



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief December 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 1 November, 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.

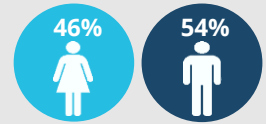
Population: **2.97 million**

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



**27,065 people assisted**  
in December 2023

**77 mt** food distributed

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

**USD 13.9 m** six months (January – June 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 December, WFP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) completed the distribution of family food parcels to 19,028 refugees residing in Aragatsotn, Armavir, Lori, Shirak, Vayots Dzor, Tavush and Syunik provinces.

### Operational Updates

- In December, WFP completed the one-year nexus project "Resilience and Economic Recovery of Border Communities in Armenia." The project addressed the consequences of hostilities in Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions with the following results:
  - Meeting **immediate humanitarian needs** of populations in bordering communities:
    - (i) 3,113 food-insecure individuals (763 households) received food cards;
    - (ii) to restore psycho-social condition after the shocks in bordering areas, 1,364 people received psycho-social services: 514 food card beneficiaries and 370 children. An additional 480 adults and children received individual and group therapy.
  - Restoring the economic resilience** of affected populations and communities:
    - (i) Three conflict-affected communities developed community social plans and social projects;
    - (ii) 214 smallholder farmers received agricultural assets to enhance income generation and self-employment;
    - (iii) 5 women-led bakeries received equipment, training on running a business, and enhanced production capacity. In total, 45 bakery staff benefitted from the project.
- As part of the "Integrated Response to Food Price Increase in Armenia", WFP made a third and final transfer) to 3,487 food cards to food-insecure individuals in Kotayk, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik provinces. The transfer value amounts to USD 24 per person for food purchases.

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**Photo Caption:** Developing the capacities of bakery and school kitchen staff in using wholegrain wheat for baking wholegrain bread and other products (Gegharkunik 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) (January – June 2024)
<b>11 m</b>	<b>13.9 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.

- Within the scope of the Wholegrain value chain development activities in Gegharkunik province, WFP supported bakery and school kitchen staff capacities to bake wholegrain bread and other wholegrain products. In December, a total of 18 bakery staff and 100 school staff received theoretical and practical trainings by the “Kenats Hats” Wholegrain Academy.

- In December, the “Milk to School” intervention successfully concluded with the end of the school semester. As in previous months, WFP, in collaboration with the milk producer “Yeremyan Projects”, distributed 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. This initiative aims to address calcium deficiencies among children and promote behavior change.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP's December Market Price Bulletin highlighted a decrease in November 2023 by 4.4 percent of food price inflation. The Consumer Price Index decreased by 0.5 percent compared to November 2022. The highest food price decreases were in Tavush, Lori, Kotayk, Shirak and Gegharkunik provinces. The highest price reductions were on the “oils and fats” (19.7 percent), “bread and cereals” (8.6 percent), and “fish and seafood” (5.6 percent) food categories.
- To develop context-specific activities for integration and livelihood support for refugees, WFP has initiated an “Analysis of barriers and opportunities for socio-economic integration of refugees”. The analysis was conducted in the bordering and vulnerable communities in Kotayk, Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori and Syunik provinces. Findings will be finalized in January to help developing mid- to long-term refugee integration support initiatives.

Best School Mini Garden Competition

- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), and the School Feeding Child Welfare agency, launched the third “Best School Mini Garden” competition. The competition, among 20 schools, aimed to promote green and clean school-based initiatives and raise school feeding awareness. The competing schools cultivated small school mini gardens, from March to November 2023.



Donors

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Photo Caption: “The Best Mini Garden” award ceremony in Neghots, Lori Province