WFP
World Food Programme
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Sixth food security and vulnerability assessment in Armenia

March 2024

Foreword and acknowledgements

This report provides an analysis of the food security and vulnerability status of the Armenian resident and refugee population. This analysis uses household data collected during March 2024 among 4,127 households in the capital city and all the regions of Armenia.

The data collection was conducted by AM Partners research company[1] via face-to-face interviews (CAPI).

WFP thanks AM Partners for organizing the data collection among households in Yerevan and all the regions of Armenia in cooperation with WFP Armenia country office. WFP Armenia appreciates the work of interviewers and data inputters, who conducted accurate and timely work in the field. The analysis and the report were prepared by WFP Armenia.

[1] Rebranded to Ampera, AM Partners-Գլխավոր

Contents

1. Executive Summary

Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments (FSVAs) track the food security situation in Armenia and were initiated in 2020 aiming to assess the implications of various shocks that the country experienced during recent years. The sixth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA6) was carried out in all regions of Armenia in March 2024. The objective of the assessment was to evaluate the food security levels among local and refugee populations. In total 4,172 face to face interviews with households were conducted in Yerevan and all regions of Armenia. The sampling was representative at national and regional levels. The data collection was conducted by AM Partners.

Food Security Levels

The results of the FSVA6 indicates a 20 percent food insecurity level in Armenia. This translates to approximately 140,000 households or 550,000 individuals.

An additional 54 percent of surveyed households were marginally food secure suggesting that **more than half of the population are at risk of becoming food insecure in case of a new shock or prolonged crisi**s. Only one quarter of households in Armenia were categorized as food secure.

While compared to December 2023, food insecurity levels witnessed a significant decline by 10 percentage points, this decline is a result of a few factors including (a) change in the food security calculation methodology from assessing income sources and income change to assessing households' economic capacity, (b) seasonality, particularly in expenses, where the previous assessment was conducted in winter and FSVA6 being conducted in early spring. It is also worth mentioning that 46 percent of households experienced income change, out of which only a quarter (24 percent) reported increase and three quarters (76 percent) reported decrease.

Northern regions continue to have higher food insecurity rates than other regions, with 28 percent of households in Lori, 27 percent in Shirak, and 25 percent in Tavush. In contrast, the lowest proportions of food-insecure households were reported in Yerevan (8%), Syunik (15%), and Armavir (17%).

Food insecurity levels were lower among refugee HHs (16%) compared to local HHs (22%). The level of food insecurity among refugees is volatile, as they were receiving assistance from the Government, international and local organizations. In case their income decreases by AMD 50,000 per person per month (which is the amount of Government assistance to refugees), the food insecurity will increase from 16 percent to 42 percent.

The most food insecure household profiles are the ones benefiting from the State Family Benefit System (47%), HHs with 3 and more children under 18 years old (31%) and HHs displaced from Karabakh in 2020 (30%).

While the FSVA6 data was collected in March, the impact of winterization costs were considered showing that 68 percent of refugees prioritised to pay their utilities (gas and electricity) instead of buying food compared to 52 percent of locals.

Food Consumption Score and Nutrition

Food Consumption Score analysis (FCS) showed that out of 94 percent of the households with acceptable food consumption levels, 46 percent had to adopt food-based coping strategies: meaning they would not have an acceptable consumption score without applying coping mechanisms. On the other hand, 5 percent fell into "borderline" consumption, with just 1 percent in the "poor" food consumption group.

When comparing refugee and non-refugee groups with acceptable consumption scores:

- 37 percent of refugee HHs did not adopt coping mechanisms, while 57 percent did,
- 53 percent of local HH did not adopt coping mechanisms, while 42 percent did.

The consumption of Vitamin A rich food commodities for 7 days in a week was high for 85 percent of the surveyed households. About 90 percent of households consumed protein-rich food during the 7 days, while only 16 percent consumed heme iron-rich food every day within the last 7 days.

Adoption of Food-Based and Livelihood Coping Strategies

Half of the interviewed HHs adopted food-based coping strategies during the week prior to the survey. Meanwhile, 36 percent employed low coping strategies, and 14 percent resorted to high coping strategies. More than half of the local population (53%) employed high coping strategies compared to 38 percent of refugees.

A higher proportion of HHs reporting no coping were in Yerevan (61%) compared to 49 percent in other urban areas and 47 percent in rural areas. The HH profiles heavily adopting food-based coping are Family Living Standards Benefit Programme (FLSEBP)[2] HHs (68%), single parent HHs (59%), HHs with 3 and more children (59%) and HHs with a disabled member (57%).

Livelihood coping strategies were widely adopted by 73 percent of HHs, which means that in the month before the survey they used coping mechanisms to access sufficient food. The adoption of crisis coping strategies has been common throughout all assessments and is considered high at 34 percent. Stress coping mechanisms were adopted by 36 percent of households entailing that households spent their savings, borrowed money, or purchased food on credit. However, compared to the previous Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment 5 (FSVA5), the adoption of emergency coping strategies significantly decreased by 7 percentage points, whereby a smaller share of households (3 percent) had to apply the severest strategies like selling the house, land, last female animal or sending children below 15 years to work outside the household.

The analysis shows that a lower proportion of refugee HHs (18%) adopted livelihood coping strategies compared to local HHs (30%), most likely because refugees received assistance from the Government, international and local organizations. Stress coping strategies were employed by 31 percent of refugees vs 37 percent of locals, whereas 50% refugees adopted crisis coping strategies compared to 29% for local populations.

Availability of Staple Food Stock and Access to Market

FSVA6 showed that 70 percent of households had stocks of staple food, of which 25% reported that stocks would last for more than a month. Additionally, 35 percent reported seven days stocks, 20 percent mentioned a period of 15 to 30 days, and another 20 percent reported a food stock to cover 8 to 14 days. Overall, 77 percent of the refugee households reported having staple food stock compared to 69 percent of the locals. 31 percent of refugees and 37 percent of locals indicated that stocks would last for up to 7 days.

40 percent of the households faced challenges in accessing the market 7 days prior to the interviews. Regarding the barriers to accessing food, the findings indicate that 75 percent of respondents mentioned lack of financial resources as a hindrance accessing food. Approximately half of single unemployed pensioner (54%), FLSEBP HHs (52%) and single parent HHs (49%) faced barriers to access food. Disaggregated data revealed that 45 percent of refugees and 37 percent of locals experienced various barriers to access the market.

[2] Family Living Standards Benefit Programme is the Government programme providing assistance to extremely poor population.

Economic Vulnerability and Indebtedness

Similarly to the findings of FSVA5, 46 percent of the population in Armenia experienced an income change over a year, but almost **half of them** (48 percent), **had more than a 50 percent reduction in income.** When comparing refugees to locals, three quarters of refugees vs only 36 percent of locals reported an income change over the previous year. Among the refugees that reported income change, 77 percent reported that their income reduced by over half.

Most of both refugee and local populations are having a monthly per capita income between AMD 48,001-120,000, but the percentage of refugees (57 percent) with this income outweighs the local populations (42 percent).
On average a household (local or refugee) spends around 29 percent of the income on food. 44 percent of the population in Armenia lack economic capacity to meet their essential needs. In rural areas there is higher concentration of households struggling economically to meet their essential needs (50 percent) compared to urban areas (41 percent) and Yerevan (20 percent). Yet, 73 percent of refugee households had adequate economic capabilities to address basic needs compared to 51 percent of the local population. The better situation for the refugees is due to the assistance received due to their refugee status. **33 percent of the population in Armenia have informal debts.** The indebtedness situation has slightly deteriorated since FSVA5 (30 percent). The main origin of debts is from nearby shops (64 percent) followed by relatives or friends (32 percent). 70 percent of the respondent were buying food on credit.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were deducted from the findings and conclusions.

