



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief November 2023

### 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.

Following a massive influx of 101,848 refugees (as of 20 October, 2023) who fled through the Lachin Corridor, WFP activated emergency food assistance response to refugees in need. The support is provided upon the Government of Armenia's request and in coordination with the authorities to address the urgent needs of refugees.

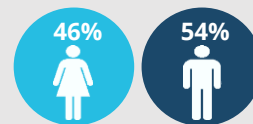
Population: **2.97 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

### In Numbers



**20,752 people assisted**  
in November 2023

**66 mt** food distributed

**USD 84,000** cash-based transfers made

**USD 17.3 m** six months (December 2023 – May 2024)  
net funding requirements

### Emergency Response

- Following the influx of 101,848 refugees through the Lachin Corridor into Armenia, WFP immediately responded to the food needs of those targeted as most vulnerable. In November, WFP completed distribution of family food parcels to 16,340 refugees residing in Lori, Tavush, Aragatsotn, Armavir, Shirak, and Vayots Dzor provinces. WFP also continued the provision of hot meals to 200 elderly refugees living in nursing homes.

### Operational Updates

- In November, as part of the "Integrated Response to Food Price Increase in Armenia", WFP made a second transfer to 3,486 food cards to food-insecure individuals in Kotayk, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik provinces. The third transfer to beneficiaries will take place in December, with USD 24 per person being transferred to the food card for food purchases.
- WFP scaled up the "Green Energy for Productive Farming" activities in Davit Bek and Nerkin Khndzoresk communities in Syunik, Jermuk and Vayots Dzor provinces to enhance food security for local communities and smallholder farmers. As part of this, WFP provided solar stations with a total capacity of 80 kilowatts. In addition, 45 smallholder farmer households (180 people) received high nutritional value berry seedlings and established backyard berry gardens. Additionally, trainings will be provided to farmers on the operation of drip irrigation systems and cultivation of high-value berries while integrating climate-conscious approaches into agricultural planning.
- WFP and the French Armenia Foundation (FAF) initiated a partnership aimed at enhancing the livelihoods and water management practices of 84 smallholder farmer households (336 people) in Syunik province. As part of this, FAF supplied fruit seedlings to assist farmers in establishing backyard orchards, while WFP provided drip irrigation systems. Additionally, the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU) conducted training sessions on "Effective gardening/orchards and drip irrigation systems" for the selected smallholder farmers.

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**Photo Caption:** Distribution of drip irrigation systems to smallholder farmers in Syunik province.  
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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
<b>84 m</b>	<b>36 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2023 – May 2024)
<b>11 m</b>	<b>17.3 m</b>

## 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.

- WFP, in collaboration with the milk producer “Yeremyan Projects”, continued distributing a daily cup of milk and nutritious wholegrain cookies to 210 school children in fifth to eighth grades in Jermuk and Yeghenadzor schools in Vayots Dzor province, aiming to address calcium deficiencies among children and promote behavior change. WFP conducted a midterm

survey among participants, revealing significant positive shift in milk consumption behaviors and reduction in sugary drinks consumption.

- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), concluded the second phase of the Healthy Lifestyle Campaign. This phase covered Gegharkunik, Ararat, Armavir, Aragatsotn, and Kotayk provinces. WFP supported the implementation of Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions on healthy diet, benefiting 225 participants from 50 schools across the country.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP's November Market Price Bulletin highlights that food price inflation decreased by 3 percent in September 2023, and the Consumer Price Index remained at 0.1 percent compared to September 2022. The highest food price decrease were in Tavush, Lori, Kotayk and Syunik provinces. The highest price reductions were on the “oils and fats”, “bread and cereals”, and “fish and seafood” food categories.
- WFP conducted Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) of the food card assistance provided to vulnerable households in Shirak, Tavush, and Lori provinces during July, August, and September. Key findings highlighted a positive impact of food cards, increased access to nutritious food, improved food consumption scores and overall beneficiary satisfaction.

## World Food Day

- WFP, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) and the School Food and Child Welfare Foundation (SFCWF) held five-day educational sessions for primary school children in November, centered around the “Water” theme for the World Food Day. The initiative focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle and emphasizing water's role in nutrition and dietary choices.

## International Forum on School Meals

- WFP, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), and the School Food and Child Welfare Foundation (SFCWF) participated in the International Forum on School Meals in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. The forum served as a platform to enhance cooperation aimed at improving the health and nutrition of school children in CIS countries that implement school feeding. The Forum next year will be held in Moscow.

## Donors

Armenia General Benevolent Union, UK, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Japan, EMERCOM, ECHO, European Union, Fruitful Armenia Fund, Government of Flanders, 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, Armenia, UN funds, USA.