



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Armenia Country Brief June 2021

### 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; enhancing and fully nationalising the School Feeding programme and, as needed delivering emergency food assistance and supply chain service provision.

Following the adoption of its CSP in 2019, WFP undertook two Budget Revisions 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.

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 percent of households being food insecure.

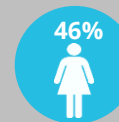
Population: **2.97 million**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Human Development Index:  
0.76 (81 out of 189 countries)

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children  
between 0-59 months**

### In Numbers



**11,628** people assisted in June 2021

**US\$ 367,005** cash-based transfers made

**0 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$1.5 m** six months (July – December 2021) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In June, 11,628 vulnerable women and children displaced persons from the adjoining region of Nagorno-Karabakh currently residing in Armenia were assisted with cash transfers.
- Food distribution started on 21 June, which is aimed at supporting the most vulnerable food insecure families through home delivery to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. WFP plans to support 32,102 vulnerable people registered in the state family support system in Shirak region and 1,000 people in collective centres across the country in June-July. As of 29 June, WFP assisted 23,433 people with a full ration for one month, consisting of the following 8 food items: buckwheat, wheat grain, pasta, rice, lentils, dried beans, vegetable oil and dried fruit. The distribution is planned to be completed on 10 July 2021.
- During their recent mission to Armenia, the EU Humanitarian Aid Expert, Mr. David Sevcik, and “USAID Saves Lives” Regional Humanitarian Advisor, Mr. John H. Patterson visited WFP’s ongoing projects supported by USAID and EU and met with conflict-affected people along with host families. Mr. Sevcik and Mr. Patterson spent time with displaced people to get a better understanding of the existing humanitarian needs and challenges they faced due to the conflict and COVID-19 pandemic. During this mission trip with the EU, WFP also organized a visit to a nexus project. Mr. Sevcik and Ms. Silja Kasmann met farmers involved in WFP’s whole grain wheat project.
- WFP has completed the implementation of the social behaviour change campaign pilot in Kotayq region. The campaign aimed to increase consumption of healthy breakfasts among school children and their families. Evaluation of the pilot is ongoing and will be finalized in July.

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Photo Caption: In kind food home delivery to food insecure local population in Shirak region (Photo: WFP/Ani Karapetyan).

# WFP Country Strategy

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>41 m</b>	<b>26 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July- December 2021)
<b>14 m</b>	<b>1.5 m</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 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 line with WFP's commitment to mainstream gender sensitivity in all its work, the Food Value Chain team has added a women's economic empowerment component to the wholegrain wheat value chain project. Within the scope of this project, WFP supports actors along the value chain of wholegrain wheat to increase their productivity and profitability. To increase the role that women are playing in this value chain, WFP will support an additional 15 female farmers and two female run bakeries with a grant.
- The Second Food Systems Summit National Dialogue for Armenia was hosted in June 2021. WFP participated in the panel of speakers and led discussions on food security as

offering opportunities for economic development across multiple sectors.

- WFP Armenia staff was given protection training by Protection/Accountability to Affected Populations expert from the Regional Bureau in Cairo, Andrea Castorina.
- WFP, in cooperation with Social and Industrial Foodservices Institute (SIFI), completed the assessment of kitchen infrastructures in 111 schools in Armavir province.
- In the scope of the School Feeding Programme, trainings were delivered to:
  - 12 headmasters in Gegharkunik province (procurement food safety)
  - 16 headmasters in Aragatsotn province (procurement food safety)
  - 74 parents in Vayots Dzor province (food safety)

## Monitoring and Assessments

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit has successfully maintained the hotline for beneficiary feedback throughout June, registering around 1,831 phone calls including 1,215 phone calls related to in-kind food distribution for food insecure population in Shirak and 616 phone calls related to cash-based transfers (CBT) to the displaced population from Nagorno Karabakh. In 99 percent of the cases the callers' feedback is positive.
- The M&E unit conducted in-kind distribution process monitoring prior to the food distribution in Shirak region (province) in June.
- The draft report of the third food security and vulnerability assessment (FSVA 3), which was conducted in April-May 2021, has been prepared and is being finalized. It is expected to be released by mid-July.
- The second-round of the Nationwide Food Security monitoring system (mVAM) for tracking the food security situation of displaced persons across the country and food insecure population in Shirak was launched in the end of June.
- Field visits have been conducted to Shirak to assess the program implementation by cooperating partners and to consult and coordinate for efficient food assistance distribution if needed.

### Donors

Armenia General Benevolent Union (AGBU), British Embassy Yerevan, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian companies, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Government of Flanders, Government of France, Fruitful Armenia Fund, Izmirlian Foundation, My step Foundation, Russian Federation, The Republic of Armenia, The Republic of Armenia Ministry of Health, Saint Sarkis Charity, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, UN SDG Fund