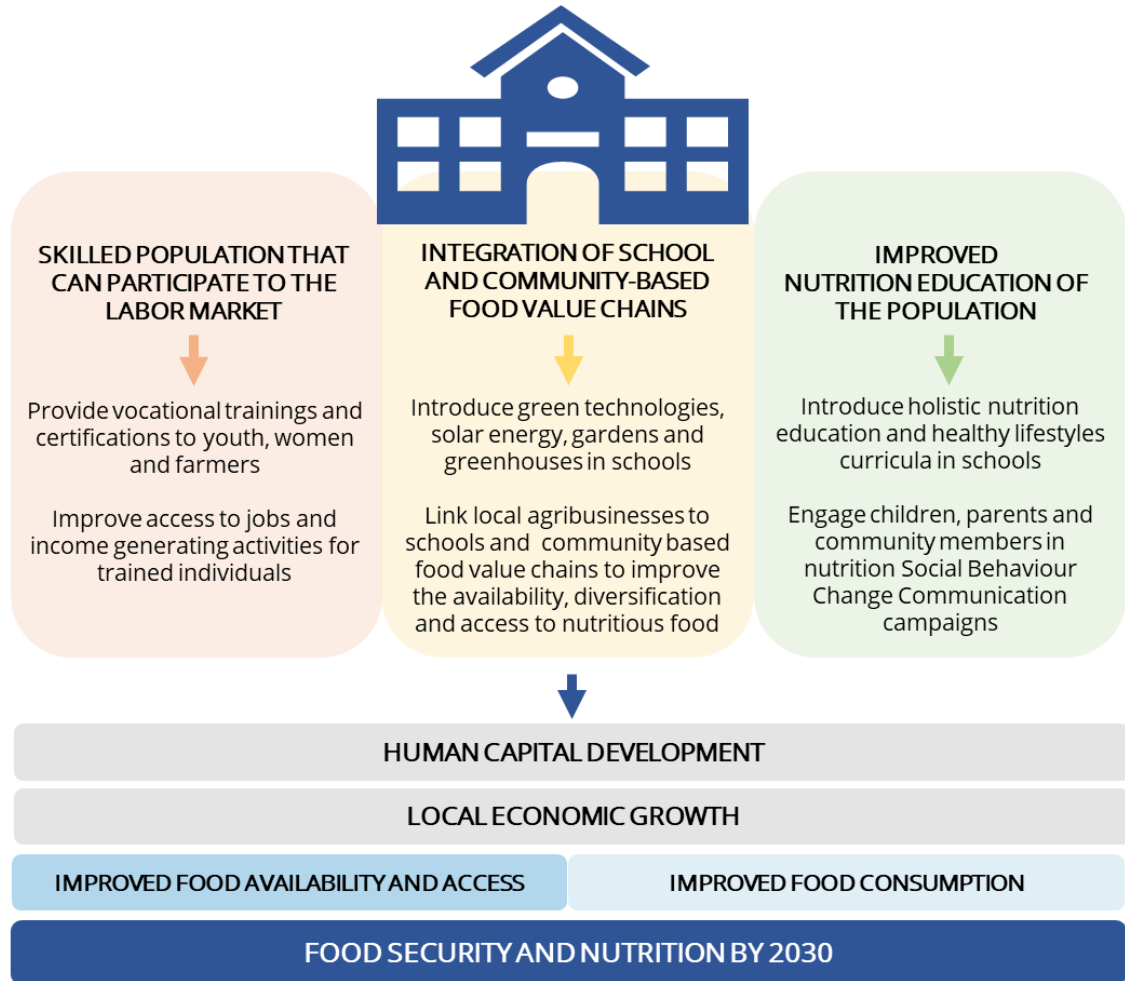


WFP Armenia - Towards a Transformative School Feeding Programme

2020-2030 WFP ARMENIA'S TRANSFORMATIVE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME



For 2020-2030 the school feeding vision of Armenia positions schools at the center of lifelong learning that benefit school children, their parents and wider community members. In 2020 WFP and the Government of Armenia launched a new phase of the Transformative School Feeding Programme which will turn schools into vehicles for accelerating progress towards Food Security. School-based production, investments in Food Value Chains (FVCs), links to agribusinesses will improve the availability and affordability of nutritious food. Additional investments will transform schools into platforms to improve the nutrition education of community members and support them with technical and vocational trainings to acquire the skillset necessary to access job opportunities.

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Thanks to the long-lasting strategic investments of the Russian Federation, and the technical support of the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), the programme has significantly evolved from direct food assistance to a sustainable development programme. The Government of Armenia officially acknowledged the Sustainable School Meals as a national priority, committed to finance it and is working towards gradual nationalization of the programme. In 2020, WFP and the school feeding programme will further strengthen coordination between different Government line ministries. The private sector will also be engaged in hiring the newly trained and skilled labour force, creating favorable investment conditions for agribusinesses and infrastructure interventions from WFP, thus improving the overall food functioning of the food systems in the country.

| | 2010 | 2020 | 2030 |
|-----------------------|------|---|------|
| Government of Armenia | | WFP and Government of Armenia are jointly designing the School Feeding Strategy. WFP is supporting the establishment of a Government-led foundation to implement the School Feeding programme. WFP is gradually handing over the programme to the government for its full nationalisation by 2023. | |
| Local Partners | | WFP is working in partnership with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute, NGOs and partners to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate and equip schools' canteens and cafeterias, • Train school personnel, parents and community members, • Introduce green technologies, school gardens and greenhouses. | |
| Private Sector | | WFP will increasingly involve the private sector to jointly develop technical and vocational trainings to train a population that can participate to the labour market. Support local farmers and agribusinesses with the schools direct purchases of nutritionally diversified food products. | |

CENTRAL LEVEL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Every year the number of schoolchildren directly receiving the support from WFP is decreasing in line with the nationalisation of the School Feeding programme. In turn, the number of children supported by the National School Feeding Programme has increased reaching 60,000 as of 2020. WFP continues to strengthen the capacity of national partners, including the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation in designing policies and legislations, monitoring and evaluation and fundraising mechanisms. WFP is helping to draft the National Sustainable School Feeding strategy and the National School Feeding law. In parallel, WFP advocates for revision of decrees and other legislations to ensure implementation of sustainable school feeding.

2010-2020 THE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

RESULTS

Human Capital

Food security

Economic growth

OUTPUT

Improve children's education

Provide daily nutritious meals

Create job opportunities

Support local producers and markets

WFP SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

WFP INPUT 2010-2020



\$1 million in community-based purchases



22,643 MT of food was distributed



521 schools were renovated and 470 were equipped



Employment opportunities for 1,700 kitchen helpers

A FUTURE BUILT ON SOLID RESULTS: THE SCHOOL FEEDING SUCCESSES TO DATE

- ➔ **Children daily receive nutritionally diversified meals** since 2010, thanks to the support for the Russian Federation, WFP and the Government of Armenia.
- ➔ **School children improve their health** and positively change their behaviours toward healthier consumption habits thanks to nutritionally diversified food provided by WFP or through schools' direct purchases in local markets.
- ➔ **5-10% increase in local sales** is expected due to the higher demand and more local purchases, which in its turn will increase the livelihood of small-holder farmers.
- ➔ **Positive impact of daily meals in improving cognitive abilities of children** have been demonstrated by numerous studies worldwide owing to daily meals, parents send their children to school more regularly, nearly eliminating absenteeism.
- ➔ **School meals positively reduce poverty rates by 0.4 percentage points** in Armenia. Thanks to their unique position at the nexus of food security, nutrition and rural development, school meals are a major contributor to the social protection system.
- ➔ **For every one USD invested in Armenia's school feeding programme, there is a USD 7.1 return** in the form of improved health and education among school children and increased professional productivity over their lifetime.