

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



Armenia Annual Country Report 2019

Country Strategic Plan
2019 - 2024



World Food
Programme

Table of contents

Summary	3
Context and Operations	6
CSP financial overview	7
Programme Performance	8
Strategic outcome 01	8
Strategic outcome 02	9
Cross-cutting Results	11
Progress towards gender equality	11
Protection	11
Accountability to affected populations	11
Environment	12
Enhancing Food System	14
Data Notes	14
Figures and Indicators	16
WFP contribution to SDGs	16
Beneficiaries by Age Group	17
Beneficiaries by Residence Status	17
Annual Food Transfer	17
Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher	18
Strategic Outcome and Output Results	19
Cross-cutting Indicators	22

Summary

WFP launched its Country Strategic Plan 2019-2024 (CSP) on 01 July 2019. The CSP was formulated based on the recommendations of the comprehensive National Strategic Review and extensive consultations with national stakeholders. The Armenian Government is committed to the full nationalization of WFP's school feeding programme. Concrete steps, such as the transition from food to cash transfers, investment in school infrastructure and the direct transfer of programme management, have all facilitated the gradual handover of the WFP programme. The school feeding programme – currently introduced in five of Armenia's ten provinces - has now been incorporated into the national budget. WFP will be extending its school feeding programme to the remaining five provinces, towards the objective of a full handover to the Government by 2023.

Accordingly, the long-term vision of the CSP is that all people in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round. Achieving this vision will require the establishment of shock-responsive, nutrition-sensitive safety nets and policies with emphasis on women's empowerment and opportunities, through community engagements and public-private partnerships.

Furthermore, WFP is expanding technical support to the Government through a second strategic outcome under the CSP. WFP will work to strengthen national policies, programmes and systems to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024. The CSP's two strategic outcomes contribute directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 - Zero Hunger - to improve access to food, SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals - to strengthen the capacity of the Government and SDG 4 - Quality Education - to ensure quality education.

This CSP marks a strategic shift whereby WFP's role transitions from implementer to enabler by supporting and enabling national ownership of its programmes, including full nationalization of the school feeding programme by 2023. Under this CSP, WFP supports national efforts to improve food security and nutrition at both technical and policy levels by investing in research contributing to national and international evidence-base, which can support relevant strategies, policies and programmes. The CSP aims to introduce a more transformative agenda, introducing programmes that go beyond traditional school feeding, by, for example, including food system support and establishment of platforms, which can support access to vocational training for the population. While stimulating the supply of nutritious food, WFP commenced collecting data around nutrition behaviours, which will enable WFP to engage in social behaviour change communication activities aiming at stimulating demand for improved nutrition in 2020.

Under its flagship activity in Armenia, school feeding, WFP has worked with the Government of Armenia, United Nations (UN) agencies, developmental partners and civil society organizations to develop a comprehensive model of school feeding. A dynamic, technical and capacity Strengthening partnership with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), WFP's main implementing partner, has contributed to the success of the school feeding programme since its launch in 2010, by, for example, supporting the assessments of the renovation needs and feasibility studies for various pilots linking smallholders to schools.

From July to December 2019, WFP provided over 50,000 primary school children in grades 1-4 with lunch meals in five out of ten provinces. The remaining five provinces have been handed over to the Government gradually in the last few years. WFP also provided new cook-books and conducted 17 trainings/workshops whereby cooks and kitchen helpers were trained on nutrition, food safety and food preparation. A total of 7,320 cooks and kitchen helpers supporting the preparation and distribution of meals in the schools received take-home rations as compensation for their efforts. Through the school feeding activity, WFP achieved over 84 percent of its target, using 76 percent of the planned funds.

Given WFP's successful experience working with the Government and national entities, and at the request of the Government, more emphasis will be placed on strengthening state policies and regulatory frameworks for evidence-based, effective and equitable programmes and policies, including on sustainable school feeding management, food security, malnutrition and education.

57,859

Total Beneficiaries in 2019

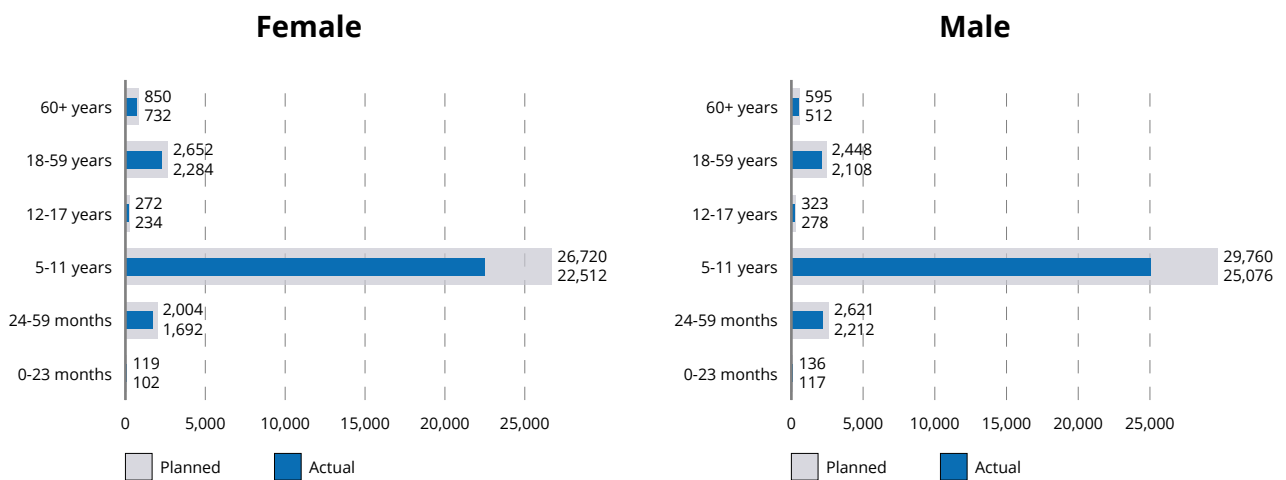


48% female

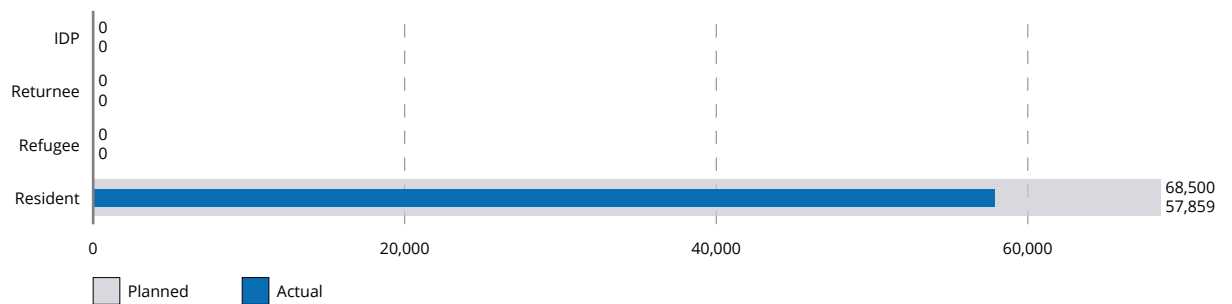


52% male

Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



Beneficiaries by Residence Status



Total Food and CBT

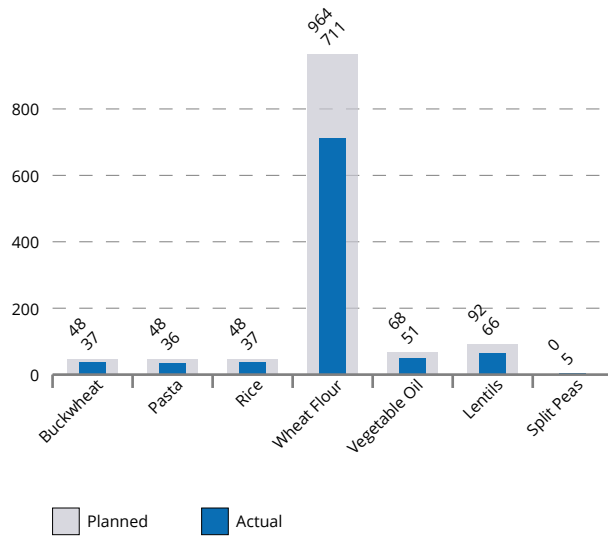


944 mt

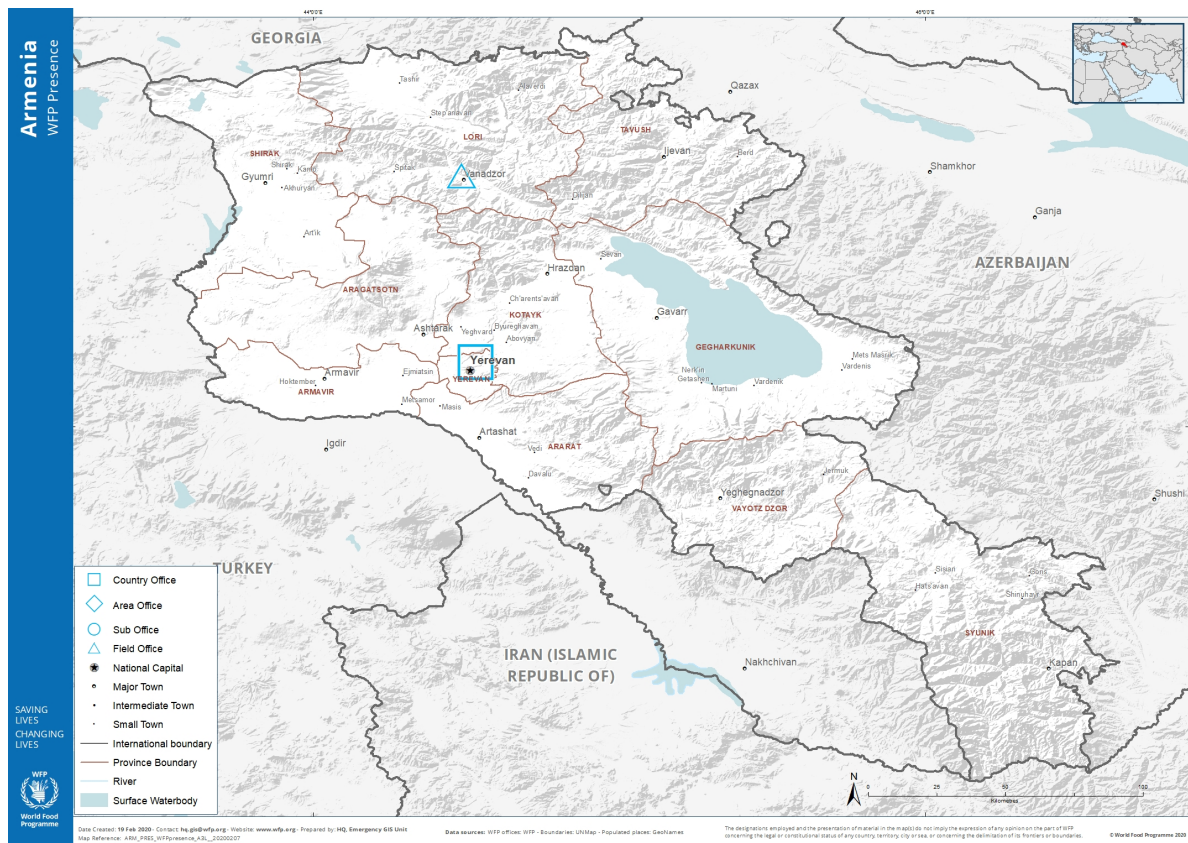
total actual food transferred in 2019

of 1,269 mt total planned

Annual Food Transfer



Context and Operations



Major changes to the Armenian constitution and the political system followed widespread anti-government street demonstrations between April-May 2018. The first parliamentary elections after the 2018 revolution (held on 9 December 2018) solidified the political transition and promised to open a new era of social reform. Reforms promised by the new government were widely considered as positive steps towards the establishment of a more democratic society and the achievement of the goals under Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Economic recovery was declared to be a priority of the new Government. Despite macro-economic progress and structural reforms implemented during the last decade, growth remained weak, due to the continually rising national debt, annual budgets could not make adequate provision for social welfare. Many Armenians left the country in search of economic opportunities elsewhere.

Although the country has made significant progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in areas such as maternal and child health, access to safe and reliable water supply, and improved sanitation in urban areas, more effort is needed to reduce poverty and food insecurity. Food insecurity affects 16 percent of the population in Armenia, and is primarily an issue of access, which is exacerbated by poverty, gender inequalities and geographical factors. Malnutrition is a concern, evidenced by high rates of stunting for children under 5, while overweight and anaemia are also prevalent, particularly among women of reproductive age. Lack of data is a major challenge to addressing malnutrition in Armenia and more effort is needed to expand the evidence base in support of nutrition-sensitive and targeted activities.

Under this Country Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2024, WFP continues to support the Government to ensure a smooth handover of school feeding, which began in 2014, and will also work to develop a more sustainable and innovative home-grown model that is more nutritious and benefits vulnerable communities.

WFP's relationship with the Government has remained consistently strong, and WFP works in close cooperation particularly with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports. WFP's key Government partners included the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Economy - which includes responsibilities for agriculture - the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations on issues regarding food security, malnutrition, school feeding and emergency preparedness, with a strong emphasis on inter-linkages of cross-cutting issues, such as gender-transformative approaches and environmental protection.

CSP financial overview

The needs-based plan of the 2019 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) was 146 percent funded. Strategic outcome 1 was 149 percent funded, whereas strategic outcome 2 was 133 percent. Due to delays in budget transfer from the Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) and in receiving contributions, WFP postponed some of the new activities, such as the setup of greenhouses, until the internal project lending was confirmed in September 2019, enabling WFP to initiate activities while awaiting the fund transfers between the T-ICSP and the CSP.

The internal lending mechanism enabled WFP to continue the distribution of meals to the children while the first tranche of funding of USD 2.2 million, representing 60 percent of the funding needs for 2019 (for July-December 2019), was transferred from the T-ICSP. The funding received from the UN Human Security Fund and 2030 Fund were carried forward from the T-ICSP. Resources from the T-ICSP were transferred to the CSP to ensure the continuity in distributing meals to children in school, while WFP was engaged in discussions with the main donor (Russian Federation) for future financial support for the transformative school feeding model and handover to Government.

Multi-year funding from the Russian Federation of USD 18 million was confirmed mid-December 2019. With the approval of the CSP, WFP has engaged in numerous efforts to expand the donor base and underline the changes away from the traditional school feeding activities towards a more integrated approach enhancing nutrition, resilience against shocks and investments in food systems, and benefiting the entire population.

Programme Performance

Strategic outcome 01

Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$2,202,186	\$2,202,186	\$3,291,571	\$1,676,019

With the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and its efforts to support the attainment of the national priorities formulated in the Armenia Transformative Strategy (ATS) as well as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, WFP identified four outputs to achieve the strategic outcome of vulnerable populations, including school children, having access to adequate and nutritious food year-round. Resources from the Transitional-Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) were transferred to the CSP to ensure the continuity in distributing meals to children in school, while WFP was engaged in discussions with the main donor (Russian Federation) for future financial support for the transformative school feeding model and handover of the activity to the Government.

On an activity level, WFP has, on a daily basis, ensured that more than 50,000 primary school children attending grades 1-4 in 413 schools received lunch meals. WFP reached 84 percent of the planned number of beneficiaries, progressively reducing direct assistance as schools of one province were handed over to the Government. WFP set the estimated needs higher to be adaptive of changes; for example, in Government rules on school feeding, that would entail expansion of the programme to grades beyond 1-4. The meals varied daily and were based on six WFP provided commodities: oil, buckwheat, pasta, pulses, salt, and wheat flour. The composition of the provided commodities underwent a nutrition lens, taking into account the local diets and habits, and resulted in a change of ration size of each commodity. The local communities, through the parent-teacher associations, also contributed to the meals by providing voluntary contributions of fruit, meats and vegetables. WFP was able to purchase all commodities locally except vegetable oil.

The dropout and retention rates for boys and girls improved marginally during the implementation. WFP provided new cook-books and conducted 17 trainings/workshops whereby cooks and kitchen helpers were trained on nutrition, food safety and food preparation. The 7,320 cooks and kitchen helpers supporting the preparation and distribution of meals in the schools received take-home rations as compensation for their efforts. The kitchen helpers and cooks are identified by the school management, in consultation with the communities, to offer positions to members of vulnerable families. To facilitate the provision of school meals, WFP supported the rehabilitation of 130 school kitchens and dining halls from July to December 2019.

WFP developed the cook-book in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture (MoESSC), community members and families. The book was awarded a special prize, labelled as the "Oscar for Food" at the International Book Fair at the Gourmand Awards in Macau, China in July 2019.

During 2019, WFP initiated technical support to the MoESSC, and coordinated with the Ministry of Health for the formulation of a nutrition curriculum for primary and secondary schools. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has also provided technical support for the overall curriculum development, into which the nutrition curriculum is to be integrated. The nutrition curriculum is expected to be finalised by mid-2020, upon which the development of educational material supporting nutrition learning outcomes will be developed.

While ensuring that school meals are provided daily, a central element of the CSP is to transfer capacity to the Government for full ownership of school feeding by 2023. The approach includes strengthening and supporting the National School Feeding Foundation, which is responsible for the implementation of the national school feeding in 6 provinces, as well as preparing provinces and communities for handover. WFP handed over the Aragatsotn province for the school year commencing in September 2019, which was marked with a handover ceremony lead by the MoESSC, with the participation of the Governor, the community, Representative of the Russian Federation (in the capacity as a donor) and the Social and Industrial Foodservices Institution (SIFI) as a main implementing partner.

WFP's approach in the CSP is a multi-dimensional intervention to tackle food insecurity in the country. School feeding also becomes a vehicle for community development through investments in local nutrition and food security solutions such as school greenhouses supported through solar energy and food value chains.

Since the approval of the CSP, WFP has made significant strides in stimulating policy dialogues on food systems and support direct investments in the communities to enhance their food and nutrition security. Concretely, the funding from the UN Human Security Trust Fund and WFP 2030 Fund facilitated the introduction of a value chain model for pulses in a bordering community of the Tavush province. The model stimulates the supply of nutritious products in demand, includes technical assistance to the community for improving processing to elevate quality and safety standards, supports linkages of agribusiness to markets (including schools), and includes nutrition education to

stimulate increased consumption. Already within the first year of the project, 60 ha of under-utilised land has been prepared for cultivation in spring of 2020. Climate-sensitive green solutions and nutrition education are a cornerstone of the pilot. The pilot is expected to be replicated in other areas of the country in 2020.

Linking results to resources, the generous support from the Russian Federation, the partnership with SIFI and the Government of Armenia has facilitated the gradual hand over of school feeding, moving from a model of WFP-provided in-kind food, towards a Government provision of cash for the schools to organise food purchases. The cost of the two models is incomparable, as WFP is assuming the investment costs of training and building the capacity of the communities to receive and manage the cash modality. WFP has also supported Capacity Strengthening initiatives in schools already handed over to confirm its commitment to remain a technical partner after the hand over process is completed.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	3

Strategic outcome 02

National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$669,985	\$669,985	\$892,977	\$134,719

With the adoption of the 2019-2024 Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP moved towards offering technical support and delivering assistance for the Armenian population beyond traditional school feeding. The strategic change and expansion of WFP's role came about during the consultations on the CSP, informed by the gaps identified by the National Strategic Review. In 2019, the needs-based plan of this strategic outcome was 133 percent multi-year funded.

Throughout the second half of 2019, WFP enhanced its role as an actor supporting, in particular, but not exclusively, Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17 by providing technical support in areas related to nutrition, disaster risk reduction and food systems. This was done through the multiple contributions, partnerships and activities to policy formulation and evidence generation. The results of the contributions and studies will materialise in 2020, as will the continuation of programmatic work to support strategic outcome 2.

During 2019, the Government and involved ministries held a series of consultations to formulate the 2050 Armenian Transformation Strategy, and the sector policies supported the implementation of the government vision and strategy. WFP took part in the majority of the sector plan discussions and provided technical inputs and comments to the Ministries of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS), the Ministry of Economy (responsible for agriculture), Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA). The sector policies are being endorsed in the first months of 2020. Upon the adoption of the sector policies, and along with the formulation process of the Common Country Analysis and the UN Cooperation Framework, WFP will assess if there should be changes to WFP programme design and, in the capacity, support provided to the Government.

WFP had several discussions with the World Bank around the support to social protection platforms, which led to the formulation of a concrete joint proposal submitted to the Government.

By the end of 2019, the MoLSA requested support for setting up a platform for a food and non-food bank, enabling a social safety net for the most vulnerable segments of the population. WFP provided technical comments to the design of the food and non-food platform, and expects to provide additional technical support once the platform is operational in 2020.

In collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), WFP contributed to the national and global evidence base relating school feeding with learning outcomes. Through a pilot distributing both breakfast and lunch to young children, it was found through learning specific measurement interventions that children receiving a nutritious breakfast obtained better learning scores. The findings from the pilot showed enhanced learning progress among children from vulnerable households, but in general, provided evidence about the importance of regular breakfasts and lunch meals at school. The results of the study were presented by IFPRI on several occasions in Armenia. The conclusions underlining the importance of a morning snack will be part of the discussions with the Government

about the future national school feeding strategy. The strategy formulation is to take place during spring 2020.

A collaborative partnership between the World Health Organization (WHO) and WFP relates to the Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI) currently taking place in Armenia. The childhood obesity surveillance measures and tracks overweight and obesity among school-aged children. The findings will be released in 2020 and thus feed into the design of the national nutrition behaviour change campaigns.

Efforts to establish partnerships between WFP and other stakeholders on food security and food systems also took place after the approval of the CSP. Beyond efforts among the UN agencies to provide concerted inputs to government sector policies, WFP reached out to discuss areas of collaboration with the Rome Based Agencies (RBA) - the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - for a joint approach to food nutrition security. Steps were also taken to coordinate further with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on nutrition initiatives, while United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WFP are partnering on the food value chain project in Berd community in the Tavush province.

To support national efforts to promote nutrition education and induce social behaviour change for nutrition, WFP initiated a comprehensive formative study to assess the dietary habits of the Armenian population. The results of the study will inform the design of a nutrition education and social behaviour change campaign. WFP also commenced technical support to the MoH and MoESCS for the development of nutrition curricula for primary and secondary education (see strategic outcome 1).

To obtain more focus and enhance the dialogue on food systems, WFP, in partnership with the Italian Embassy to Armenia, held a conference in November called "It's an opportunity - Invest in Food Security". The conference included all stakeholders of the food system in discussions around opportunities to invest in food security and how to mend broken food systems. Around 200 national and international participants - from consumers, regulators, and academia to the private sector - were able to discuss challenges and opportunities for investing in food security.

WFP is progressing in its engagement with the relevant stakeholders for disaster preparedness. A joint food security and nutrition cluster response plan is being prepared with the engagement of FAO, UNICEF and WFP. Through Immediate Response Preparation funds granted from WFP, Capacity Strengthening support to the Government and partners was provided. The support included identifying capacity gaps, setting up mobile storage units and initiating staging areas to ensure timely delivery of food and nutrition security aid, support beneficiary registration, information and communications technology cluster response and business continuity in case of shocks.

WFP initiated technical support to the Armenian Statistics Committee in 2019. Concretely, WFP is supporting data specialists to support the Integrated Living Conditions Survey (ILCS) for improved household food security analysis. The support for the ILCS was provided in partnership with the World Bank. Additional support was also agreed with the World Bank to the Statistics Committee to establish a "nutrition poverty line", which can determine how many of the population can afford a nutritious diet. Relating to the forthcoming 2020 census, WFP has, through a partnership with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), provided financial support and cooperation for the Statistic Committee to prepare for and conduct the census.

WFP is supporting the National Sustainable School Feeding Foundation and the communities and continues to support the nationalisation of activities as part of a transformative agenda and as part of a full programme handover. The handover already commenced, but is expected to be finalised by 2023 with strengthened capacities and institutions to manage and own a national school feeding programme.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia	1

Cross-cutting Results

Progress towards gender equality

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

The Country Gender Equality Brief (CGEB), supported by UN Women, provides an overview of gains, gaps and challenges to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CGEB is framed against all 53 gender-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals. Armenia is currently ranked 98th of 149 countries by the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.

With the Velvet Revolution in April 2018, the number of women elected to the National Assembly increased from 18 to 24 percent, and 28.7 percent of all managerial positions in Armenia are held by women, which shows a gradual increase in women's leadership positions.

The enrolment rates between boys and girls in primary school are at par. However, for secondary education, more girls are enrolled as a result of gender-based expectations that boys should be "earning rather than learning". Teenage boys are at greater risk of dropping out of high school than girls.

Data shows that 49.6 percent of women are participating in the labour force, as compared to 59.9 percent of men. Women dominate in the agriculture sector, making up 37 percent of the sector as compared to men (31 percent). The single greatest bottleneck to women's labour force engagement and overall economic security in Armenia is their unsupported, unpaid care and domestic work at home; these roles and expectation are due to gender norms. In a survey of 3,200 households, 85 percent of respondents agreed with the statement that "a man should normally be the breadwinner". The gender pay gap stands at 32.5 percent, with women's earnings being 67.5 percent of men's in 2017. WFP seeks to enhance access for women to engage in the labour market, for example as kitchen helpers for the school meals, as well as in the bakeries supplying schools. WFP, in dialogue with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, is exploring opportunities for establishing gender-sensitive vocational training in relation to WFP's activities. Establishment of kindergartens will also provide an enabling environment for women to engage in the labour market, and WFP can support the provision of nutritious meals.

While gender is mainstreamed into the programmatic activities, such as ensuring employment as kitchen helpers and cooks for women-headed households through the school feeding programme, or promoting equal participation in decision making relating to the food value chain project in Berd community, WFP has also, through the participation of the Government and World Bank-chaired Gender Theme Group, supported the national dialogue and promotion of gender and sought to suggest concrete steps to enhance gender awareness in the country.

WFP funded the translation of the National Gender strategy and has, through the sector policy discussions, emphasized equal gender participation. However, the big challenge for transforming the Armenian society for more gender equality is influencing social norms on gender stereotypes perceptions as well as creating opportunities for daycare for children, allowing women to increase their participation in formal employment.

Protection

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity

Armenia ranks among the ten most safe countries in the world. According to the Gallup Law and Order Index for 2019, 89 percent of the Armenian population (surveyed in 2018) reported feeling safe in 2019 - an increase from 82 percent the year before. In 2019, no incidents were reported related to the safety of children travelling to and from schools, with no significant safety incidents of public concern reported at any schools, whether in towns or villages.

WFP has established the beneficiary hotline to receive feedback. During the reporting period, WFP received 1 anonymous call relating to the ration entitlement provided by WFP. Parent and kitchen surveys have also been set up to solicit additional feedback around WFP's support. Only 1 percent of the parents noted they would use the hotline to make complaints, but would rather raise issues directly with the headmasters.

Programmatically, WFP's activities are planned through a gender, protection and inclusion lens, from targeting households headed by women/ vulnerable households as kitchen helpers, to supporting the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in establishment of a food and non-food bank platform, and working with the Ministry of Emergency Situations on setting up shock responsive safety nets.

WFP employs the 'do no harm' principle in all aspects of the school feeding programme. Training in food handling and preparation is organized to minimise safety risks. Gender equality awareness is one aspect of its approach. WFP has not received any protection complaints from the feedback mechanism relating to implementation and access to WFP's support. In 2019, no security issues were reported in the transportation and supply to schools of food commodities.

Accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

WFP has established a feedback mechanism in its programmes to engage beneficiaries to inform programmatic changes that promote dignity, autonomy and choice for the beneficiaries. WFP also recruited additional field staff and segregated the duties of staff between monitoring and implementation. WFP field staff, responsible for implementation and monitoring, solicit feedback from assisted communities and beneficiaries. The feedback is then relayed into programming so the necessary adjustments can be made.