The Government primarily responsible for addressing the needs of vulnerable population, including refugees, ensuring social safety nets, etc. It holds the mandate for domestic policy development and implementation, as well as the coordination with international and local organizations which act as crucial partners on food security and livelihood programs.

Recommendation 1: *Considering recurring shocks (both economic and co-variate), set up a national early warning system and sectoral national early action mechanisms.*

Establishing a new type of early warning system that can anticipate socio–economic shocks, as these often lead to increased food insecurity and disparities.

Recommendation 2: Vulnerable and food insecure populations can be identified in advance of shocks, providing an opportunity of taking anticipatory actions and mitigating from shocks and prevent them from falling below the food security threshold.

Recommendation 3: *Promote Dietary Diversity to increase the consumption of nutrient-rich food and healthy diets.*

Implement educational campaigns to inform households about the importance of a balanced diets and the benefits of consuming a variety of nutrient-rich foods[3]. This includes developing and implementing targeted social and behaviour change campaigns and trainings, ensuring nutritious food is available and affordable in markets, social marketing as well as strengthening of referral mechanisms from social protection and other programmes to nutrition promoting programmes.

Recommendation 4: *Implement livelihood building programmes tailored to the needs and capacities of refugee and local population.*

Develop vocational training programs focused on in-demand skills such as agriculture, industry, self-employment, etc. Facilitate access to necessary resources such as tools, seeds, equipment, and microloans to support small-scale farming, artisanal crafts, and other livelihood activities. Encourage joint participation of refugees and locals in livelihood programs to foster social cohesion and integration.

Recommendation 5: *Strengthen the social safety nets to ensure the most vulnerable refugees have access to essential resources.*

Simplify the process for refugees to obtain necessary documentation to apply for the Government social support programmes. Employ social workers to provide personalized support and case management for the most vulnerable refugees, helping them access various services and resources. Refine the transfer value for social safety nets adjusting those to the changing context and price inflation in the country.

2. Background

Since 2020, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been assessing the Food Security and Vulnerability in Armenia. This amounts to six **Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments (FSVA), which aims** to **identify food insecure populations, their geolocations, vulnerability profiles, scale and intensity of applied coping mechanisms by households, factors that may affect food security levels of population, etc. The assessments have assisted WFP to target and design short term, medium- and long-term support and information and analysis has been shared broadly with the government of Armenia and other national and international stakeholders.**

FSVA1 was conducted in July 2020 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the household food security levels. In December 2020, WFP launched FSVA2 to create an evidence base for emergency response planning, targeting and prioritizing of actions for displaced populations after 2020 conflict. FSVA3 aimed to track the food security situation following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and Nagorno Karabakh conflict in April 2021. FSVA4 was conducted in July 2022 to track the food security situation in Armenia focusing on the links of food insecurity and people receiving social transfers. FSVA5 had the objective to evaluate food security at household level in the light of anticipated increase of expenditures related to winterization.

In September 2023, a displacement of about 110,000 Armenians from Karabakh region occurred. The sixth food security assessment was therefore conducted in March 2024 to assess the change of the food security levels among the local population over time and refugees after the influx into Armenia in September 2023.

[3] Nutrition barrier analysis, WFP qualitative study, 2023

3. Methodology

3.1. Research objective and questions

The objective of FSVA6 was to compare the change of the food security among local population in Armenia over time following multiple shocks that the country experienced during recent years, including COVID-19 pandemic, the 44-day war, the price inflation peak in 2022, hostilities on the borders of Armenia in September 2022 and refugee (ethnic Armenians) influx into Armenia in September 2023. Another objective of the assessment was to measure food security levels among the refugee population in Armenia.

Assessment questions

Having the objective to assess the food security levels among local and refugee population in Armenia, the assessment provides answers to questions specific to both target groups and to each target group separately.

The assessment questions for **both groups include:**

- Demographic information, including socio-economic conditions.
- Which population groups are food insecure (how many are affected and how many households are going to be affected in the future, where are they located (urban-rural distribution), correlation of household profile and food insecurity level)?
- How has increased expenditure related to winterization needs affected the capacity of households to meet their food and other essential needs in corelation with their income dynamics?
- What is the Food consumption score, including nutritional quality analysis (Vitamin A, Protein and Heme Iron)?
- What coping strategies do the households deploy in case of lack of adequate resources to obtain food?
- What are the main income sources and expenditures?
- Do they have food stocks and if so, for how long will it last?
- How are households reallocating their resources and prioritizing among different and possibly new essential needs including food, hygiene, health, shelter, transport, etc.?

- How does the accessibility of markets as one of the essential components of food security influence overall food security level among households?

Questions for local population only

- Have the aggressions on the borders in certain regions of Armenia in September 2022, affected the livelihood opportunities of the local population and hence income disruption and food security level? If yes, how, to what extent?
- In which ways has the refugee influx affected the livelihoods of local population? Are they hosting refugees in the communities, within their households, or do they provide any assistance to them?

Questions for refugees from Karabakh region who moved to Armenia in September 2023

- What are the intentions of the refugee population in terms of residing in Armenia?
- Is any assistance/support needed? If so, what type? When? Where? How much? For how long?
- Are there any barriers for refugees' socio-economic integration in Armenia? if so, which barriers and in which areas do they face?

3.2. Data collection method and sample

The assessment was conducted either as **face-to-face** or **via phone interviews** among the adult population and refugees in Armenia depending on the security and safety situation in the country.

The survey used a nationally representative or regionally representative random sample (95% confidence interval, 3% margin of error for nationally representative and 5% margin of error for regionally representative random sample) with a capital, other urban and rural stratification. The sample was drawn using simple random sampling or random dialling (in case of conducting via phones). Relevant quotas and weights were applied to achieve representation between rural and urban settings. The survey adhered to the highest standards and best practices to ensure data security and protection on personal data.

In total 4,091 household interviews were conducted out of which 3,065 with local population and 1,026 with refugee population.

The assessment among refugee population was representative at national level (95% confidence interval, 5% margin of error for nationally representative random sample). Since there is still a big flow of refugee population amongst regions of Armenia, it was difficult to ensure regional level representativeness.

About twenty percent of the interviews were called back for quality control purposes.

	Total number of households			Sampled households			Weights		
Regions	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Region**	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Region**	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Region**
Aragatsotn	22702	36393	59095	101	277	378	0.999999	1.000012	0.821512
Ararat	30662	33301	63963	98	285	383	0.999982	0.999988	0.813458
Armavir	36558	30922	67480	127	259	386	0.999999	1.000012	0.821512

Gegharkunik	38032	30328	68360	164	220	384	0.999995	1.000003	0.865394
Yerevan	113213	0	113213	389	0	389	1.000007	0.999997	0.93502
Lori	64862	19386	84248	233	150	383	0.999997	0	1.34175
Kotayk	61324	20932	82256	224	160	384	0.999992	0.999982	1.063699
Shirak	67810	18316	86126	252	132	384	1.000003	0.999992	1.045946
Syunik	75475	15104	90579	265	112	377	1.000005	1.00002	1.097721
Vayots Dzor	38622	29733	68355	164	222	386	1.000004	0.999999	1.130847
Tavush	47467	26403	73870	170	213	383	1.000007	0.999998	0.93345
Total	**596727**	**260818**	**857545**	**2187**	**2030**	**4217**			

4. Key findings

4.1. Demographic information

The survey was conducted among adult residents of the Republic of Armenia including refugees from Karabakh region. The average number of households interviewed in each region was 380, including Yerevan, which assures the representativeness of data at regional level. The data was weighted to gain regional and national level representativeness. This analysis is based on the results of weighted data.

