



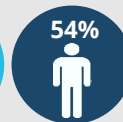
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief August 2023

In Numbers



3,580 people assisted
In August 2023

USD 73,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 2.1 m six months (September 2023 – February 2024) 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 contributes to human capital development, health promotion and sustainable economic growth to benefit the Armenian population.

Armenia is an upper-middle-income, landlocked, net food-importing 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 (2019-2025), WFP's interventions in Armenia support the strengthening of a shock-responsive social protection system; sustainable food systems and value chains; provision of evidence and analysis to support evidence-based policy and decision-making; strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness and response capacities; enhancing and fully nationalising the School Feeding programme and, as needed, delivering emergency food assistance and supply chain service provision.

Population: **2.97 million**

2021 Human Development Index:
0.759 (85 out of 89 countries)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Operational Updates

- In August, With the support of partners including the Government of Armenia, Goris Municipality, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the Joint SDG Fund, WFP established a legume processing center (logistics hub) in Khndzoresk, Syunik province. This center is an integral component of WFP's multifaceted interventions designed to promote the development of the legume value chain and improve the availability and accessibility of locally produced nutritious food, benefiting 450 individuals (100 households) from Khndzoresk, Tegh, and Tsghuk settlements in Syunik through investments that decrease post-harvest loss and support farmer's link to markets. The newly constructed center is one of the key elements of the broader value chain, which include:
 - the establishment of a cooperative and training for its members and smallholder farmers in partnership with the Armenian National Agrarian University and the Chinese Agrarian Academy.
 - the distribution of high-quality legume seeds to smallholder farmers covering 60 ha of agricultural land.
 - installation of a 40-kWh capacity solar station at the logistics hub.
 - Support the cooperative in branding and marketing products.
- In the scope of the "Enhancing Food Security and Livelihoods through Cooperation on Humanitarian Demining" partnership, the Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise (CHDE) cleaned a contaminated area of 126,000 m² in Jermuk, Vayots Dzor province. The area received the Joint CHDE-WFP "Green Label" and the cleaned areas were handed over to the local administration. Following the "Green Label", WFP will commence investments in new livelihood opportunities for the affected communities.
- Following the curriculum approval of the "healthy lifestyles" by the Ministry of Education, WFP, in cooperation with the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency (SFCWA), implemented training of 80 trainers (teachers). This included coaching and methodological

Contact info: Anna Dalaryan (anna.dalaryan@wfp.org)
Country Director: Nanna Skau
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/armenia

Photo Caption: WFP strengthens food security in Armenia with the opening of a new legume processing center (legume logistics hub)
©WFP/Mariam Avetisyan

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) (September 2023 – February 2024)
11 m	2.1 m

guidance for teaching healthy lifestyles.

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.
- As part of the "Integrated Response to Food Price Increase in Armenia", 3,050 food-insecure individuals (704 households) in five communities across Shirak, Tavush, and Lori provinces received the third tranche of their food cards for August. To scale up the intervention, WFP, in collaboration with social workers from the Unified Social Service, Mission

Armenia NGO, and local communities, initiated food security assessments for 10,000 individuals in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, and Kotayk provinces.

- Within the framework of the "Building a Resilient Social Protection System in Armenia" project, which aims to support the development of an integrated, human-focused, and shock-responsive social protection system in Armenia, WFP is facilitating the development of the social ambulance model. The social ambulance model is a quick response to individuals and families experiencing difficult life situations and needing urgent assistance in meeting their primary needs. In August, WFP presented the model to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA), House of Hope NGO, NORK Social Services Technology and Awareness Center Foundation. WFP, in collaboration with its partners, will continue to strengthen the social ambulance model.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP's Market Price Bulletin (August) highlights that Food Price Inflation decreased by 3.9 percent in July 2023, and the Consumer Price Index decreased by 0.1 percent compared to July 2022. The highest food price decrease was observed in Lori (6.3 percent), Tavush (6 percent), and Kotayk (5.9 percent) provinces. According to WFP's Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) indicator, which monitors the extent to which a local food commodity market experiences unusually high food prices, two out of eleven provinces in Armenia (Syunik and Tavush) are expected to face a "Crisis," one province (Kotayk) will face "Stress", and eight provinces will face an "Alert" in terms of price inflation.
- In August, WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of the food card distribution and utilization. The food cards were provided to 150 households impacted by the escalation of conflict, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Armenia under the "Resilience and Economic Recovery of Border Communities in Armenia" project. The PDM confirmed positive changes in food consumption scores including changes in coping mechanisms.

Donors

Armenia General Benevolent Union, 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, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.