All schools have 'information corners' which provide children, parents and teachers with information on the feeding programme, the weekly menu, and the food entitlement for children and kitchen helpers. All stakeholders in the school feeding programme are encouraged to make use of the confidential hotline to report any issues or concerns. During the reporting period, WFP received two calls on the hotline. The questions raised related to the understanding of the rations provided. Schools and their communities can also use government channels and submit feedback directly to the Governor's office or the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS), which then takes issues up with WFP.

One feedback received during focus group discussions, and from parent and kitchen helper surveys, was that split peas took too much time to cook. Children reported that split peas meal was their least favourite meal. In consultation with WFP's nutrition team and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and sports, it was then suggested to change split peas to lentils under the Country Strategic Plan (July 2019-2024).

Feedback from headmasters included complaints about difficulties to recruit kitchen staff due to lack of enumeration in areas with national school feeding implementation. Based on this feedback, WFP raised the issue with the MoESCS, who decided to formalise the employment of kitchen staff within school staffing budgets.

Feedback from parents was related to requesting knowledge about healthy lifestyle and diets. WFP has therefore piloted and invested in parent education and training in preparation of nutritious meals.

The communities, including schools, are also using government channels and can submit feedback directly to the Governors' office or the MoESCS, who takes issues up with WFP. Relating to feedback mechanisms for people affected by disasters, WFP received funds to support inter-agency work for a joint mechanism for registration and feedback. The UN reform work is also an opportunity to discuss among agencies how to support a common approach and provide assistance to transfer accountability frameworks to the Government. The accountability to the affected population is also measured in awareness efforts by WFP. More than 140 monitoring missions from September to December supported awareness creation and solicited feedback. The feedback from the monitoring visits was reported to the programme unit and the field implementing staff to ensure activity adjustments and follow up with the communities. WFP attended to all reported complaints.

Environment

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment

Armenia is a party to multiple international environmental conventions and agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Biodiversity, Cartagena, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Armenia undertook a broad set of commitments related to environmental protection and sustainable development. The Armenian Transformation Strategy has identified the 8th Mega Goals for 2050 as "Green and Clean Armenia".

The country possesses sufficient manpower and technologies to improve the situation in renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean technologies and sustainable consumption and production practices. The finalization of policy regulatory and institutional reforms are ongoing. Armenia, with the support from the European Union and other development partners, including the UN, is engaged in honouring the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to cut greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience against negative effects of a changing climate.

The sector policies being drafted include environmental and climate change aspects. For example, the agriculture sector policy, which prioritises green innovations and introduces insurance schemes in agriculture for climate change and weather hazards, is being drafted.

Priorities outlined in the Armenia Development Strategy (2014-2025) include legislative reforms, management and governance Capacity Strengthening (especially for protected areas, forests, and water basins), environmental impact assessment and monitoring capacity, legal mechanisms for promoting "green" innovation, education and awareness, among others.

Climate change and protecting the environment plays a key role in the four inter-related work streams of WFP's work in Armenia. The four workstreams are identified as disaster risk reduction, school feeding, nutrition and food value



chains (including activities to support mitigation of climate change), and environmental risks. On an activity level, WFP's transformative school feeding model includes the use of solar power as a source of energy for the greenhouses, and the food value chain pilots seek to use green energy in the chain. The food value chain pilots offer an opportunity to include a circular economy approach to limit waste and efficient use of resources. WFP is setting up hydroponic systems for food production in schools, to decrease the need for water and clean soil.

In preparation for the establishment of greenhouses, setting up solar panels, and renovation and rehabilitation work, WFP engages with the provincial and local authorities to understand potential environmental risks associated with the activities and to ensure compliance to local rules and regulations.

WFP is following the work of other agencies - for example, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - to understand the soil contamination issues, and with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that has called the UN agencies together to tackle food safety issues drawing on the comparative advantages of each agency.

Enhancing Food System

Enhancing food systems in Armenia through the 2030 Fund

Under the 2030 Fund, WFP has launched the implementation of a food value chain prototype in the Berd community, an urban municipal in the Tavush province region. Joining forces and available funding with the UN sister agencies, farmers have been provided with seeds and machinery to improve the quantity and quality of products. Subsequently, thanks to other internal resources of WFP, a collection centre has been established and provided with solar energy systems to maximise the efficiency of productive resources while reducing the climate footprint of the intervention.

Thanks to the investments made in the nutrition formative research part of the feasibility analysis and the already existing nutrition portfolio of WFP, in 2020 nutrition interventions such as Social Behaviour Change Communication campaigns will support improving the nutrition education among the population, covering the Berd community, which will stimulate the demand for nutritious products that are being produced by the established food value chains. Furthermore, it will establish comprehensive systems that support the increased production of nutritious products while in parallel fostering the demand for them, and thus ensure effectiveness and best value for money of the investment.

On November 27, WFP, in partnership with the Italian Embassy to Armenia, organised a conference on business and development opportunities to invest in food security, called "It's an opportunity - invest in food security". This one-day conference gathered representatives from the public and private sector to mark another step forward in finding new solutions to improve food value chains in Armenia. Panelists from key Armenian line ministries, China, the EU, Italy, the Russian Federation, and the private sector discussed opportunities and areas in which investments and the strong partnership between public, private and institutional partners can create new synergies.

Data notes

Summary

Notes on info-graphic data:

- Data collection on estimate number of people with disabilities will start in 2020.

Strategic outcome 01

The data and tonnage number is calculated only from the start of the school year in September till the end of December (distribution reports collected end of December 2019).

According to the Gender and Age Marker (GAM) code 3, the design of the CSP fully integrated gender into all activities supporting Strategic Outcome 1 across Armenia.