The proportion of refugees among the interviewed households was 25 percent (n=1026) and local households constituted 75 percent (n=3065).

As mentioned above the sample size for refugee households is representative for all refugee population residing in Armenia, whereas the sample of local population is representative by regions as well.

Figure 1: *Distribution of households by settlement type, %*

About 53 percent of interviewed households was settled in urban settlements and 47 percent in rural areas.

The interviews were conducted with the household member who was most aware about the household's food consumption, expenditures, diet choices and decisions and could provide accurate answers.

Figure 2: *Distribution of households by accommodation type, %*

The vast majority of local HHs (90%) mentioned living in their own apartments/houses. However, most of refugee HHs (83%) reported living in rented apartments/houses. 14 percent of refugees and 4 percent of locals is hosted.

About 32 percent of refugee population mentioned that they intended to stay in the settlement in which they were currently residing and in the same houses. For 21

percent it was not clear, and 31 percent intended to stay in the settlement but were considering changing house/apartment.

Figure 3: *Refugees' intentions to stay or move, %*

The main reasons for moving were lack of jobs and livelihood opportunities (30%).

Other reasons were high rental costs (15%), deadlines to leave the house/apartment (12%), bad house conditions (7%) and changing dwelling to be engaged in agricultural work (7%).

The refugee population was asked whether they have applied for RA citizenship and new passports.

Figure 4: *Application for RA citizenship and new passport, %*

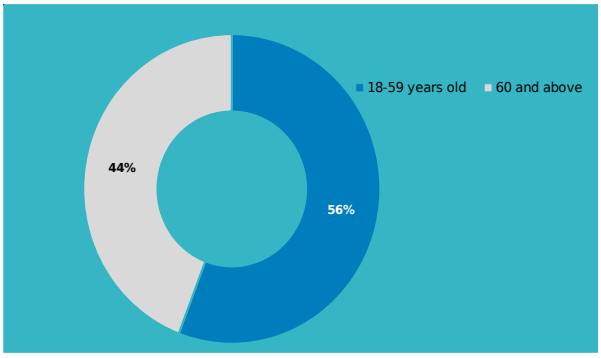
Most refugees (75%) mentioned that none of their HH members have RA passports, 17 percent indicated that one or several HH members have RA passport, and 5 percent has applied for a passport, but have not received yet.

Household composition and profiles

As to the sex of HH head, 52 percent of interviewed HHs were female-headed and 48 percent were male-headed. Among local HHs 54 percent and among refugee HHs 47 percent reported to be female headed.

Figure 5: *Sex of HH head, %*

Figure 6: *Age of HH head, %*



More than the half of interviewed HH heads (56%) were 18-59 years old and 44 percent were 60 years old and above. Disaggregation by groups showed that 71.4 percent of refugee HH heads were 18-59 years old, whereas among local HHs the proportion is 50.6 percent.

The analysis of marital status of interviewed HHs heads showed that 2.9 percent were single, 73.5 percent – married, 5.2 percent – divorced and 18.4 percent – widow/widower. There was not a significant difference among local and refugee HHs.

The majority of HH heads in both groups had secondary education (46.2%), followed by secondary vocational (25.7%).

The average household size remains at **4.2**, unchanged from the FSVA5 findings. The rural-urban distribution showed that rural households have an average of 4.6 members, while urban households' average is 3.9 members. The analysis per refugee and local

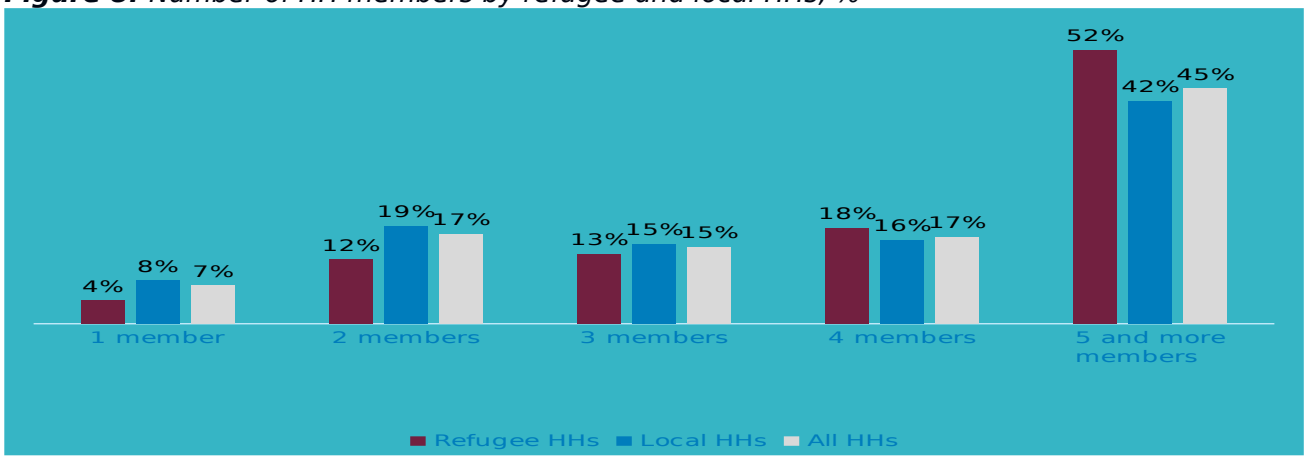
HHs showed that refugee HHs size is bigger compared to local HHs respectively **4.74** and **4.10.**

Figure 7: *Proportion of HHs having and not having children, %*

Disaggregation of HHs showed that 58.4 percent of interviewed HHs had children: 67.7 percent of refugees, 55.3 percent of locals.

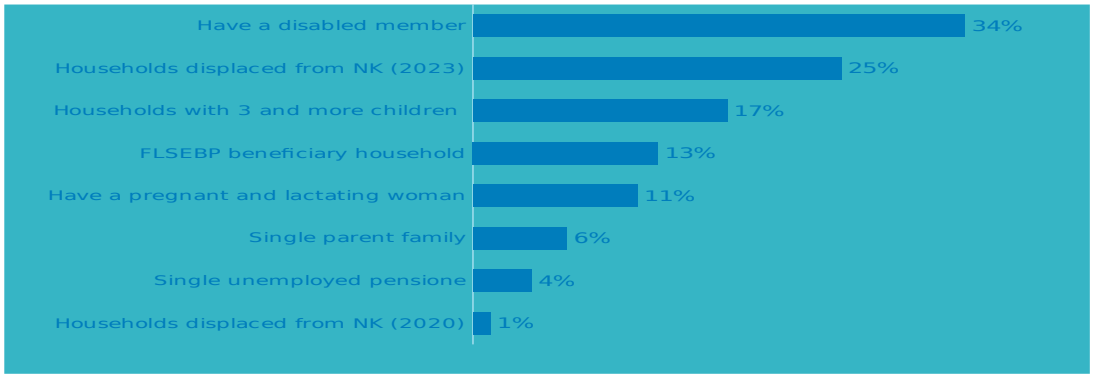
According to the accumulated data, 45 percent of the interviewed households had 5 and more members (52% among refugee and 42% among local HHs). The proportion of the households comprising of only one member was 7 percent with a higher percentage among local HHs compared to refugee HHs. While households with 4 members counted to be 17 percent among all the interviewed HHs.

Figure 8: *Number of HH members by refugee and local HHs, %*



About 40 percent of HHs had 2 children (36% of refugee HHs, 41% of local HHs), 28 percent had one child (24% of refugee HHs, 29% of local HHs), 23 percent had 3 children (23% of refugee HHs, 23% of local HHs), and 10 percent had 4 and more children (17% of refugee HHs, 7% of local HHs).

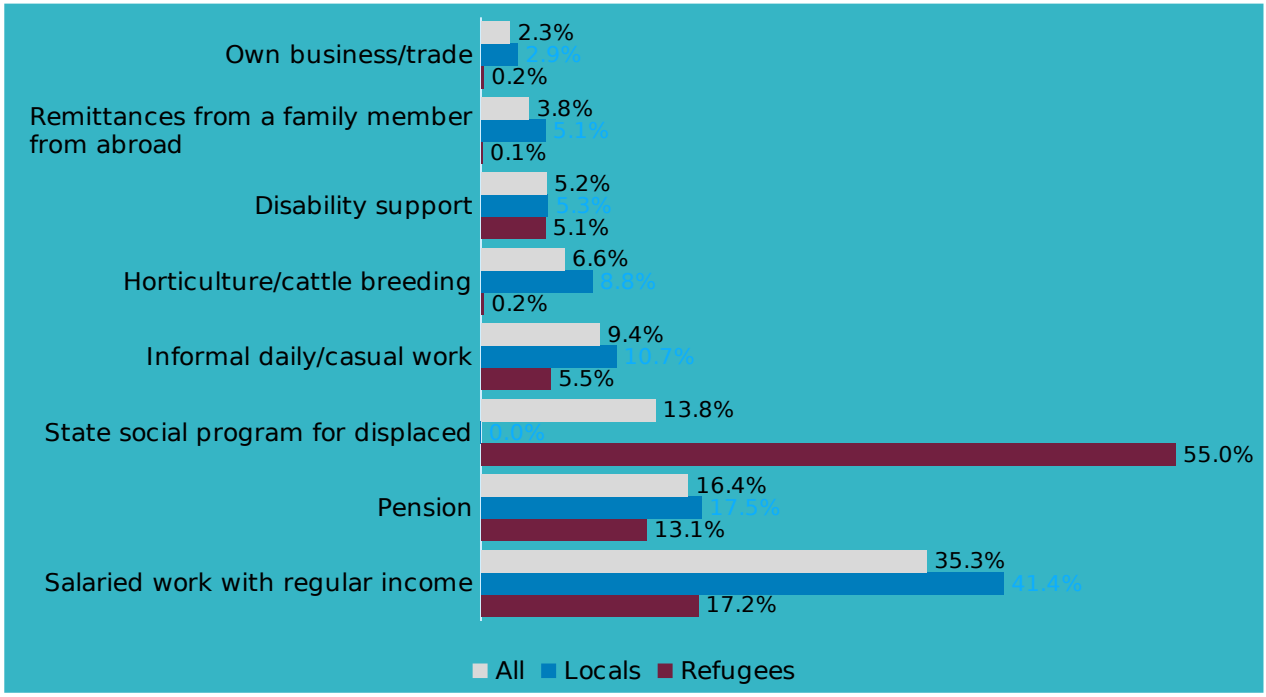
Figure 9: *Household profiles, %*



The analysis per interviewed household types shows that 34 percent had disabled members, 25 percent were displaced people from Karabakh region and 17 percent has 3 and more children. Another 13 percent were benefiting from the state social benefit programme, 11 percent of the households included a pregnant and/or a lactating family member.

Employment and income sources

Figure 10: *Main income sources of the households, %*



As seen in figure above, the main income source of refugee HHs was the state social program for displaced, 17 percent relied on regular income from salaried work, 13 percent mentioned pensions as the main income sourced. As to local HHs, the main income source for 41.4 percent was regular income from salaried work, 18 percent mentioned pensions, 11 percent relied on informal daily/casual work and 9 percent reported horticulture/animal breeding as their main income source.

Among refugees, 48 percent reported having employment in Armenia. The indicated employment sectors were service such as working at hotels, restaurants, beauty salons and taxi services (23%), construction (16%), education (15%), military forces (12%) and agriculture, farming, and fishing (10%).

4.2 Comprehensive Food Security

The Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of food security (CARI) is a harmonized WFP method used to analyse primary data from a single household food security survey, and to classify individual households according to their level of food security. It can also be used to carry out vulnerability profiling of households and to identify targeting criteria for WFP programming.

The Food Security Indicator is an aggregated food security index to report the population's comprehensive food security status. The index indicator combines households' food consumption patterns, the coping capacity of households to meet food needs and households' economic capacity into one and this composite indicator is used to determine the number of food-insecure people.

a. The Food Consumption Score (FCS), a composite score based on the dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of eight food groups that are consumed by the households seven days prior to the interview.

b. The Reduced Coping Strategy Index combines the frequency and severity of coping strategies that households employ when they do not have enough food or lack resources to buy food.

c. Livelihood Coping Strategies that are coping behaviours that cause changes in income earning activities and affects the capacity of families to generate income in the future and to react to future shocks. Livelihood Coping Strategies are categorized as stress, crisis, or emergency strategies according to the severity of the strategy adopted.

d. Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) identifies the percentage of households whose economic capacity is sufficient to meet their essential needs, as measured through the minimum expenditure basket (MEB). The MEB serves as a monetary threshold that can be used to assess a household's economic capacity to meet their needs. Households are considered to have the economic capacity to meet their essential needs if their consumption expenditures exceed the MEB.

The table below describes the overall WFP food security classifications.

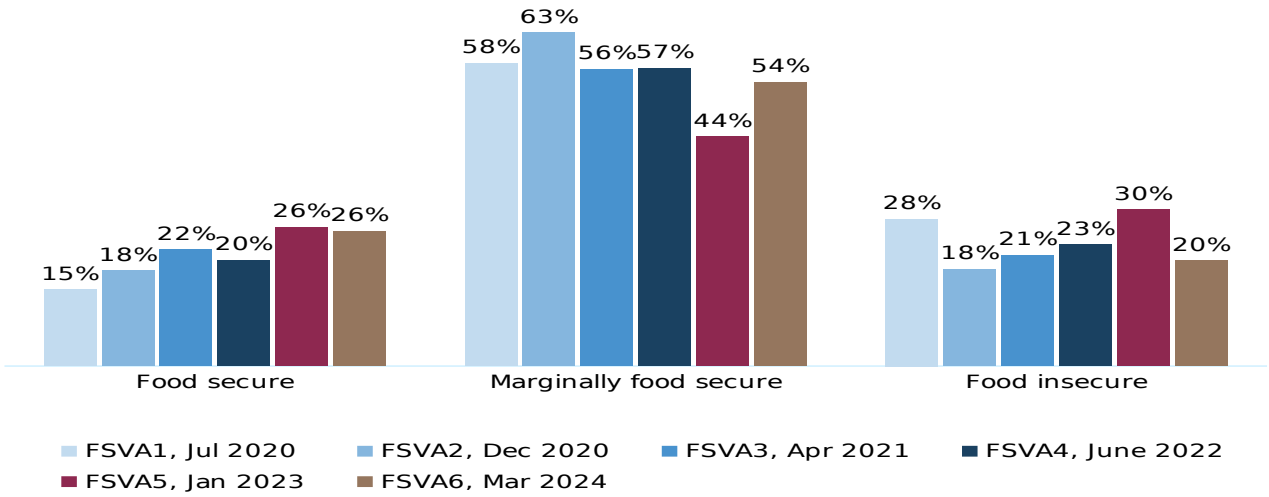
Food Secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Able to meet food needs without engaging in reduced and livelihood coping strategies for food security	*Has minimally inadequate food consumption, relies on reduced coping and applies stress coping strategies to secure food needs*	*Has food consumption gaps and unable to meet required food needs without applying crisis coping strategies.*	*Has extreme food consumption gaps or has extreme loss of livelihood assets will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse.*

