Operational Context

In Armenia, WFP supports the Government and partners in their efforts to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to implement the Government of Armenia’s Development agenda. Together with government line ministries and partners, WFP is contributing to the development of human capital, the improvement of health and the promotion of sustainable economic growth that benefits the whole population.

Through the adoption of its five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019–2024, WFP Armenia’s interventions focus on shock-responsive social protection activities and policy development; enhancing food systems; developing evidence-based studies and policies on food security and nutrition; strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response instruments and capacities; and delivering emergency food assistance and supply chain service provision.

Following the adoption of its CSP in 2019, WFP undertook two Budget Revision in 2020 and 2021 to respond to growing food security needs in Armenia brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in the adjoining region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Through these operational changes, WFP equipped itself with the means to rapidly respond to shocks and provide assistance to those most in need. In parallel, WFP continues investing in existing development-oriented interventions and making them resilient to shocks to safeguard and continue supporting food security and nutrition in Armenia.

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 26.4 percent in 2019, while WFP’s nationwide assessments conducted in November–December 2020 point to 19% of households being food insecure.

Operational Updates

- In January 2021, WFP continued distributing food in the region of Kotayk to support 23,731 people whose access to food security had been compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In January, the UN Inter-Agency Response Plan was endorsed by the Government and released with partners, outlining the multi-agency comprehensive response strategy and financial requirements of 36 humanitarian partners, including WFP, supporting the Government to provide a first stage of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection services to conflict-affected persons.
- Consultations with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) and partners continued in preparation for the food assistance via unrestricted cash transfers, as well as analysing results from WFP’s Food Security Assessments and beneficiary lists for targeting purposes.
- WFP started preparing for the distribution of take-home rations as part of the School Feeding (SF) programme for the second semester 2020/2021 in response to closure of school canteens. WFP continues to work with the Government for the advancement of the nationalisation of the SF programme, creating a comprehensive database breakdown of gender and disability of beneficiaries, and development of school infrastructure, such as the finalization of kitchen renovations plans and equipment sourcing in Lori province. With the newly established School Feeding and Child Wellbeing Agency, the Government’s implementing vendor for SF, WFP is providing guidance and technical assistance.
- WFP installed solar stations in two schools and worked with WFP’s Energy for Food Security team to map results from energy solutions in the school agriculture projects and capture impact for possible scale-up.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23,731 people</th>
<th>assisted in January 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 USD</td>
<td>cash-based transfers made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>252.5 MT of food assistance</td>
<td>distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$2.9 m</td>
<td>six months (February – July 2021)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/armenia
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP)
(July 2019 - June 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41 m</td>
<td>24 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February-July 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 m</td>
<td>2.9 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 outcome 4:** Vulnerable populations in Armenia have access to basic needs and livelihoods during and in the aftermath of a crisis

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activity 4:**
- Support to Government and partners to identify and provide food assistance to vulnerable populations.

**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.

**Strategic Result 8:** Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable populations benefit from improved capacities of national entities and partners to prevent and respond to emergencies

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activity 3:**
- Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.

- In collaboration with UNDP and FAO, WFP is supporting the Government of Armenia with their engagement in the food systems summit 2021 by engaging in the design of topics and content to be presented by Armenia during the event.

- The results of the WFP-funded Market Functionality Assessment conducted by the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia (RUEA) were presented to the Deputy Minister of Economy of Armenia. The collaborative assessment showed a picture of markets that were resilient to the shocks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This is attributable to the fundamental nature of markets in Armenia being made up of small size enterprises that sell a variety of items, with limited storage capacity and weekly restocking practices. These characteristics supported the

- Six Cooperating Partners in food value chain have completed feasibility studies in the 39 target schools to select the location of the agricultural investments and the products to be grown with support from the Armenian Agrarian University. Construction and land preparation have started and are on track for completion with nutrition training completed with 100 percent of the targeted number of participants.

- The Nutrition team promoted healthy nutrition and upcoming Social Behaviour Change Campaign (SBCC), directed to change social behaviour towards nutritious choices on three interviews on Armenian television outlets and radio.

- WFP funded a Food Bank digital platform to provide an exchange system for donations of food and non-food items, including management of food and evaluation tools, which has been developed and transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

### Monitoring

- From 15-21 January WFP conducted distribution process monitoring of the food assistance delivered in Kotayk Province to around 23,000 food insecure people affected by the pandemic. WFP’s monitoring and evaluation covered seven communities and distribution points across the region. Local authorities are actively involved in the process by providing warehouse venues and organising the distribution in their communities. The monitoring included observation of the process and warehouse with a checklist, interviews with the beneficiaries and organizers/focal points.

- WFP’s beneficiary feedback hotline is receiving calls from beneficiaries and stakeholders with most of the inquiries made by callers excluded from the beneficiary lists prepared by the MLSA, which have been informed of this feedback.

- Post-Distribution Monitoring planning for School Feeding take-home rations has started.

### Donors


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**WFP Armenia Country Brief**

January 2021

**Photo Caption:** WFP Armenia organizing food distributions.