



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Armenia Country Brief March 2019

## In Numbers

55,078 people assisted  
in March 2019



135 mt of food assistance distributed

24,082 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 m six months (April– September 2019) net funding requirements

## Operational Context

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

WFP has been in Armenia since 1993. Initially an emergency operation, WFP's work has since evolved into development assistance after 2000. WFP is currently operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from January 2018 to June 2019.

The results of the National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition shaped WFP Armenia's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024. The CSP was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and been submitted for final approval. The CSP will leverage the longstanding School Feeding programme to promote an inclusive, innovative and transformative model to strengthen national capacities and systems, including nutrition. It will also explore approaches and systems for greater impact.



Population: **2.97 million**

2017 Human Development Index: 0.755  
(positioning it at **83 out of 189 countries**)

Income Level: **upper middle**

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

## Operational Updates

- WFP Armenia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Fund for Armenian Relief and a selected group of smallholder farmers jointly launched a pilot project and established sustainable nutrition-sensitive food value chains in the Berd community of Tavush province. The pilot project will boost the farmers production and facilitate much needed linkages with the markets. In the initial stage, the pilot project will start with providing farmers with seeds and machinery to be used during the cultivating season starting in late April.
- WFP Armenia will receive a mission from WFP's Innovation Accelerator Munich during 15-19 April. The mission will analyse the potential to establish hydroponics irrigation systems as an innovative technology to improve productivity and best usage of natural resources such as water and soils. Hydroponics is an integral part of WFP Armenia's strategic vision to establish effective nutrition-sensitive food value chains in support of smallholder farmers. The missions will identify current opportunities to deploy hydroponics for vegetable production in urban and rural communities, and assess the conditions and needs that hydroponics can address in Armenia.
- WFP and the Government of Armenia have been successfully implementing the nationalisation of the School Feeding Programme according to the mutually agreed plan. The Government is currently managing the implementation of the Programme in five out of ten Armenian provinces: Syunik, Shirak, Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Ararat. WFP is managing and implementing school feeding in the other five Armenian provinces: Aragatsotn, Armavir, Gegharkunik, Kotayk and Lori. Presently, WFP focuses its efforts and investments to enhance school infrastructure, in all ten provinces to advancing the provision of hot meals in all ten provinces of Armenia.

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**Photo Caption:** Healthy Nutrition Week Awards for children in Diorama  
*WFP Armenia*

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>8.2 m</b>	<b>7.9 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April–September 2019)
<b>6.2 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 Armenia met with the representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia to assess areas in which WFP can be of support through its Disaster Risk Reduction activities to increase Armenia’s resilience to and preparedness for disasters.
- On 15 March, WFP Armenia presented its vision of the ‘right to food access’ during the World Consumer Rights Protection Day conference. The presentation emphasized the importance of the societal engagement and investment to ensure that every person in Armenia has access to nutritionally diversified food at affordable prices. The conference was organized by the Armenian Food Safety Inspectorate and Armenian National Agrarian University.

**Monitoring**

- Following a comprehensive assessment of schools in 2018, the monitoring team visited 69 schools in Syunik province in the month of March. Based on the visit’s results, WFP will provide these schools with construction materials to improve their infrastructure - kitchens, cafeterias and storage units - to start providing hot food to students.
- In March, the monitoring team visited 129 schools to monitor the implementation of the School Feeding and School Snacks programmes. The missions identified no major challenges.

**A Story from the Field: WFP Celebrates International School Meals Day in Armenia**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Armenia has celebrated the International School Meals Day during the closing ceremony of the Healthy Diet Week which took place at Ashtarak’s school, N1, in the Aragatsotn province. WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), marked the end of the week

with an official ceremony that brought together primary school children, their parents, teachers and representatives of the Government, UN agencies, and international and national organizations.

The International School Meals Day is a unique campaign to raise awareness on good nutrition for children, regardless of their circumstances. In marking the occasion this year, Armenia put the emphasis on the nutritional value of school meals and the connection between healthy eating, education and better learning.



“We’re here today to celebrate our efforts to eradicate food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty in Armenia,” said WFP Representatives and Country Director in Armenia Jelena Milosevic. “This is an opportunity for us to stress the connection between healthy eating and education, and how school meals can play a role in ending hunger and poverty through education.”



The event has helped promote a healthy diet and lifestyle in schools through interactive performances, games, talks and competitions.

“The schools we work with have become a unique platform and vibrant social hubs that promote inclusiveness, healthy lifestyle, nutrition and resilience, and contribute to improved health, education, social protection and productivity in Armenia,” said Ms. Milosevic.

**Donors**

- Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation