



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief August 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.

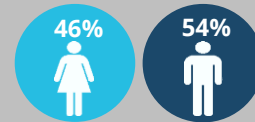
Population: **2.97 million**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2020 Human Development Index: **0.77 (81 out of 89 countries)**

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

In Numbers



0 people assisted in August 2021

US\$0 cash-based transfers made

0 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (September 2021 – February 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP continues the implementation of the Food Value Chain Programme, which also includes the execution of the Wholegrain Wheat Value Chain Project (designed from July 2020 to July 2022). In line with the project goal of strengthening the wholegrain wheat value chain in the Tavush region and increasing the capacity of processing wholegrain wheat into high-quality wholegrain wheat flour, WFP completed the construction of the wholegrain mill and the installation of the wholegrain flour production line in Tavush region in August.
- Within the framework of the Women's Economic Empowerment Value Chain Project, in August WFP supported female agribusiness actors to economically benefit from investments. Specifically, WFP completed the procurement of fruit dryers and solar stations for 15 female farmers.
- As part of the Berd project which aims at establishing food value chains to increase the offer of nutritionally diversified food, WFP completed the construction of a hydroponic greenhouse in Berd community.
- Two agricultural trainings were conducted for beneficiaries of the Whole Grain Value Chain and Berd projects, with the support of the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU).
- In August, WFP continued to implement activities under the School Agriculture Project, which aims at supporting vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, to have access to adequate and nutritious food all year-round. During the reporting period and within the scope of the project, WFP completed the establishment of intensive orchards and berry gardens in 25 schools and the construction of greenhouses in 12 schools in different regions of Armenia.

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Photo Caption: Established whole grain mill in Tavush region (photo by Vahan Arakelyan)

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
41 m	26 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Sept 2021- Feb 2022)
14 m	1.5 m

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.

- Key findings of the analysis revealed that in Shirak region a higher share of households is included in the SSN programme compared to the country average, 30 percent in Shirak vs 23 percent nationwide. The analysis also revealed that there are households who are food secure but included in the SSN programme (60 percent) whereas there are others who are food insecure but not included in the programme (22.4 percent).
- WFP finalized the report on the social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) Healthy Breakfast Campaign. The evaluation revealed a significant increase in the number of parents and schoolchildren having breakfast every morning. This indicates a substantial change in behaviour in just the small timeframe of the campaign.
- WFP finalized the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report of the food assistance for vulnerable populations affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Yerevan and Kotayk (in total 44,000 beneficiaries were assisted) and for the first cycle of Cash Based Transfers (CBT) (in total, 31,900 beneficiaries were assisted). The report revealed that the assistance was implemented in a safe, accessible, and respectful way and that the majority of beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance provided.
- A remote post-distribution monitoring for the School Feeding Programme take home rations (second stage distribution) was conducted in August. In total, 162 parents/caregivers, 27 kitchen helpers, and 23 headmasters/focal points were interviewed.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP conducted the food security and social safety net (SSN) inclusion/exclusion analysis to identify possible gaps in the State social support programmes which might have resulted in exclusion of food insecure people. Results of analysis were shared with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Unified Social Service.
- SSN beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries were targeted; WFP conducted the analysis for Shirak region (where the food distribution was conducted) and nationwide.

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