

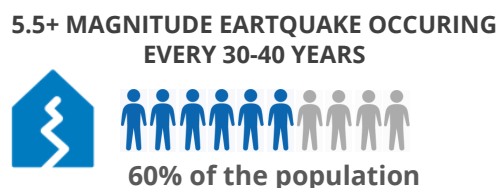
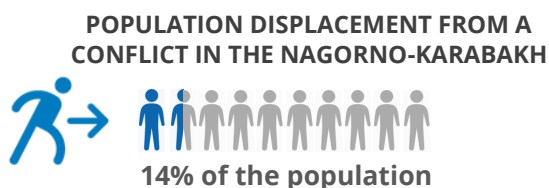
WFP Armenia - Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

Located in the mountainous southern region of the Caucasus, Armenia is ranked among the 60 most disaster-prone countries in the world and is further impacted by the Nagorno-Karabakh's conflict dynamics since the early '90s. To that, the geopolitics of Armenia and its neighboring countries result in the closure of two out of the four borders of the country, leaving open only the northern and southern corridors with Georgia and Iran respectively, thus further endangering humanitarian responses in case of potential shocks. The country has been experiencing different macroeconomic progresses which have been followed by the implementation of structural reforms over the last decade but their results have not reached the Armenian society equally. This resulted into a weak, unevenly-distributed growth and created structural inefficiencies leaving the population, economy and environment to be highly vulnerable to external shocks. In line with national strategies and action plans, WFP and its partners recognize the presence of some existent, critical, yet surmountable gaps related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) around the incomplete decentralization of disaster management, the population education on DRR, needs assessments, and the capacity development of national and international actors. Together with the Government, WFP has formulated a five-year plan to improve the resilience of the Armenian society directly supporting the improved access to nutritious food via its nutrition-sensitive Food Value Chains, the strengthening of national systems to address malnutrition and the creation of a transformative School Feeding Programme.

However, the condition sine qua non to effectively build the sustainable resilience of the Armenian population lays in the parallel investments required across the country to improve existing Disaster Risk Reduction measures by which the impacts of the onset of an emergency would be attenuated and in turn buffer the potential detrimental effects on the investments allocated over the last thirty years.

WFP SUPPORT IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Most recent analyses conducted by the Armenian United Nations Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT) pointed to the existence of **two most foreseeable events** that could occur in the country and negatively impact the already precarious livelihood and food security situation of the Armenian society



Together with the RA's Ministry of Emergency Situations, national and international partners, WFP will engage in activities aimed at improving the country's resilience to shocks through the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response activities. Leveraging on existing national response mechanisms and WFP Armenia activities, the organisation will mobilise its international expertise and reapply successful models adapted to the country's context to build the DRR capacity of Governmental bodies, communities and individuals alike.



Support the Government establish food response mechanisms, with appropriate options ranging from the continuous formulation of legislation frameworks, the establishment of food reserves, improving governance capacity, the preposition of food stocks and storage facilities. Needs-based forecasts estimate that approx. 3,000 MT will be required to respond to the basic food needs of the population for the first month of a potential emergency response.



Enhance storage capacity across the country and create Staging Facilities or alternative structures in Gyumri to enhance Armenia's second airport with the logistic capacities to become a hub for airlifted and over-land supplies of humanitarian assistance within the country or entering Armenia in case of emergency. By adapting WFP successful models implemented in other earthquake-prone countries, the goal is to minimise the lead-time for the provision of life-saving assistance.



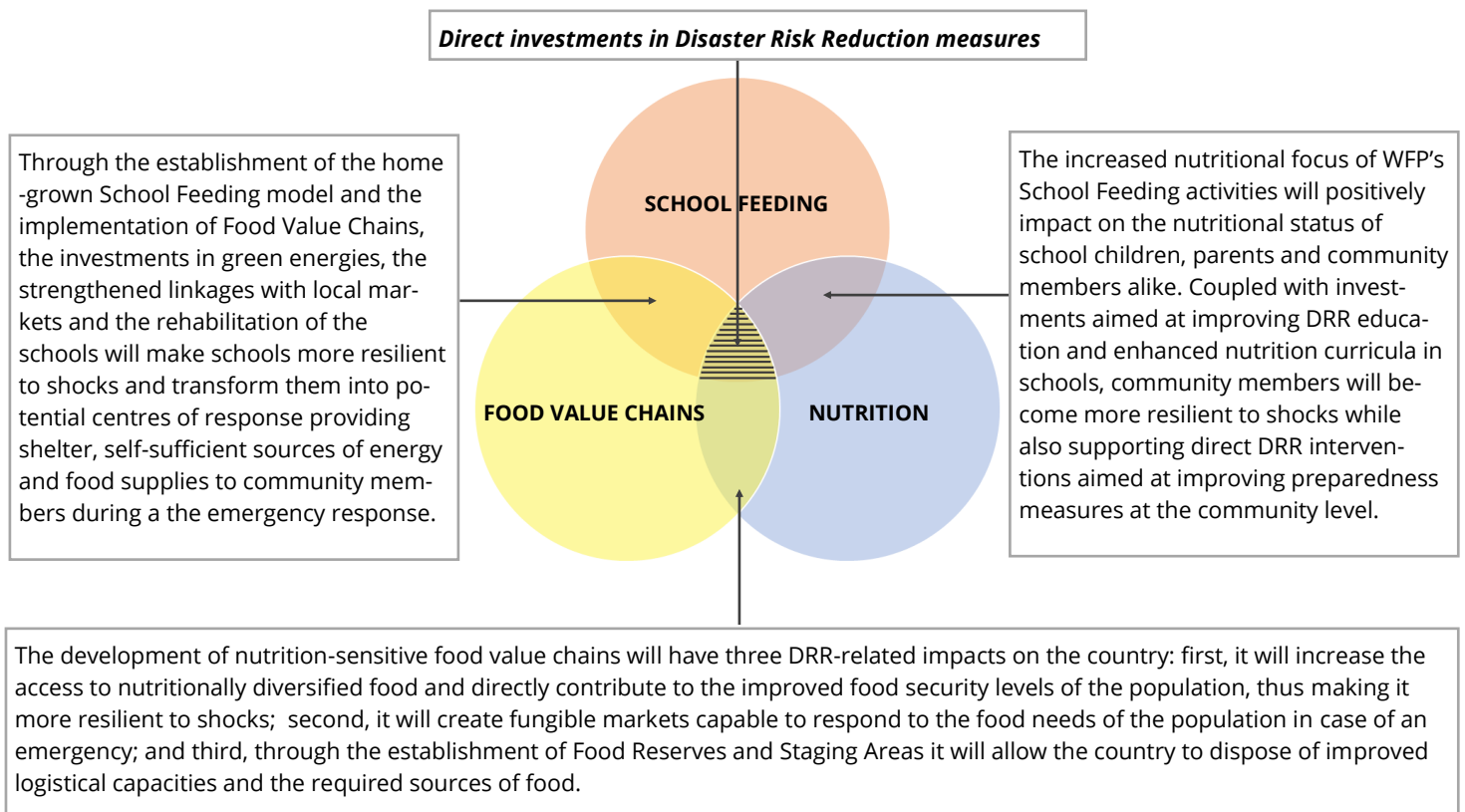
Improve and transform schools into community response centres leveraging on the ongoing work of WFP's School Feeding Programme. WFP will first map selected number of schools across the country of which kitchen facilities and equipment have or are to be renovated to consider and improve additional feeding capacity beyond school meals to provide support in case of emergency to surrounding affected areas.



Improve the emergency preparedness and response of national and international actors. At the national level, WFP will support the government to complete in full its planned decentralisation of disaster risk management via capacity strengthening activities for municipalities and governors and strengthen the ground-level capacity to respond to onset emergencies. Within in-country international actors and the Government's emergency response bodies, WFP will enhance coordination and governance response mechanisms, develop Standard Operating Procedures on roles and responsibilities, promote inter-cluster coordination meetings and ensure the development of needs assessments, particularly in the fields of Food Security, Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication for which WFP would be the humanitarian cluster lead agency in case of an emergency.

THE INTERCONNECTION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WITHIN WFP FIVE-YEARS PLANNED ACTIVITIES

While acknowledging the pivotal importance of having distinct investments in the creation of Disaster Risk Reduction activities, WFP's five-year plan has been functionally designed, together with the Government and WFP partners, to ensure that its other activities all contribute directly or indirectly to improve Disaster Risk Reduction measures while also benefitting from the latter and ensure the sustainability of WFP's interventions in Armenia. The below graphical representation provides the logical framework of such interconnectivity.



THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Following the 6.5 magnitude earthquake that hit the city of Spitak in 1988 and brought the death of 25,000 people, led half a million civilians without a home and caused damages of more than USD 14 billion, the Government of Armenia increased its commitments in Disaster Risk Reduction and emergency preparedness to ensure the safeguard of its country to any renewed shocks. In 1991 a new Disaster Risk Reduction system was established and subsequently incorporated into the DRR Management Framework of the newly formed Ministry of Emergency Situations established in 2008. Further, the country now benefits from improved national legislations aimed at improving preparedness and response mechanisms against seismic shocks and set in place rescue services in support of the population.

To further ensure the preparedness, management and response to onset emergencies, the Government joint forces with international partners and ratified numerous international treaties which resulted in additional in-country measures and considerable progresses in disaster risk management. The most prominent include, but are not limited to, the signature of the 2015-2030 **Sendai Framework** to improve the country's resilience to disasters by also focusing on sustainable development goals and the eradication of poverty, which in turn resulted in the Government's adoption of the **Disaster Risk Management National Strategy**; in 2015 the country become a member of the **UN International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)** and leveraged on this to carry out the **Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE)** in 2018 to improve awareness and best-practices of national and local authorities; and adopted the **Inter-Agency Needs Assessment (ARIANA)** to increase the country's preparedness which is further sustained by the national implementation of the **Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)** to best identify strategic humanitarian priorities during the first weeks of an emergency.