



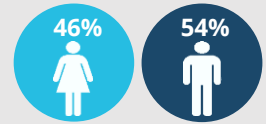
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief May 2022

In Numbers



32,887 people assisted
in MAY 2022

169 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$80,517 cash-based transfers made

US\$1.5 m six months (June-November 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 one Budget Revision in 2020 and two Budget Revisions in 2021. The first two Budget Revisions aimed at responding to growing food insecurity in Armenia brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and the hostilities/fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The third Budget Revision approved in November 2021, added capacity strengthening as an emergency response tool to support displaced and food insecure populations living in new border provinces (marzes) through skills and resilience building activities.

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 27 percent in 2020, while WFP's nationwide assessments conducted in April 2021 point to 21.4 percent of households being food insecure.

Population: **2.97 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children**
between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- WFP provided nutritious hot meals to 10,813 children in 69 schools of Armavir province. WFP's cash transfers to Kotayk province benefited 15,032 schoolchildren. In Addition, 449 kitchen helpers and cooks in Kotayk and Armavir (equal to 2,245 beneficiaries, with family members) received in-kind assistance as compensation for their engagement in the provision of daily meals.
- WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 4 kindergartens in Lori province, benefiting 101 children. Additionally, 282 primary schoolchildren from Nagorno Karabakh, currently residing in Armavir and Kotayk provinces received food assistance (1,410 beneficiaries, with family members).
- WFP supported 200 schools in Armavir and Kotayk provinces to enhance their capacity to provide safe, diverse, and nutritious meals through rehabilitation and re-equipment of kitchen facilities.
- The Minister Counsellor of the Russian Embassy in Armenia met children benefiting from WFP school feeding and nutrition education programmes in Tavush and Lori provinces. The donor mission also showcased how school agricultural investments are serving as a learning platform for children and engaging the community members.
- WFP developed teaching materials on healthy nutrition and exercise to be used as part of the wider Healthy Lifestyle curriculum work. Teaching materials were developed for students in 5 and 7 grades, and piloted in all schools in the Tavush province reaching 3,137 children. Before the pilot began, WFP conducted online training with 149 teachers from these pilot schools. WFP also conducted an observational study in 4 schools in Tavush and Gegharkunik provinces to explore current snacking habits of school-aged children. WFP provided support to four Small Medium Enterprises (SME) to access finance to install solar stations. This activity targets enterprises with constraints in accessing finance, supporting them to save on energy and gas costs.

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Photo Caption: Kids playing a game within the framework of the nutrition curricula in Shahumyan school, Lori province
 WFP/Gohar Sargsyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
40 m	28 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Jun – November 2022)
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

Activities:

- 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

Activities:

- 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

Activities:

- 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

Activities:

- Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.

- WFP is starting testing the “food cards” service as a cash-based transfer tool and presented it to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA). The “food cards” service pilot is planned for the months of June-November 2022 for 300 food insecure households in Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP developed and provided two questionnaires to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA), to assess the food security level of households in regular settings, as well as the food security during shocks.
- The data collection of Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA) 4th round started in May. The assessment aims to find out the poverty and food insecurity linkages in Armenia and estimate the possible exclusion of food and nutrition insecure households in the Family Living Standards Enhancement Benefit Programme (FLSEBP) in Armenia, as well as minimizing the inclusion error by excluding those who are not food insecure.
- The Market Price and Climate Monitoring Bulletin covering April 2021 to April 2022, revealed that Armenia faces price increase of both food and non-food items. Food inflation was 14.5 percent, hence negatively influencing access to food for vulnerable households. Factors influencing price hikes in Armenia remain the price increase of goods from countries of import, transportation costs, as well as domestic inflation, availability of irrigation water and depreciation of Armenian dram. Also, the volatility of rainfall affects agricultural production in Armenia.
- In May, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between WFP and the Statistical Committee (SC) of the Republic of Armenia on data sharing. WFP will share data collected from three rounds of food security and vulnerability assessments with the Government. With this MoU, WFP enhances and prioritizes the national ownership of food security analysis in the country.
- In May, WFP collected follow-up data to evaluate the longer-term impact of the healthy breakfasts campaign done in summer 2021 in Kotayk province, aimed to increase the consumption of healthy breakfasts among school aged children and their parents. The initial evaluation of the pilot was positive and revealed an increase in the number of parents reporting to have breakfast each day and an increase in the number of school children who started having breakfast at home every day.

Donors

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