Recently WFP replaced one of components in the food security indicator (income) with ECMEN. This should be considered when comparing the FSVA6 findings with FSVA5 and previous FSVAs. The food security indicator was measured and calculated based on the above-described methodology.

As per the findings of FSVA6, 26% of households are food secure in Armenia. This food security level has remained unchanged since 2023 (FSVA5).

There has been a significant increase of households categorized as marginally food secure from 44 percent in February 2023 to 54 percent in March 2024. Marginally food secure households are the ones who are at risk of falling into food insecurity, as they have borderline food consumption score, adopt coping, and have volatile economic conditions. The number of households at risk of falling below the food security threshold in case of any individual or systematic shock has therefore increased. Yet, the number of food insecure households have decreased by 10 percentage points from 30 percent in FSVA5 to 20 percent in FSVA6 equal to about 140,000 households or about 550,000 people being food insecure.

Figure 11. *How the Food security levels have changed over time 6 assessments, %*



Seasonality has a significant influence on food security levels in Armenia. The previous assessment was conducted in winter and showed the trade-off between influence of winterization expenditures and food expenditures. The FSVA6 was conducted in early spring when the winterization costs were decreasing.

Disaggregation of food security levels per refugees and local population, indicated a significant difference of food security levels.

Comparatively the local population households were more food secure (28%) vs refugees (18%), and the proportion of marginally secure households is higher among refugee population (65%) compared to local population (54%).

Yet, among refugee HHs 16 percent were categorized as food insecure vs 22 percent among locals. The difference of food security levels is statistically significant *(t-test, p value = 0.000).*

Figure 12. *Food security levels among refugee and local population, %*

The improved food security levels of refugees are linked with humanitarian assistance transfers (cash and in-kind) provided by the Government, international and local organizations, individuals, and initiative groups. From 30 days prior to the survey and till the date of interview, more than half of refugees (55%) had received cash assistance, 21 percent was provided with in-kind food assistance, 8 percent received other type of assistance. Only 16 percent reported not having received any assistance.

Figure 13. *Food insecurity levels among refugees with and without the state cash assistance, %*

From November 2023, the Government of Amenia started providing AMD 40,000 per person per month for rent payments and AMD 10,000 per person per month for utility payments. The Government assistance will be provided till December 2024. It is expected that when the cash assistance of AMD 50,000 per person per month is excluded, the food security levels will significantly increase from 16 percent to 42 percent.

Figure 14: *Comprehensive food security by settlement type, FSVA6, %*

The analysis per location categories showed higher levels of food insecurity in rural (24%) and other urban (19%) areas compared to Yerevan (9%). Several factors contribute to these disparities. In rural areas, usually, the main livelihood source is agriculture. Harvesting season extends from late spring to autumn, leading to seasonal food insecurity outside these months.

Interestingly, the proportion of HHs categorized as food secure was the same among rural and urban areas, and it was the highest in the capital city. The FSVA5 showed similar food security levels patterns related to location.

The highest levels of food insecurity were seen in northern regions compared to southern and central ones. 28 percent of households in Lori were categorized as food insecure, 27 percent in Shirak and 25 percent in Tavush. The lowest proportion of food insecure HHs were in Yerevan (8%), Syunik (15%) and Armavir (17%).

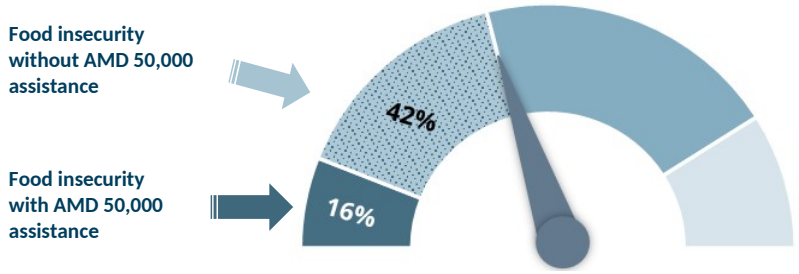
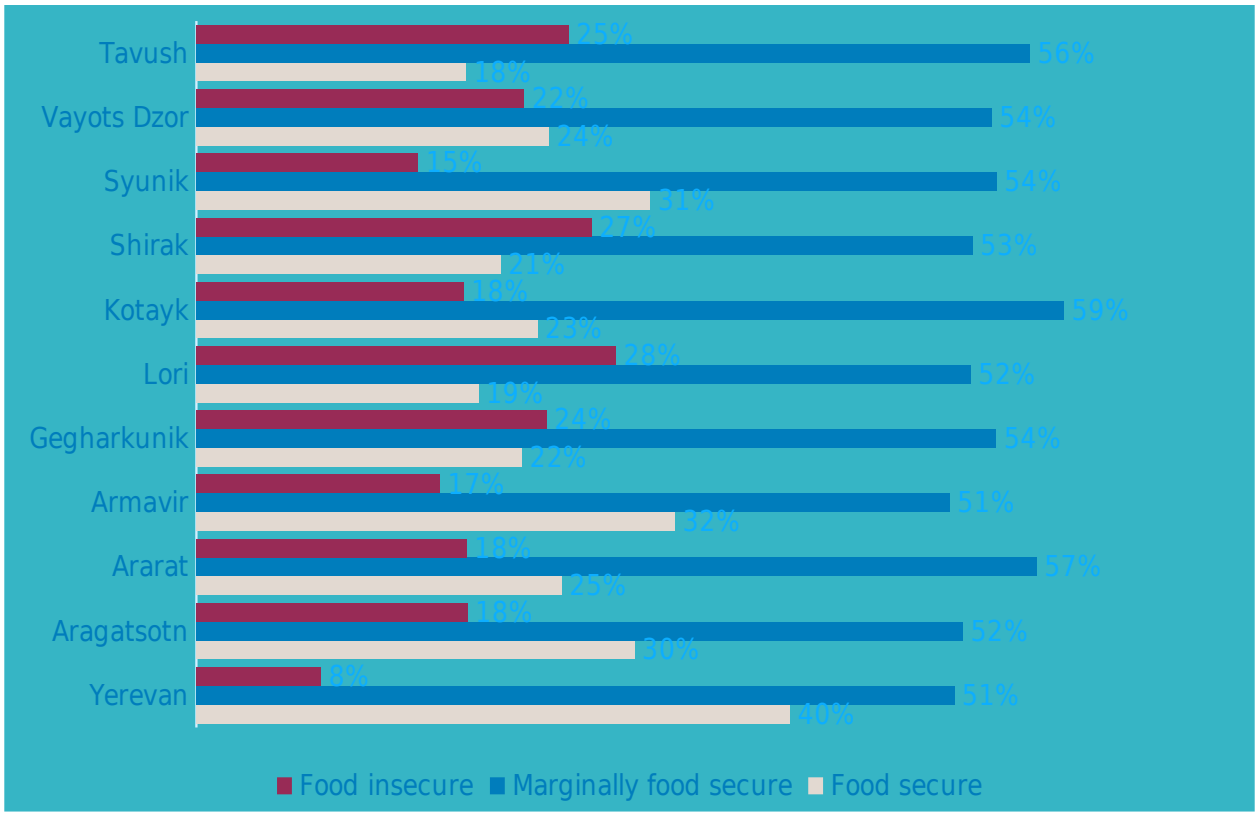


Figure 15. *Comprehensive food security levels by regions, %*

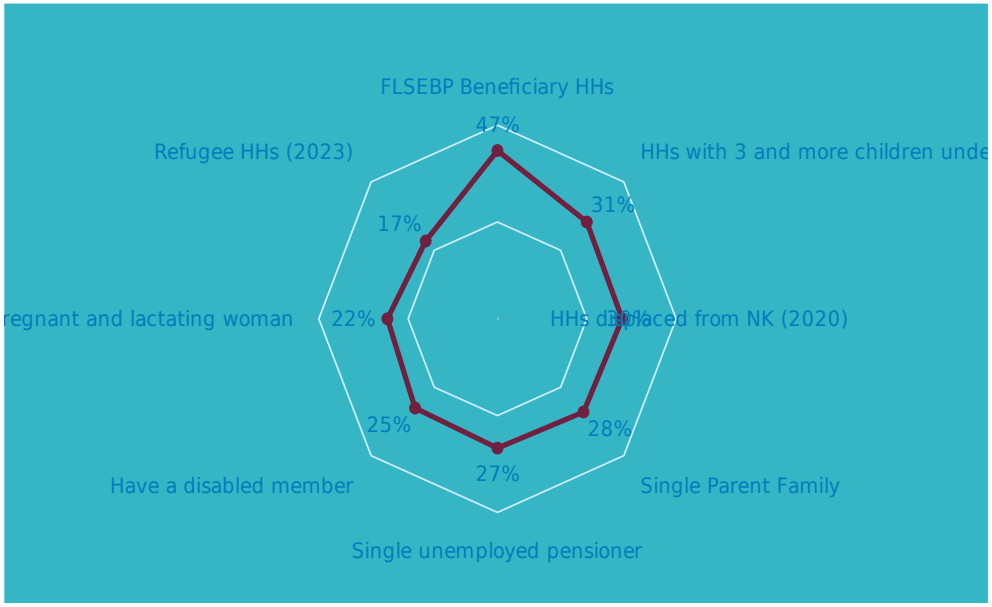


The highest rate of marginal food insecure groups are living in Kotayk (59%) and Ararat (57%) regions, where also the largest numbers of refugees have settled.

The comparison of food security levels across all FSVAs displays a set of factors that could have affected the food security figures in the regions. As mentioned above, during the past years Armenia has faced both internal and external shocks, which had direct or indirect impact on food availability and accessibility in the bordering regions of the country.

Food insecurity levels have fluctuated significantly in the three regions Syunik, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor, which became borderline after the 2020 war and were subjected to hostilities along the Armenian borders in 2022. The top three food insecure household profiles are those benefiting from the State Family Benefit System (FLSEBP) (47%), HHs with 3 and more children under 18 (31%) and HHs displaced from NK in 2020 (30%).

Figure 16. *Food Insecurity per household profiles, %*



When analyzing HH profiles having two and more vulnerability criteria, the food insecurity levels are even higher. For example, 31 percent of HHs with 3 and more children under 18 and having a disabled member are food insecure. FLSEBP HHs having 3 and more children reported 54 percent of food insecurity. Disaggregation of the most food insecure HH profiles among both locals and refugees didn't show any significant differences.

Figure 17. *Food Insecurity per household profiles among refugees and locals, %*

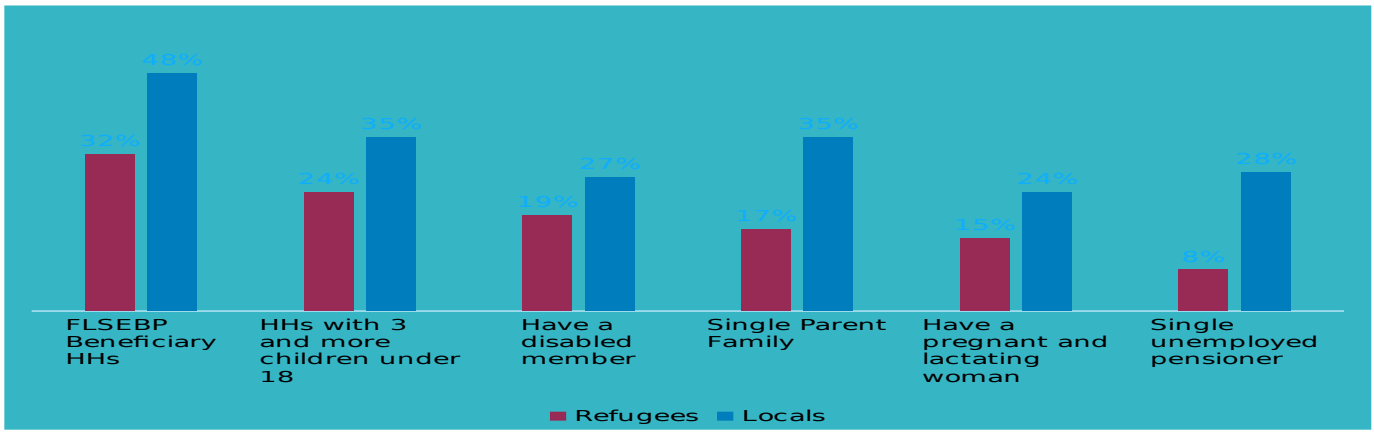


Table 1: Food Security levels per household profiles, %

	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Food insecure
Sex of the household head			
Male	27.9%	54.7%	17.4%
Female	23.5%	53.3%	23.2%
Age of the household head			
18-59 years old	27.1%	53.6%	19.3%
60 years old and above	24.4%	54.4%	21.1%
Marital status			
Single	39.2%	40.0%	20.8%
Married	26.3%	54.4%	19.2%
Divorced	25.1%	55.5%	19.4%
Widow	20.8%	54.1%	25.1%
Educational level			
Primary (5-9 grades)	12.9%	50.9%	36.2%
Secondary (10-12 grades)	21.6%	54.7%	23.8%
Secondary vocational (technical school, college)	27.5%	57.2%	15.3%
Higher (Bachelor)	40.5%	48.8%	10.7%
Number of children			
No children	21.6%	54.4%	24.0%
Having children	31.3%	53.4%	15.3%

Single parent HHs			
Yes	17.5%	54.4%	28.1%
No	26.2%	53.9%	19.9%
HHs consisting of only single pensioner			
Yes	20.1%	53.0%	26.8%
No	25.9%	54.0%	20.1%
Disabled person in the household			
Yes	18.7%	56.1%	25.2%
No	29.2%	52.8%	18.0%
Property ownership			
Owned	29.1%	50.4%	20.6%
Rented	19.8%	62.9%	17.3%
Hosted	14.1%	55.1%	30.8%

4.3. Household Food Consumption

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is WFP's proxy for a household's access to food. The score ranges over three levels: poor consumption, borderline consumption, and acceptable consumption[4]. As reported above, FCS is a composite score based on the dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of eight food groups that are consumed by households during the seven days prior to the interview. It includes various food groups to which relevant weights are assigned during the analysis considering the nutritional and energy levels.

