



World Food Programme

WFP Armenia Country Brief October 2018

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Armenia is an upper-middle income, landlocked, net food-importer country, and is 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 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. WFP is currently operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from January until December 2018.

The results of the ongoing National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition will shape WFP Armenia's 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 nutrition. It will also explore pilot approaches and systems for greater impact.



Population: **2.97 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **83 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

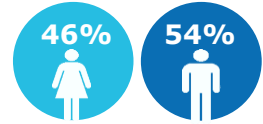
In Numbers

175 mt of food assistance distributed

0 cash based transfers made

US\$0 m six months (December 2018 – May 2019) net funding requirements

52,513 people assisted in OCTOBER 2018



Operational Updates

- On 29 October, the Armenian Minister of Education and Science, Mr. Arayik Harutyunyan, UN World Food Programme Representative and Country Director Ms. Jelena Milosevic, and representatives of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, other national and international partners, officially marked the handover of the management and implementation of the School Meals Programme in Shirak province from WFP to the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Handover Ceremony that took place in one of the schools in Shirak province signified a milestone on the way to the common goal to fully nationalise the Sustainable Meals Programme in Armenia. The event featured a presentation of achievements recorded in the province so far. There was an exhibition of children's drawings that participated in the WFP Children Design Competition, and the winners from Armenia were recognized in an awarding ceremony. During the ceremony, partners and key stakeholders reinforced their commitment for further cooperation to benefit Armenia its children. The speeches were followed by a tour of the renovated kitchen and cafeteria. The guests also had a joint school lunch with the supported school children.
- WFP Armenia and SIFI visited the Arpi community in Shirak province. The aim was to assess the potential for school-adjacent farming, identify opportunities to support small schools through innovative pilots, and assess the opportunities for the promotion of local food production to boost the local economy. The mission results and recommendations will serve as a basis for WFP intervention in the community.
- On 1 October, 50 schools in Shirak and Lori provinces started implementing school snacks pilot projects. A total of 1,005 pre-school children in these provinces receive a morning snack. Items on the menu include oatmeal, eggs, cheese, fruits and vegetables. The pilot will continue throughout the 2018/2019 school year.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (January 2018 - June 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD December 2018 – May 2019)
8.2 m	7.7 m	0 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Provide and facilitate technical, policy and institutional support to the Government

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

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

Partnerships

- WFP Armenia and UNDP will collaborate on implementing a pilot project in Berd community, Tavush province. The project will smoothen supply chains and linkages between the local farmers and schools as well as to larger markets by establishing of a local procurement center. This initiative is implemented in the framework and with the financial support of the of the UN Human Security Trust Fund , which was approved in September 2018.
- WFP Armenia and USAID will join efforts and resources in the implementation of pilot projects in the areas of business development in the agriculture and environment protection sectors. The collaboration framework will be designed in early 2019.

Monitoring

- WFP has launched its transitional model in Aragatsotn province, where the management and implementation of the School Meals Programme will be handed over to the Government in September 2019. As a result of the collaborative effort:
 - 86 out of 117 schools in Aragatsotn province are included in the WFP-run School Meals Programme.
 - Thus far, WFP has supported 69 schools with construction materials to renovate kitchens and canteens in 2018. All 69 schools received community contributions in the form of construction work and materials.
 - 1 school is now being jointly renovated with the Fund for Armenian Relief and will join the programme upon the completion of the renovation.
 - 35 schools have already received kitchen equipment from WFP. An additional 52 schools will

be provided with kitchen equipment in spring 2019.

- There are 30 schools that have not joined the School Meals Programme in the province, as there is a need for larger donor support to meet the minimal requirements for organizing school meals.

A Story from the Field: World Food Day in Ararat province

- On 16 October, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme jointly organized an event dedicated to the World Food Day. The event took place at the Verdi School N1 where WFP first implemented the School Meals Programme in Armenia and later successfully transferred it to the Government.



The event highlighted the importance of the School Meals Programme and how it can contribute to achieving Zero Hunger as Sustainable Development Goal 2. Several activities were organized for the schoolchildren and their parents under the Zero Hunger theme.



Various activities were organized. They included a drawing contest, educational games for elementary school classes and a cooking master class by a well-known Armenian Chef, who gave tips for a healthy and nutritious diet.



Donors

- Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation