



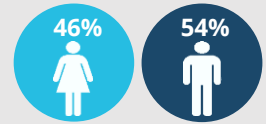
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Armenia Country Brief May 2024



## In Numbers



### 1,907 people assisted

In May 2024

(Assistance included smallholder farmers' capacity strengthening, social behaviour change, and psychosocial support)

**USD 2.9 m** six months (June – November 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 24.8 percent in 2022, while WFP's fifth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted in March 2024 revealed that 20 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 115,000 refugees (as of 1 May 2024) into Armenia, WFP activated an 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**

2022 Human Development Index:  
**0.759 (85 out of 193 countries)**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

## Operational Updates

- On 26 May, the Ministry of Interior declared an emergency in Lori and Tavush provinces in northern Armenia due to heavy rains and rivers overflowing. This led to significant floods with damages to a 31 km section of highway, the closure of Armenia's main border crossing with Georgia and the suspension of rail service between the two countries. The Government has established an operational working group to coordinate damage assessment and corresponding responses. The regional authorities in Lori and Tavush, have submitted a formal request for support to WFP. WFP stands ready to deploy necessary resources and support emergency assessments and response efforts.
- In May, WFP scaled up its cash assistance for some 1,400 refugees in Tavush province, using food cards (bank cards with cash restricted to purchase food). Awareness-raising sessions were conducted in May for refugees who will receive food cards. Cash transfers to the cards will be made in early June. Additionally, in-kind family food parcels are being prepared for distribution to another 16,000 people.
- In May, as part of the Wholegrain value chain development interventions in Gegharkunik province, WFP provided equipment and solar stations (160 kwt total capacity) to six bakeries and the Wholegrain Training Center. The training center underwent a renovation and, along with the bakeries and schools trained in wholegrain bread production, have begun supplying wholegrain bread to 116 schools (over 14,000 schoolchildren) in the province. 214 people are directly engaged in this activity through technical support and capacity strengthening.
- To enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities in Syunik province and improve food security and livelihoods, WFP invested in establishing a community-based "Revolving Fund" in Shikahogh. WFP selected 15 vulnerable households from the settlement and supported them in establishing berry gardens (each 100 m<sup>2</sup>) equipped with drip irrigation systems. WFP will provide a 20 kWt capacity solar station to the community which after one year, and for the following five years, will revolve funds, which will be reinvested in community development interventions (climate-smart), based on community priorities and needs.

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**Photo Caption:** The Wholegrain Training Center in Gegharkunik province has been renovated and equipped, ready to commence operations as part of the Wholegrain Value Chain interventions.  
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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
<b>84 m</b>	<b>44 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June-November 2024)
<b>14</b>	<b>2.9 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.

## 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.

- In May, WFP completed nutrition behavioral change communication and raising awareness sessions in all ten provinces of Armenia, implemented under the Ministry of Health's "Healthy Lifestyle" campaigns. In total, 210 schoolchildren and school cooks participated in the sessions and learned about healthy dietary practices through interactive training and hands-on cooking experiences. These sessions aimed at encouraging positive behavior changes for healthy diets.
- WFP continues its support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for an integrated, human-centered, and Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) system in Armenia. In May, WFP with representatives from MLSA and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) implemented two workshops to identify gaps and challenges in the existing shock-responsive mechanisms. Another workshop with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) is planned for June. The next steps will include a final workshop and the formulation of the SOPs.
- WFP with its cooperating partner World Vision, continued to provide psychosocial support to refugees to relieve severe stress resulting from displacement. In May, 1,432 refugee adults and children received psychosocial support through child friendly spaces, recreational activities, psychological first aid, self-help and positive parenting sessions.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In May, WFP completed the sixth nationwide Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA6) and presented its findings to relevant stakeholders. The assessment evaluated food security levels among both local and refugee populations, considering security concerns, refugee influx, and winterization expenditures. 4,127 households were interviewed, including 1,050 refugee households. The assessment indicates that the overall food insecurity level stands at 20 percent. Among the local population, food security stands at 22 percent while among refugee, it is 16 percent. The provinces with the highest levels of food insecurity were Lori (28 percent), Shirak (27 percent), and Tavush (25 percent).
- In May, WFP completed the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for WFP's cash assistance (food cards) provided to the local population and refugees as part of USAID's "Integrated Response to Increased Food Prices in Armenia" project, implemented from June to December 2023 and during March-April 2024. The findings revealed an improvement in the Food Consumption Score (FCS) of the beneficiaries following the provision of cash assistance. 87 percent of households achieved an acceptable level of food consumption, reflecting a 28-percentage point increase from baseline.