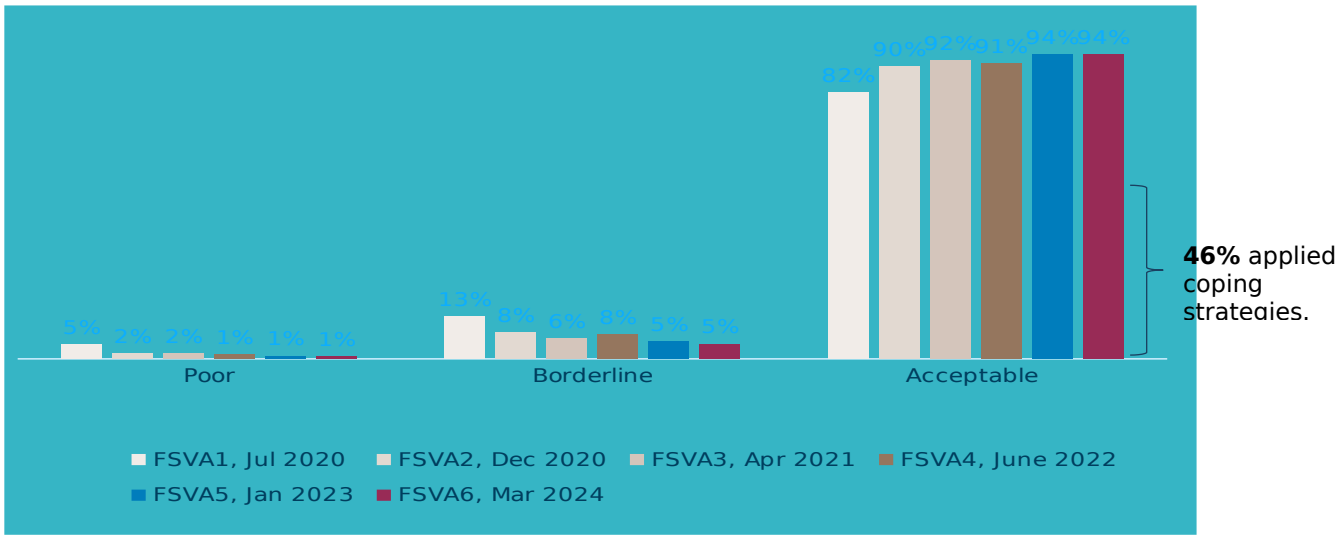
This part of the report relates to the comprehensive analysis of food consumption by various social-demographic groups and changes over time by comparing the current survey's results (FSVA6) with the previous assessments.

The analysis of FCS in this assessment showed that 94 percent of the households had acceptable food consumption levels, while 5 percent are considered "borderline" and only 1 percent was categorized within the "poor" food consumption group.

Although the "acceptable" category demonstrated an upward trend across all six assessments, further analysis revealed that only 48.6 percent reported an acceptable score without adopting food-based coping mechanisms. In previous FSVAs a similar trend was observed. Additionally, 46 percent of the 94 respondents adopted coping mechanisms to have acceptable food consumption, which means that HHs had to employ coping to have enough food during 7 days prior to the survey. Food-based reduced coping mechanisms will be discussed in detail in the subsequent sections of the report.

Figure 18. *Food consumption score per 6 assessments, %*

[4] For more information on index visit FCS - Food Consumption Score Guidelines

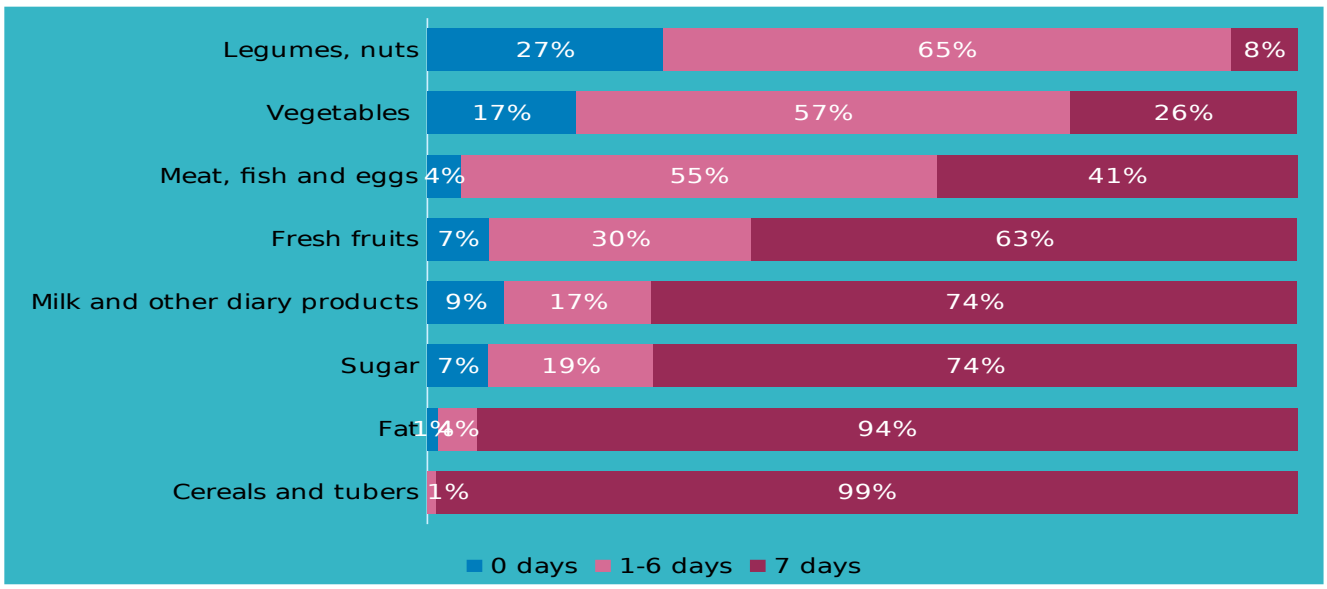


When examining the frequency of food group consumption, it was found that cereals/tubers and fats were consumed daily by 99 percent and 94.3 percent of households, respectively. Approximately 75 percent of households consumed sugar daily during the week preceding the interview, while only 7 percent did not consume sugar at all.

As to milk and dairy products consumption, 74.2 percent mentioned eating all 7 days a week, and about 9 percent didn't consume it at all during a week.

