



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief February 2020

In Numbers



51,050 people assisted
in February 2020

46,280 USD cash-based transfers made

183.5 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

- To support the Government and the Armenian population to best prepare and respond to shocks, WFP Armenia has been developing comprehensive contingency plans. These will inform the activation of interventions in case of scenarios such as epidemic outbreaks, earthquakes, nuclear meltdown, population displacement and prices fluctuations, with focus on food security and vulnerability.
- Leveraging WFP's global emergency experience, WFP Country Office received support from the Emergency Operation Division in WFP Headquarter to develop a comprehensive contingency and response plan for nuclear disasters in the country. WFP Armenia also initiated the discussions with the Ministry of Emergency Situations to jointly prepare a plan to develop a staging area in the North of the Country, at the Gyumri Airport, that will improve storage and logistic capacities to receive air-lifted and over-land supplies of humanitarian assistance.
- In February, WFP Armenia has worked in close collaboration with its Regional Bureau, Government line ministries and the UN Country Team to put in place necessary measures to support the Government and the Armenian population to prepare for and respond to shocks related to the pandemic Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).
- In 2020, the number of schoolchildren benefiting from meals provided by WFP will continue to decrease as part of the hand-over and nationalisation process of the School Feeding programme. As of February, 40,000 children are assisted by the WFP programme, while the majority (60,000 children) are covered by the national programme.

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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) (April-September 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.
- In February, WFP Armenia provided technical support to the Fund for Armenian Relief and its staff to develop meal menus for pre-school children from their programme aiming to elevate nutritional composition and standards of meals. The support will contribute to the formulation of a national menu standard for all kindergartens in the country.
- In February, WFP and the Government of Armenia launched a new phase of the Transformative School Feeding Programme, to accelerate the progress towards Food Security. Schools and community-based Food Value Chains will be integrated and linked to agribusinesses to improve the availability and affordability of nutritious food. In partnership with the private sector and the Government, WFP will identify social protection-targeted individuals, community members and farmers to provide them with vocational trainings to acquire skillset necessary to access job opportunities. Additional investments will transform schools into platforms to also improve the nutrition education of children, parents and community members.

total number of beneficiaries in the visited schools is 6,759. According to monitoring results, 88 percent of the parents participate in the school meals organisation through additional food contributions to diversify daily menus.

- Preparations were carried out in Gegharkunik Province (marz) to transfer from In Kind to the Cash Transfer modality for Schools. WFP provided trainings to headmasters and accountants of schools for monitoring of cash transfers and use of cash for meals in the province provided additions were for the monitoring questionnaire.

Partnerships

- In the frame of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund created by the UN, WFP Armenia has continued working with UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, FAO and the Resident Coordinator Office to develop an Integrated Financial Framework to support the Government to align its development plans with the SDGs. The proposal formulation process has contributed to strengthening the partnership among UN agencies and carry forward interventions in support of Food Security & Food Safety, Climate Change and Human Capital Development.
- In February, WFP finalised a proposal to develop whole-grain wheat value Chains. The concept is being shared with key partners to jointly establish new tools and approaches serving efforts to improve existing Food Value Chains, introduce new varieties of affordable, nutritious products in the country and improve the nutrition situation of the population.
- In partnership with WFP's Regional Bureau, WFP Armenia submitted its model of nutrition-sensitive Food Value Chains to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in light of the forthcoming high-level policy discussions in March in Geneva, Switzerland. Through schools and community-based Food Value Chains, the model will increase the partnership between the public and private sector to offer broader scale accelerators in the advancement of food security, nutrition and the alleviation of poverty.
- WFP finalised its proposal to establish Geospatial tools in the country to generate new evidence on climate change that will inform future actions and policies.

Monitoring

- In February, the monitoring team visited 43 schools in 3 provinces (marzes): Kotayk, Armavir, and Lori. The

Donors

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