



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Armenia
Country Brief
September 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 September 2021

US\$0 cash-based transfers made

0 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP in partnership with the Social and Industrial Food Service Instituted (SIFI), organized the inauguration of the "Arpi Community Development Project" in September. The project aims to promote a nutritional and economically sustainable school feeding programme by increasing the community's ability to self-fund the programme. Within the framework of the project, WFP will be investing in local businesses to ensure their profitability. In return, these local businesses will invest in the school feeding programme for multiple years to come. Schools received greenhouses to grow seasonable fruits and vegetables to contribute to the school feeding programme.
- In September, WFP launched a small project funded by the South-South Triangular Cooperation where communities are given the opportunity to increase their agricultural outputs. Renewable energy is the core of this project. A solar station is installed in a community building, and the savings in electricity costs are then invested in community's agricultural development. Lessons learned will be shared with WFP's China office.
- In October 2020 WFP started working with six national partners to support 41 school gardens and offer critical agricultural educational opportunity for students. The assets were handed over to the schools in September 2021.
- WFP with the assistance of the RBC Social Behaviour Change Campaign (SBCC) expert, conducted three workshops for teachers: two were related to lifestyle curriculum materials and one was on SBCC methods in education, to introduce the behaviour change approach in the education practice.

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Photo Caption: Presentation of Arpi Community Development Project (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\$)	2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Oct 2021 - March 2022)
14 m	5.5 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.

Monitoring and Assessments

- During the reporting period, WFP completed data collection for the second Food Security Monitoring System (mVAM). Data collection was conducted among displaced populations residing in Armenia who benefited from WFP cash transfer assistance, as well as among Social Safety Net (SSN) beneficiaries who were supported by WFP with food assistance in the Shirak region and among the regular population in the same region.

- WFP conducted preliminary data analysis of the second mVAM and the main findings include:

- For displaced population: the food security level didn't change much between February and July however food consumption has significantly improved. Displaced population still widely apply crisis coping strategies. About half of the respondents have spent 26-50 percent of cash assistance on food.
- For SSN beneficiaries in Shirak: the food security level hasn't changed much in Shirak region. The food consumption has improved among SSN beneficiaries supported by WFP. Coping strategies are widely adopted by SSN people, who reported to be very dependent on assistance. About 92 percent of respondents was satisfied with the food assistance provided by WFP.

- In September, WFP conducted market price monitoring and food basket cost analysis and exchange rate analysis. Analyses show, that market prices for WFP two food basket commodities were stabilized. Also, the exchange rate had been slowly stabilizing during the past three months and had a slightly decreasing trend.

- WFP developed the concept note and Terms of References (ToR) for the fourth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA) with a specific focus on social protection. Data collection is scheduled to start in October.

- In September, WFP finalized the survey for post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of the cash assistance to the displaced populations from Nagorno-Karabakh, covering both cycles of assistance. Initial findings show that more than 90 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the distribution process and management and 97 percent were satisfied with the assistance.

- WFP conducted remote PDM for the School Feeding Programme's Take Home Rations second stage distribution. PDM results show that 99 percent of respondents were satisfied with the rations composition and quality of commodities distributed.

Donors

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