

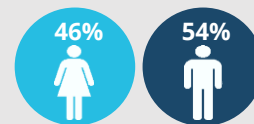


World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief May 2023

In Numbers



8,273 people assisted
In May 2023

7 solar stations (210 kWt capacity) provided to schools, and **1 solar station** (40 kWt capacity) provided to the logistics hub

US\$ 1.8 m six months (June – November 2023) 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 the Government, 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.

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 fifth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted in January 2023 revealed that 30 percent of households are food insecure.

Through the adoption of its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2025, WFP's interventions in Armenia support providing 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.

In July 2023, WFP is planning to hand over the school feeding programme to the Government.

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

- In May, WFP completed the construction of the logistics hub in Khndzoresk (Syunik province), which will benefit 71 farmers from the Khndzoresk settlement. The aim of establishing the logistics hub is to decrease post-harvest losses and connect farmers to markets. To reduce operational costs, promote the use of green energy, and decrease dependency on traditional energy supplies, WFP also installed a 40-kilowatt solar station in the logistics hub.
- As part of the "Transformative School feeding investments in School-based agriculture", WFP completed the establishment of two greenhouses, four intensive orchards, and one berry garden in seven schools in Gegharkunik province in May, benefiting 3,327 school students and staff. Additionally, seven solar stations with a total capacity of 210 kilowatts were installed in these schools. The project aims to enable schools to generate income to maintain and expand the provision of hot meals and promote healthy food and lifestyle practices in schools.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Armenia, conducted public health campaigns promoting a healthy lifestyle in 25 schools across five provinces in Armenia. The campaigns engaged 125 school students and cooks. The sessions included presentations on healthy diets and food choices, as well as food safety and hygiene. The participants also learned and had the opportunity to try making healthy recipes.



Public health campaigns conducted by WFP and the Ministry of Health

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Photo Caption: WFP's established greenhouse in a school as part of the "School-based agriculture" project scale-up in Gegharkunik province.

WFP/Vahan Arakelyan

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

Total Requirements* (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
84 m	36 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2023)
11 m	1.8 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.
- Strengthen national food systems in Armenia, supporting actors along the food value chain.
- Provide support to national institutions to strengthen the national social protection system.

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.

• In May, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) completed the Healthy Lifestyle Curriculum pilot in Tavush province, where 4,750 students from six to eight grades took part. The curriculum was focused on both theoretical and practical aspects of nutrition and physical activity.

• Within the project of the “Integrated Response to Food Price Increase in Armenia”, 1,250 households were identified as food-insecure families in May, and therefore eligible to receive food cards. Among the food insecure households, 250 households were targeted for the food card assistance in Shirak, 280 households in Tavush, and 220 households in Lori. Awareness-raising activities and food card distribution are planned for June.

- As part of the activities on building the shock-responsiveness of the national social protection system, WFP conducted a simulation workshop with the participation of governmental bodies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to identify the opportunities, risks and gaps of the joint response to country-specific scenarios. The next step will be the validation of the country capacity assessment report in July, by all engaged stakeholders and decisions towards operational framing of protocols for the national social protection system.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In April 2023, the Food Price Inflation increased by 1.2 percent and the Consumer Price Index increased by 3.2 percent compared to April 2022. Despite the overall downward price trend, prices remain relatively high, impacting the food security of vulnerable families in Armenia. In January-April 2023, the provinces consistently impacted by high consumer prices were Aragatsotn, Kotayk and capital Yerevan.
- In May, the findings of the fifth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA5), were presented to the Government representatives, international partners and researchers. FSVA5 was about household's expenditure dynamics during the winter period.

Donors

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