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 emergency food security needs in Armenia brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in the adjoining region of Nagorno-Karabakh. 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.

Population: 2.97 million
2019 Human Development Index: 0.76 (81 out of 189 countries)
Income Level: Upper middle
Chronic malnutrition: 9% of children between 0-59 months

Operational Updates

• In February 2021, WFP continued distributing food assistance in the region of Kotayk to support 7,337 people whose access to food security had been compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic. This represents the fourth month of food assistance provided regularly by WFP and expected to finish in March 2021.

• In parallel, WFP also launched food distributions as part of its Alternative Take Home Rations activities in lieu of on-site school feeding activities. Amidst continuously growing rates of COVID-19 infections in the country, the Government of Armenia decided to keep schools open but to close schools’ canteens and kitchens to limit the spread of the virus. For this reason, WFP and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports (MoESCS) decided to continue providing take home rations for the second semester of the 2020/21 academic year following the positive experience of 2020. In February, WFP delivered food parcels to 6,757 kitchen helpers across four regions. Parcels containing six commodities (buckwheat, lentils, pasta, rice, vegetable oil, wheat flour), will last for 80 feeding days and will also be delivered to school children starting from March 2021.

• As part of the gradual transition towards national ownership of the school feeding programme, WFP engaged in technical consultations with the Governor of region of Gegharkunik to finalize the identification of schools’ canteens to be renovated in 2021. WFP will commence infrastructural investments and support schools transitioning from in-kind to cash-based transfers prior to the full hand-over of the programme to the Government in 2021. Moreover, WFP launched the schools’ canteens renovation assessment in the region of Lori. 70 schools were identified as in need of infrastructural investments to be conducted in 2021 ahead of the hand-over in 2022.
**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>26 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April-September 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2 m</td>
<td>1.7 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.

**Donors**


**Within its nutrition portfolio of activities, WFP partnered with the MoESCS and included “healthy lifestyles” curricula for schoolchildren in grade 5 to 11. An experts’ group was established to develop manuals and training materials for teachers, WFP will support the development of nutrition components.**

**In February, WFP continued investing in the application of green energy solutions and models in support to climate sensitive food value chains and school-based food production programmes. A 400 sqm solar-powered greenhouse has been constructed in a school in Tavush to improve school's production of food for daily meals to be self-produced by schools, thus making the programme self-sustainable and creating new job opportunities for community members. Moreover, WFP finalised the installation of solar panels in additional schools in Lori and started working with WFP HQ and Regional Bureau’s energy teams to strengthen the evidence base of WFP’s usage of energy for food security. WFP in Armenia is working with WFP offices globally, as well as potential donors, to strengthen this concept.**

**Monitoring**

- In February, WFP conducted monitoring activities of its COVID-19 food distributions across 19 distribution points in Abovyan, Hrazdan, Charentcavan and Yexvard in the region of Kotayk. The monitoring included observations of processes and warehouses, interviews with beneficiaries and municipalities focal points to draw lessons learnt that will inform WFP’s future food assistance interventions.