



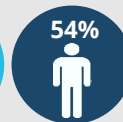
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief June 2024



In Numbers



3,095 people assisted
in June 2024

USD 51,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 4.1 m six months (July – December 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 sixth 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 105,000 refugees (as of 1 May 2024) who fled 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**

2024 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

- WFP continues to strengthen community resilience through investments in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure in Syunik province. This intervention aims to benefit approximately 3,500 households (more than 17,000 people) across seven refugee settlements, with 791 hectares of agricultural land set to be irrigated. The initiative also includes a "food assistance for assets" (cash for assets) activity, where 100 individuals were selected to take part in irrigation canal construction activities within their communities, including 11 participants from refugee families.
- In June, WFP expanded its cash assistance for 1,455 refugees residing in Noyemberyan, Berd, and Ijevan communities in Tavush province. Beneficiaries received cash transfers, restricted to purchasing food, through bank cards with USD 36 per person).
- In June, WFP supported 1,540 refugee adults and children through psychosocial support sessions aimed at relieving severe stress resulting from displacement. These sessions included support through child-friendly spaces, recreational activities, psychological first aid, self-help sessions, and positive parenting.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) in Armenia to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a human-centered Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) system. In June, WFP held workshops with the Ministry of Interior and MLSA to assess current SRSP mechanisms, identify challenges, propose solutions, and provide improvement recommendations. The workshops aimed to enhance stakeholders' understanding of SRSP procedures through interactive discussions and knowledge sharing.

Monitoring and Assessments

- To validate the findings of WFP's [Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analyzing Resilience](#) (CLEAR) assessment, ideate and formulate inputs for a Green Climate Fund proposal, WFP conducted consultation sessions across six provinces of Armenia. 125 representatives from regional, community, and

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Photo Caption: Presented findings of the Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analyzing Resilience to regional, community and administrative representatives from Gegharkunik province.
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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
84 m	45 m
2024 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July-December 2024)
14	4.1 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.	

settlement administration levels took part in the sessions.

- To examine and understand food waste management practices in culinary establishments in Armenia, in May- June 2024, WFP conducted the "Food Waste Management Practices and Behaviors" study. The study explored current food waste management practices, behaviors, attitudes, challenges, and opportunities for designing sustainable food waste reduction, re-use, and recycling within culinary establishments. By

leveraging evidence-based insights generated by the study, WFP will develop targeted interventions and initiatives aimed at reducing food waste across different sectors and chains of food systems. The study results were presented during the Food Waste Conference at the Yerevan GastroFest. WFP partnered with GastroFest to advocate for food waste reduction and promote healthy nutrition practices.

- Following the severe floods in Lori and Tavush provinces in May due to heavy rains and overflowing rivers, the Government established an operational working group to coordinate damage assessment and responses. In June, WFP participated in the Multi-Sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) to analyze the impact and damage of the emergency on affected communities. WFP is also engaged in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to conduct a more detailed analysis of needs, damages, and projections. PDNA findings will be used to develop a recovery strategy.

Strengthening Partnerships with the Private Sector and Academia

- In June, WFP signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) and Yeremyan Projects to scale up the "Milk in Schools" initiative. Initially launched in 2023 by WFP and "Yeremyan Projects", the initiative aims to address calcium deficiencies in children and encourage healthier eating habits. The partnership seeks to establish a cooperative framework to assess the initiative's feasibility and coordinate efforts and resources among the three organizations to support its scale up and implementation.
- In June, WFP strengthened its partnerships with academia to leverage identified solutions for agricultural development and socio-economic well-being in Armenia. These included:
 - a WFP signed agreement with the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU) to support the country's food system development. Building on successful joint initiatives in Tavush and Syunik provinces in recent years, this collaboration focuses on improving food security through modern and climate-smart agricultural practices that foster resilience against climate change challenges.
 - a WFP signed agreement with the National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA). This partnership aims to implement interventions that mitigate negative environmental and social impacts. Emphasis is placed on effective monitoring and community engagement to support local market development, employment opportunities, and sustainable growth.

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.