The school with space available for over 1000 students, is only able to accommodate its current 230.

Ms. Galstyan, the school headmistress, is optimistic that the School Meals Programme will play an integral role in the improvement of her students' education and not only, "For the village's community, the Programme is more than just food assistance, it really boosts the development."

Donors

Russian Federation, Republic of Armenia

GENDER MARKER 