More information on the gender and age marker can be found here:

<https://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>

Strategic outcome 02

Notes on Data Table:

C.7* is an indicator for two separate Outputs under Strategic Outcome 02: WFP supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations under the Output C (investments in emergency preparedness and improved disaster response capacities in local systems). WFP also supported the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs under the Output C (enhanced national social protection systems and coherent policies to ensure their basic food and nutrition needs are met).

Notes on WFP Gender and Age Marker

-Gender and Age Marker code 1 for activity 2 is because the activity has no tier 1 beneficiaries.

Progress towards gender equality


Note on 'improved gender equality' indicators: Women (kitchen staff) are sole recipients of the food assistance are women, and in Armenian households, only 3% of men claim to take part in cooking (UNFPA 2016 Study Men and Gender Equality in Armenia).


Note on all cross-cutting indicators the baseline is the end-line of the T-ICSP.

"No data is displayed on the indicator on "Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality" because the CO is currently revising the data collection methodology for this indicator." The first round of data collection in 2020 will serve as a baseline and set targets for the CSP.

Figures and Indicators

WFP contribution to SDGs

 SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture										
WFP Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger					WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)					
SDG Indicator	National Results			SDG-related indicator		Direct			Indirect	
		Female	Male			Overall	Female	Male		Overall
Prevalence of undernourishment	%			6	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) to improve their food security	Number	52,830	58,123	110,953	
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	%			9.7	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) to improve their food security	Number	52,830	58,123	110,953	

 SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development										
WFP Strategic Goal 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs					WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)					
SDG Indicator	National Results			SDG-related indicator		Direct			Indirect	
			Overall				Overall			
Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	US\$			139,000,000	Dollar value (within WFP portfolio) of technical assistance and country capacity strengthening interventions (including facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation)	US\$			1,926,850	

Beneficiaries by Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	35,883	30,303	84%
	female	32,617	27,556	84%
	total	68,500	57,859	84%
By Age Group				
0-23 months	male	136	117	86%
	female	119	102	86%
	total	255	219	86%
24-59 months	male	2,621	2,212	84%
	female	2,004	1,692	84%
	total	4,625	3,904	84%
5-11 years	male	29,760	25,076	84%
	female	26,720	22,512	84%
	total	56,480	47,588	84%
12-17 years	male	323	278	86%
	female	272	234	86%
	total	595	512	86%
18-59 years	male	2,448	2,108	86%
	female	2,652	2,284	86%
	total	5,100	4,392	86%
60+ years	male	595	512	86%
	female	850	732	86%
	total	1,445	1,244	86%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	68,500	57,859	84%
Refugee	0	0	-
Returnee	0	0	-
IDP	0	0	-

Annual Food Transfer

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 01			
Buckwheat	48	37	78%
Pasta	48	36	75%

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Rice	48	37	78%
Wheat Flour	964	711	74%
Vegetable Oil	68	51	74%
Lentils	92	66	71%
Split Peas	0	5	-

Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher

Modality	Planned Distribution (CBT)	Actual Distribution (CBT)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01		Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round						
		- Nutrition Sensitive - Root Causes						
Activity 01	Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A, N*	Schoolchildren in the targeted areas receive a nutritious, hot, diversified meal every day they attend school to meet their basic food and nutrition needs							
Output C	Communities benefit from an enhanced national school feeding programme, including nutrition education, enabling them to meet their basic food and nutrition needs							
Output F	Communities, including smallholders, benefit from joint efforts to link local production with procurement of school meals to improve their incomes							
Output N*	Schoolchildren benefit from rehabilitated school facilities and equipment, including kitchens, that improve delivery of school meals							
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Activity supporters	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	4,417 4,083 8,500	3,805 3,515 7,320		
		Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	28,200 31,800 60,000	23,753 26,786 50,539		
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	0 0 0			
		Activity supporters	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	0 0 0			
A.2	Food transfers			MT	1,268	943		
A.6	Number of institutional sites assisted							
	Number of primary schools assisted by WFP		School feeding (on-site)	school	474	413		
C.4*	Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		School feeding (on-site)	individual	240	240		
C.5*	Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							
	Number of training sessions/workshop organized		School feeding (on-site)	training session	17	17		

F.1	Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained							
	Number of smallholder farmers supported by WFP		School feeding (on-site)	individual	15	15		
N*.1	Feeding days as percentage of total school days							
	Feeding days as percentage of total school days		School feeding (on-site)	%	100	100		
N*.5	Number of schools with infrastructure rehabilitated or constructed							
	Number of schools with infrastructure rehabilitated or constructed		School feeding (on-site)	unit	150	130		
Outcome results				Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Students (primary schools); Armenia; Cash, Food								
Hand-over strategy developed and implemented [1=not achieved; 2=partially achieved; 3=achieved]								
	Act 01: Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	School feeding (on-site)	Overall	2	=3	=2	2	
Retention rate / Drop-out rate (new)								
Drop-out rate	Act 01: Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	School feeding (on-site)	Female	0.04	≤0.02	≤0.04	0.04	
			Male	0.03	≤0.02	≤0.03	0.03	
			Overall	0.03	≤0.02	≤0.03	0.03	
Retention rate	Act 01: Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	School feeding (on-site)	Female	99.96	≥99.98	≥99.96	99.96	
			Male	99.97	≥99.98	≥99.97	99.97	
			Overall	99.97	≥99.98	≥99.97	99.97	

Strategic Outcome 02	National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024	- Root Causes						
Activity 02	Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C	Vulnerable communities benefit from investments in emergency preparedness and improved disaster response capacities in local systems							
Output C	National institutions have strengthened capacities to implement a comprehensive nutrition-sensitive national school feeding programme							
Output C	Vulnerable groups benefit from enhanced national social protection systems and coherent policies to ensure their basic food and nutrition needs are met							
Output E, E*	Communities have enhanced awareness and consumption of healthy, nutritious and diverse diets							
C.5*	Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)							

	Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	training session	17	17		
C.7*	Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)							
	Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	1	1		
			Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	2	2		
E*.4	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches							
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	180	183		
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Number	60	57		
E*.5	Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using media							
	Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using mass media (i.e. national TV programme).		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	individual	13,000	15,000		
Outcome results				Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
National institutions; Armenia								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)								
	Act 02: Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	Overall		0	>8	>2	2

Cross-cutting Indicators

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population									
Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Students (primary schools); Armenia; Cash, Food	Act 01: Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	School feeding (on-site)		Overall	94	≥80	≥90	94	

Type of transfer (food, cash, voucher, no compensation) received by participants in WFP activities, disaggregated by sex and type of activity									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Activity supporters; Armenia; Cash, Food	Act 01: Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	School feeding (on-site)		Female	100	=100	=100	100	
				Male	0	=0	=0	0	
				Overall	100	=100	=100	100	

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences									
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance)									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value	
Students (primary schools); Armenia; Cash, Food	Act 01: Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	School feeding (on-site)	Female	100	=100	=100	100		
			Male	100	=100	=100	100		
			Overall	100	=100	=100	100		

Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value	
Students (primary schools); Armenia; Cash, Food			Overall	100	=100	=100	100		

World Food Programme

Contact info

Jelena Milosevic

jelena.milosevic@wfp.org

Cover page photo © Cover photo © WFP/Abeer Etefa

Children enjoy nutritious meals at school supported by WFP Armenia.

<https://www.wfp.org/countries/armenia>

Annual Country Report

Armenia Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2024)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Annual CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round
SO 2	National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024
Code	Country Activity Long Description
CS11	Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia
SMP1	Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government

Annual Country Report

Armenia Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2024)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
1	Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round	Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	2,202,186	2,202,186	3,291,568	1,676,019
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	3	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			2,202,186	2,202,186	3,291,571	1,676,019
5	National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024	Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia	669,985	669,985	892,970	134,719
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	7	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			669,985	669,985	892,977	134,719
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	44,812	0
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	0	44,812	0
Total Direct Operational Cost			2,872,171	2,872,171	4,229,360	1,810,739
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			286,805	286,805	371,848	173,338
Total Direct Costs			3,158,976	3,158,976	4,601,208	1,984,076
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			205,333	205,333	302,290	302,290

This computer generated report is certified by the Chief of Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch (RMFC)

Annual Country Report

Armenia Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2024)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
Grand Total			3,364,310	3,364,310	4,903,498	2,286,366



Brian Ah Poe
Chief
Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

Expenditures

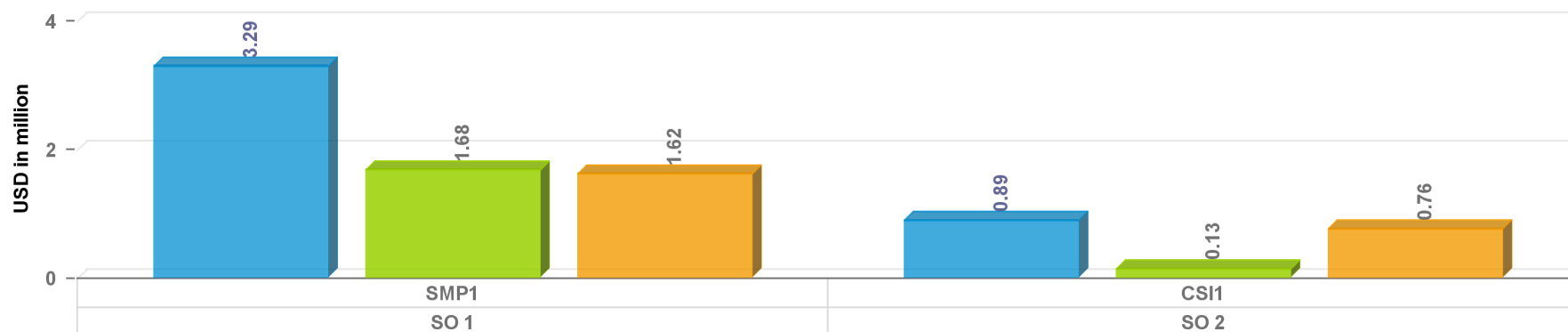
Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

Annual Country Report

Armenia Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative CPB Overview



Strategic Outcomes and Activities

■ Allocated Resources ■ Expenditures ■ Balance of Resources

Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round
SO 2	National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024
Code	Country Activity - Long Description
CS1	Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia
SMP1	Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government

Annual Country Report

Armenia Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
1	Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year round	Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government	2,202,186	3,291,568	0	3,291,568	1,676,019	1,615,549
		Non Activity Specific	0	3	0	3	0	3
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			2,202,186	3,291,571	0	3,291,571	1,676,019	1,615,551
5	National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024	Provide technical support to national institutions to generate evidence-base and inform policies, strategies and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia	669,985	892,970	0	892,970	134,719	758,250
		Non Activity Specific	0	7	0	7	0	7
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			669,985	892,977	0	892,977	134,719	758,258

Annual Country Report

Armenia Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2019-2024)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
		Non Activity Specific	0	44,812	0	44,812	0	44,812
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	44,812	0	44,812	0	44,812
Total Direct Operational Cost			2,872,171	4,229,360	0	4,229,360	1,810,739	2,418,621
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			286,805	371,848	0	371,848	173,338	198,510
Total Direct Costs			3,158,976	4,601,208	0	4,601,208	1,984,076	2,617,131
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			205,333	302,290		302,290	302,290	0
Grand Total			3,364,310	4,903,498	0	4,903,498	2,286,366	2,617,131

This donor financial report is interim



Brian Ah Poe
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

31/01/2020 12:39:10

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures