



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Armenia Country Brief October 2024



### 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. 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.

In September 2023, WFP activated an emergency food assistance response to refugees in need following a massive influx of 115,000 refugees into Armenia. The support has been provided upon the Government of Armenia's request and in coordination with the authorities to address the urgent needs of refugees.

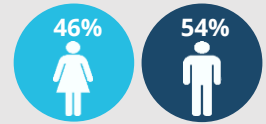
Population: **2.97 million**

2024 Human Development Index: **0.759 (85 out of 89 countries)**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

### In Numbers



**12,885** people assisted  
in October 2024

**USD 390,000** cash-based transfers made

**USD 13.3 m** six months (November 2024 – April 2025)  
net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In October 2024, WFP provided the final cash transfer using food cards to refugees who arrived in Armenia during September 2023. This assistance was delivered using WFP's - food-restricted bank cards - for cash transfers to 10,911 refugees in Ararat, Armavir, Kotayk, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak and Vayots Dzor provinces. Each refugee received a transfer value of USD 36, to cover food needs for one month.
- WFP supported 800 refugee adults and children in Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori, Shirak and Syunik provinces with psychosocial support sessions through its cooperating partner World Vision. Sessions aimed at relieving severe stress resulting from the displacement and included establishment of child-friendly spaces, recreational activities, psychological first aid, self-help sessions, and positive parenting.
- A nutrition analysis conducted in August by WFP highlighted critical gaps in knowledge regarding healthy eating habits and financial literacy among food-insecure populations in Armenia. As a follow up, WFP conducted sessions for 75 food cards beneficiaries in October, who gained insights on healthy eating practices, the principles of a balanced diet, budget planning, and making informed choices to foster health and financial stability. These sessions will continue into November engaging additional food card beneficiaries.
- WFP launched a two-day capacity-building workshop and simulation exercises, in collaboration with the Crisis Management State Academy, for 23 representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the National Social Research Institute, and the Unified Social Service (USS). This initiative aims to enhance the ability of local authorities to prepare for and respond to disasters through effective implementation of social protection functions during emergencies and through the expansion of national social protection programmes to respond to shocks. In addition, regional workshops are also planned and will include representatives from regional governors' offices, territorial centers of USS, community representatives, and social service providers.

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**Photo Caption:** Training session for WFP's food card beneficiaries to promote behaviour change and enhance understanding on healthy diets and effective financial management.  
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## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
<b>84 m</b>	<b>46 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2024-April 2025)
<b>14</b>	<b>13.3 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 continued its support to improve irrigation infrastructure in Syunik province through the following activities in October:
  - Support to the construction of 2.8 kilometers of irrigation infrastructure in Uyts settlement, which will irrigate 120 hectares of agricultural land, benefiting about 800 individuals.

- Provision of drip irrigation systems to 66 smallholder farmers (reaching 276 individuals, including family members) for their backyard plots, covering 5.5 hectares of agricultural land. The farmers also received training in drip irrigation systems to improve their water and soil management practices.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In October, WFP published the report of the sixth nationwide Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA6). The assessment evaluated food security levels among both local and refugee populations (who fled to Armenia in September 2023), considering security concerns, refugee influx, and winterization expenditures. Interviews took place in all ten provinces of Armenia and in Yerevan through 4,127 households, including 1,050 refugee households. The assessment indicated a 20 percent food insecurity level in Armenia, which translates to about 140,000 households or 550,000 individuals. Among the local population, food insecurity stands at 22 percent, while among refugees, it is 16 percent. The provinces with the highest levels of food insecurity were Lori (28 percent), Shirak (27 percent) and Tavush (25 percent).
- WFP’s October Market Price Bulletin highlights that Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 0.6 percent and the Food Price Inflation (FPI) decreased by 1 percent in September 2024, compared with September 2023. The highest annual price drop was detected among the products included in “vegetables” (4.3 percent), “fish and seafood” (2.9 percent) and “oils and fats” (1.7 percent). The highest annual price increase was seen in “fruits” (1 percent). CPIs and FPI rates were the highest in Syunik (2.5 percent), Shirak (2.1 percent), Vayots Dzor (0.6 percent) and Shirak (0.1 percent).

## Armenian delegation visits Brazil to explore School Feeding programme

- With the initiative and support of WFP, a delegation from Armenia, led by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, recently undertook a familiarization visit to Brazil. The delegation included the deputy minister of Labour and Social Affairs, the deputy minister of Environment and representatives from the School Feeding and Child Welfare Agency and Foreign Affairs, Health, Finance, and Territorial Administration and Infrastructure. The primary goal of the visit was to gain insights into the components of Brazil’s National School Feeding Programme, including its legislative and administrative frameworks, the long-term practices for menu preparation, food procurement, and programme monitoring.

## Donors

Armenia, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, EMERCOM, European Union, France, Russian Federation, South-South Opportunity Fund, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, United Kingdom, UN funds, USA.