



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief May 2020



## In Numbers

**0 people** assisted  
in May 2020

**0 USD** cash-based transfers made

**0 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 activities 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 23.5 percent in 2018.

The first Covid-19 case in the country was registered on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The government announced the state of emergency from March 16 to June 13, however the majority of restrictions have been lifted from May 18<sup>th</sup>. As of May 31 the number of Covid-19 cases in Armenia reached 9,492 with 139 deaths.

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

- In May, WFP continued supporting the Government's response to the Covid-19 emergency. WFP handed over 125,000 Personal Protective Equipment, valued USD 110,000 to the Ministry of Health for doctors to care for patients affected by COVID-19. This is the result of a partnership between the World Bank, the Ministry of Health and WFP where WFP facilitated and procured items from China.
- A letter between WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been signed to implement the Shock Responsive School Feeding programme to provide children with safety nets while schools are closed. 29,223 primary school children from families enrolled in the Government's social protection programme will benefit from WFP's assistance. Cash assistance of 200 AMD (aprox. 0.4 USD) per child per day will be provided for 40 days to support families' nutritional needs as an alternative to on-site school lunches.
- In May, WFP launched a nationwide food security assessment to measure the impacts of COVID-19 on households' food security levels. The results, as of July 1<sup>st</sup> approximately, will establish a solid data base for the Government, WFP, local and international partners. on how food security has evolved and what measures will be needed in the short and medium-term. The design of the assessments has been developed closely with UNICEF and with technical input from the World Bank to maximize the impacts of different organizations' endeavors and complement already existing data on food insecurity and vulnerability.
- WFP Armenia in partnership with other UN agencies has finalized a behavior change communication campaign specific to the pandemic. Video content on COVID-19 and preventive measures were created and disseminated through national media and social networks to educate people on prevention measures to apply daily against the virus.

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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)
<b>28m</b>	<b>20m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January-June 2020)
<b>6m</b>	<b>0</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.

- In May WFP continued implementing most of its pre-COVID activities. The study on Armenian food consumption behaviours was finalised to inform forthcoming nutrition Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) campaigns. Solar panels for schools and community-based food production have been prepared for the implementation in four schools and three local businesses in June.
- WFP Armenia is facilitating an online exchange between the Ashtarak schools and two other schools that already have greenhouses to share experience on school's sales and financial management. A report will be prepared by end of June to outline the existing process for the greenhouse management and identify any gaps that need to be addressed before implementing the planned agricultural projects and setting up greenhouses in additional schools.
- WFP finalised the mapping of implementing partners to be included in school-based food production projects.
- The procurement process of equipment to support farmers' collection and processing of food commodities in the food value chain project in Berd has been finalised. The processing center will support Berd farmers to increase production volumes.

- The monitoring of School Feeding's provision of meals continues to be on hold due to the temporary closure of schools. Nonetheless, WFP conducted an assessment to understand the negative influence of COVID-19 on food security status of beneficiary farmers from Berd community and their agricultural activities, to identify their urgent needs.

## Partnerships

- Engagements with a wide variety of traditional WFP partners, including Embassies and missions in the country, took place in May to raise resources in support of shock responsive food value chains, food security assessments and direct food aid interventions. WFP is waiting for feedback.
- With the Ministry of Economy, WFP developed a comprehensive food security response for the pandemic with the aim to align endeavours in the country and jointly reach out to interested partners.
- Continued engagement with non-traditional donors, including private sector companies and Foundation specific to the medical response and to lay the ground for possible expanded areas of intervention in food security.
- Seven funding agreements have been signed from public and private sources for the support to the COVID-19 Emergency.

## Donors

Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, WFP 2030 corporate funds, RA Ministry of Health, Fruitful Armenia Fund, Armenia General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Izmirlian Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, UN SDG Fund.

## Monitoring

**Photo Caption:** WFP Armenia handing over medical equipment to the Ministry of Health.