



World Food Programme

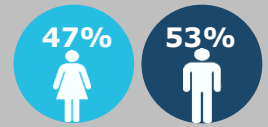
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Armenia Country Brief September 2019

## In Numbers

**50,144 people**  
assisted in September 2019



**186 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$1.1 million** six months net funding requirements (November 2019 – April 2020)

## Operational Context

With the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024, WFP Armenia embraced a new phase of programme implementation with innovative interventions and new delivery modalities in the areas of nutrition, social protection, food value chains and disaster risk reduction. The new programmes continue contributing to the efforts to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030. To ensure sustainable and equitable impact, WFP programmes are inclusive and gender-transformative to empower women in key areas, ensure education for all, have a climate-sensitive design and improve the sustainable management of natural resources. WFP Armenia will continue nurturing its continuous and efficient partnership with the Government of Armenia, national and international partners, and involve stakeholders from the whole of society for a maximized and greater impact.

WFP has been operative in Armenia since 1993. Initially as an emergency support provider, in 2010 the organisation shifted towards a development-led type of assistance. With the newly adopted five-year CSP, WFP's endeavour will focus on enabling, supporting and strengthening the government's capacities to provide solutions aimed at increasing food and nutrition security.

Armenia is an upper-middle income, landlocked, net food-importer country vulnerable to external shocks. It is ranked among the 60 most disaster-prone countries in the world. 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.



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

- In September 2019, WFP launched the construction of a greenhouse in a school in Aragatsotn that is part of the Home Grown School Feeding model. The greenhouse, equipped with green energy solutions and hydroponic irrigation systems, aims to foster the school's sustainable production of fresh vegetables and herbs that will complement daily nutritious meals. In addition, the investment will support to establish an educational hub for children to learn about horticulture, climate- and nutrition-sensitive approaches to agriculture and agribusinesses.
- WFP Armenia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport signed an agreement to support the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation (SSFF) until the end of 2019. The SSFF was established by the Government of Armenia with technical assistance from WFP Armenia, as a key step for the nationalisation of the school feeding programme and to best prepare for the gradual hand over in 2023.
- Furthermore, the SSFF will lead the development of a National School Feeding Strategy, which also includes establishing monitoring systems, promoting awareness of school feeding as a social safety net and ensuring sustainable funding mechanisms.

## Partnerships

- The strong partnership established between WFP Armenia and the Embassy of Italy in Armenia lead to the organization of three events to raise public awareness on the importance of food security, and access to nutritionally diversified food.
- The third event, held in cooperation with Caritas Armenia and the Embassy of Italy in Armenia, focused on inclusiveness – promoting access to nutrition for children with disabilities (story below).

**Photo Caption:** "Zartong" choir of Gyumri school N15, at the opening ceremony of "RemixPortraits"

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## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP) (July 2019 - June 2024)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>27.9 m</b>	<b>2 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2019–April 2020)
<b>6.2 m</b>	<b>1.1 m</b>

#### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activity 1:

- Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government

#### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 2:** National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024

**Focus area:** Root Causes

#### Activity 2:

- Provide technical support to national institutions to generate an evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia

- The first event was the launch of the "Ogni Dove" ("Everywhere") campaign by the Italian Embassy in Armenia. WFP supported the campaign sharing its core message: "Armenia and Armenian culture is everywhere". As expressed by the Italian Ambassador to Armenia, Vincenzo Del Monaco, "I think of the World Food Programme Armenia in a particular way, which through its endeavours to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia, has embraced the message and campaign of "Ogni Dove". I trust that together with WFP we will be able to continue such positive campaign to ensure the right to healthy nutrition and education for all".
- The second event involved the children's "Zartong" choir of Gyumri school N15, who opened the Remix Portraits concert organised by the Italian Embassy. The children, who are also part of the national school feeding programme, sang an Italian song on food to raise the attention of the concert participants on healthy nutrition and the role of the school feeding programme across the country. Throughout the night, kids shared the stage with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia and renowned singers Marco Albonetti and Maria Leotta.

## Healthy Lifestyle and Nutrition Tips from Italian and Armenian National Football Team Players

The Armenian children met with the Italian and Armenian national football teams as part of the "Changing Lives, Nurturing Opportunities" campaign jointly developed by the Embassy of Italy in Armenia, Caritas and WFP. The campaign aimed to raise awareness on all children's needs and right to access education and nutritious food, so that all children can have equal opportunities to have healthy lifestyles, contributing to their growth and happiness. The kids were happy and proud to meet and play with the football players, who explained them that the healthy lifestyle and proper nutrition are the key to their success.



## Donors

Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, WFP 2030 Funds