



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Armenia Country Brief November 2018

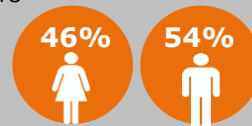
## In Numbers

194 mt of food assistance distributed

0 cash based transfers made

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

52,342 people assisted  
in NOVEMBER 2018



WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

### 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 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**

### Operational Updates

- On 5 November, Armenian Minister of Healthcare Mr. Arsen Torosyan and UN World Food Programme Representative in Armenia and Country Director Ms. Jelena Milosevic discussed future cooperation and joint efforts for 2019 - 2024. The partners highly appreciated efficient cooperation, acknowledging the importance of the school feeding programme for Armenia. The parties also agreed to develop a specific action plan for further partnership and cooperation including all stakeholders with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.
- On 12 November, Governor of Armavir Province Hambarzum Matevosyan, WFP Country Director Ms. Jelena Milosevic, and WFP programme staff discussed further how to enhance the cooperation to benefit more school children in the Province. The newly appointed Governor highly appreciated the efforts of WFP in the country and Armavir. Currently only 50 percent of the schools in Armavir are included in WFP's school feeding programme. The parties agreed to jointly take steps to include more schools in the Programme. A follow up meeting is planned for the first week of December to discuss concrete steps and activities for the coming months.
- WFP presented the role of the school feeding programme within the social protection system and the achievements recorded so far in Armenia at the "Role of Social Protection in the Sustainable Development Agenda Conference" that was organised as a joint effort of UNICEF, the World Bank, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia and the Armenian Association of Social Workers. The presentation was based on three studies conducted by WFP : Scoping Study on Social Protection and Food Security, National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition as well as Assessing Poverty Alleviation through Social Protection: School Meals and Family Benefits.

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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)
<b>8.2 m</b>	<b>7.7 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

**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 and the UN Human Security Trust Fund (HSTF) signed a financial agreement in New York. Six UN agencies will step up practical actions aimed at human security of vulnerable people in rural communities in border areas in Armenia. WFP and UNDP are working on designing a pilot intervention on home grown school feeding through the establishment of centralized procurement centres. The goal of the intervention is to enrich the school feeding programme with locally produced food. The schools will be supported with the cash-based transfers to conduct their own decentralized procurement process.

**Monitoring**

- On 1 October, WFP launched the implementation of the Impact Evaluation of the School Snacks pilot project in 50 schools in Gegharkunik, Shirak and Lori provinces. Pre-school children in the pilot schools 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.
  - 50 schools, of which 15 are in Gegharkunik, 22 in Shirak and 13 in Lori, are part of the pilot project.
  - In November, 1005 pre-schoolers in the pilot provinces received a morning snack.
  - The ratio allocation per child per day was 70 drams.
  - The snacks were provided in the early morning to complement the school lunch.
  - WFP trained all schools to organize the procurement of the products in accordance with the national procurement laws and regulations.

**A Story from the Field: Talking gender**

On 28 November, WFP and UN Department of Public Information (DPI) joined their efforts for an event aimed at raising awareness on UN Sustainable Development Goals with focus on SGD 5 – Gender Equality.



The event took place within a number of activities jointly implemented within 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign in Armenia. About 70 high school students from Yerevan, the capital of Armenia and Armavir province, participated in the event to learn more about how UN and WFP work to ensure gender equality for women and men, girls and boys.



The presentation on Discriminatory Social Norms highlighted the main problems arising from the existing stereotypes and explained why it is important to challenge and change them. The presentation also outlined the GBV situation in Armenia. The presentation was followed with an interactive game to further increase awareness and understanding of the participants of the discussed topics. The winners and all participants were awarded with thematic prizes by UN WFP and DPI.

**Donors**

- Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation