



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief January 2020



In Numbers



51,050 people assisted
in January 2020

46,280 USD cash-based transfers made

320 Mt of food assistance distributed

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 in Armenia since 1993, initially to provide emergency support. Since 2000, WFP has shifted to development assistance and under the CSP focuses on enabling, supporting and strengthening an environment for the government to provide solutions for increased food and nutrition security.

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 25.7 percent in 2017.



Population: **2.97 million**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2017 Human Development Index:
0.755 (83 out of 189 countries)

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

Operational Updates

- WFP continued the renovation works of school canteens and cafeterias in 68 schools in Gegharkunik to ensure the successful hand-over of the programme in the region to the Government in 2020. In Syunik province, WFP completed kitchen and canteen renovation works in 58 schools, with 5 additional schools scheduled to complete the works by the end of March 2020.
- In January, WFP signed a new Field Level Agreement with the Social and Industrial Food Service Institute (SIFI) for a three-year timeframe. As part of this partnership, SIFI will provide a range of capacity strengthening activities, including technical assessments on renovation and provision of equipment to schools, supporting assessments and design of value chain activities for school feeding.
- WFP has commenced work with the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation on the creation of monitoring and evaluation databases, including an interactive map to monitor the implementation status of the school feeding programme.
- In January, WFP Armenia finalised the data collection of existing food consumption habits of the population. The findings will inform WFP's nutrition Social Behaviour Change Communication activities that aim to influence the population's adoption of healthier eating habits positively. The activities will start in March 2020. WFP also attended two television shows to raise public awareness on the importance of breakfast and the impacts of sugar-over consumption on health.
- WFP Armenia scaled-up efforts to set up its emergency preparedness and response mechanisms as well as to support strengthening those of the Government. Thanks to WFP corporate funding, the office has been extensively engaging with line ministries and stakeholders to ensure all mechanisms are in place to meet the needs of the population in case of one or multiple shocks.

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WFP Country Strategy

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
28 m	20 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March-August 2020)
6 m	0

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.
- WFP Armenia continued the development and refinement of nutrition-sensitive Food Value Chains. New modular investments that look at climate, gender and improved food security have been developed to be included in forthcoming interventions.
- As of January, the number of schoolchildren directly receiving WFP's support decreased in line with the nationalisation of the School Feeding Programme. Thanks to the efforts of WFP to strengthen national partners' capacity, the number of children supported by the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation has increased reaching 50,000. In parallel, WFP activities in food value chains directly support small-holder farmers and indirectly contribute to the increased availability of nutritious food in markets.

Monitoring

- The monitoring team updated and improved existing tools for the monitoring assessments of the School Feeding Programme. Key improvements included additional questions on schools' conditions and readiness to accommodate pilot projects to maximise the impacts of the School Feeding investments and results.
- According to the monitoring findings, in general, stakeholders are satisfied with the school feeding

programme and are ready to continue improving the implementation of the programme. In all 28 schools monitored in January, parents did additional food contributions to diversify daily menus.

Partnerships

- WFP Armenia has joined forces with UN sister Agencies to jointly develop an Integrated Financial Framework that aims to support the Government achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals aligned to the Government's development agenda.
- WFP Armenia is developing a comprehensive set of Geospatial Tools to analyse the multiple impacts of climate change on vulnerable population groups, food security and natural resources. Leveraging on WFP Global expertise, WFP Armenia aims to support national and international stakeholders with key analyses to inform ongoing and future investments on adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change.
- Different funding opportunities have been developed to improve food waste management and climate-sensitive approaches within nutrition-sensitive food value chains. This is to stimulate the partners' interest in investing in food security interventions in Armenia.

Celebrating the opening of the school's new kitchen and canteen



On 29 January 2020, the school in Vahagni village (Lori Province) celebrated the opening of the school's renovated kitchen and canteen. The renovation of the canteen has been made possible thanks to the cooperation between WFP, Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), the local community and parents. 35 students in the village will now be able to enjoy hot and nutritious meals every day. COAF funded the renovation works while WFP provided the full set of kitchen equipment.

Donors

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