



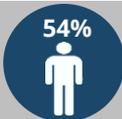
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief October 2021

In Numbers



26,982 people assisted in October 2021

US\$0 cash-based transfers made

357 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.5 m six months (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements

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

Operational Updates

- The Transformative School Agriculture project to increase the yields of healthy food and facilitate access to high-tech production facilities in communities and schools, ended in October. The project was implemented within the framework of the Food Value Chains (FVC), to ensure that vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food all year around. During the one-year intervention period, WFP worked with 6 cooperating partners to support 41 schools across Armenia to construct 6,300 m² of productive greenhouse space, 23,570 m² of orchards, and 10,930 m² of berry gardens. In total, 21,809 people benefited from the one-year intervention.
- WFP had extensive consultations with local authorities, and schools on how to continue onsite provision of school feeding in compliance with COVID-19 specific requirements. As a result of these consultations, specific instructions on how to be COVID-19 compliant while delivering school feeding activities were issued by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia (MOH).
- WFP, in cooperation with its implementing partner the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) organized an interactive school-based event dedicated to celebrating the World Food Day on 20 October. During the event, a mini garden competition took place, where schools presented their gardening plans and showed how children could be engaged in learning about gardening. The aim of the competition was to encourage green behaviours and promote learning on green practices on gardening in schools.
- The onsite provision of school meals resumed in October in compliance with COVID-19 prevention rules and regulations. On-site school feeding implementation started in two provinces (marzes): Armavir and Kotayk.

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Photo Caption: Hydroponic greenhouse in Berd (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\$) (Nov 2021-April 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

- WFP finalized the Second Food Security Monitoring (mVAM2) bulletin focusing on the food security levels of the displaced population and Market price monitoring assessment. The outcome documents will be shared externally in early November.

Beneficiary Story

Greta Barseghyan participates in WFP’s Women’s Economic Empowerment project and has a bakery in Tavush province of Armenia. As an owner of a small business, she faces high production costs because she uses outdated cooking technologies. This makes it difficult for her small business to stay competitive in the market.

To support Greta to reduce production costs, WFP provided a 20kw solar power station. This enables Greta to save approximately 30 percent of her production costs through reduced spending on electricity. Additionally, Greta also received construction materials to improve the sanitary conditions of the bakery. Trainings were offered on how to bake wholegrain bread and Greta is now selling this healthy alternative to white bread to local schools as part of WFP school feeding project. Currently the demand for whole grain bread is increasing and Greta will now hire two additional women from her community to respond to this increased market demand.



Photo Caption: Greta Barseghyan, beneficiary of WFP’s Women’s Economic Empowerment project (photo by Vahan Arakelyan)

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