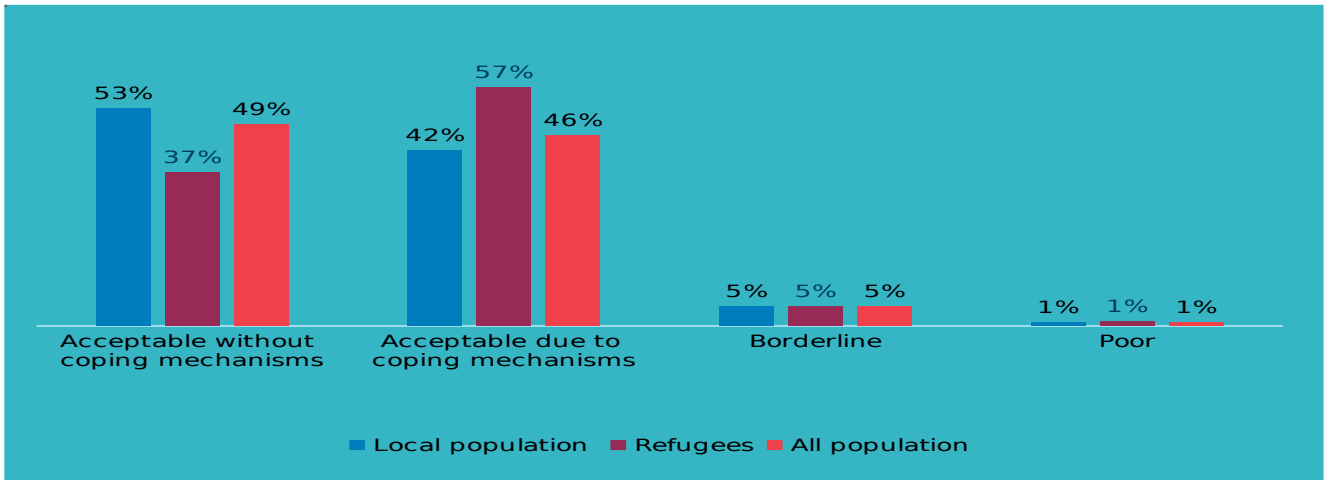
Meat, fish, and eggs were consumed daily by 41.4 percent of the households, while about 35 percent consumed these foods 2-4 days per week. Vegetables were eaten 1-4 days per week by 42.3 percent of households, 17 percent did not consume vegetables at all during the week, and 26 percent ate vegetables every day. Regarding fruit consumption, 63 percent reported eating fruit daily, whereas 7 percent did not consume fruit at all.

Figure 19. *Consumption of food commodity groups during a week, %*



The data indicates that a higher percentage of local households have adequate food consumption without needing to resort to coping strategies compared to refugee households. Only 37 percent of refugee HHs had acceptable consumption score without coping mechanisms compared to 53 percent among local HHs. Accordingly, 57 percent of refugees having acceptable score adopted coping mechanisms and among local HHs the proportion was 42 percent.

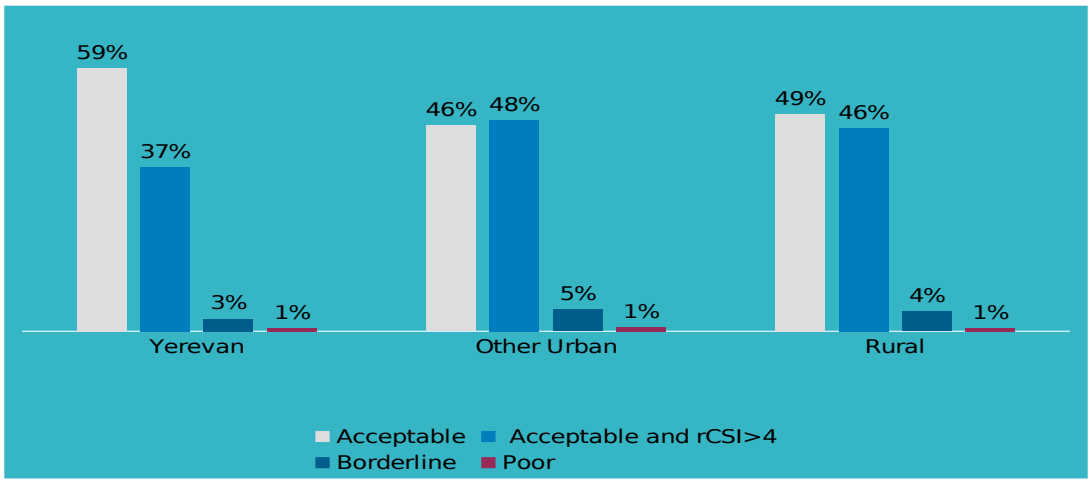
Figure 20. *Food consumption score among refugees and locals, %*



In FSVA6 the comparison of FCS for rural and urban areas showed almost the same share of households having acceptable FCS. Further analysis showed that 46 percent of households having acceptable FCS adopted coping mechanisms in other urban and rural areas, while the percentage was comparatively lower in Yerevan (37%).

The percentage of borderline and poor FCS is not significantly different in Yerevan (4%), other urban and rural areas (6% and 5% respectively).

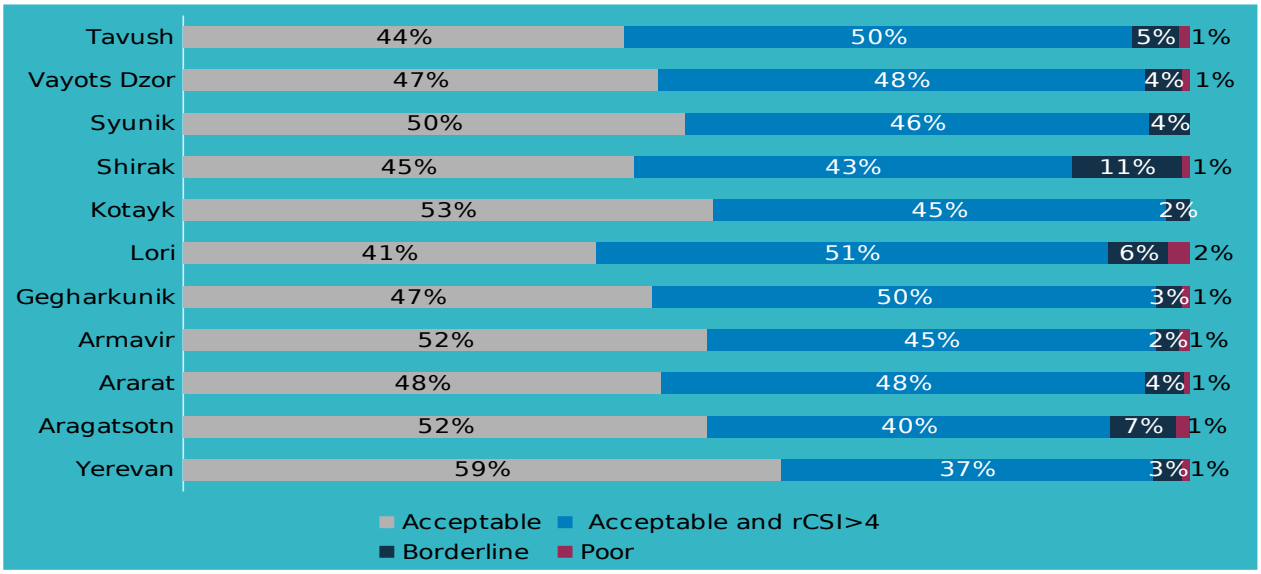
Figure 21. *Food Consumption Score dynamics by settlement type, FSVA6, %*



The highest proportion of HHs with acceptable food consumption score is seen in Kotayk, Armavir, Aragatsotn and Yerevan lowest acceptable food consumption score is found in Lori (41%), Tavush (44%), and Shirak (45%).

Households having acceptable scores due to adoption of coping mechanisms are reported in northern regions: Lori (51%), Gegharkunik (50%) and Tavush (50%).

Figure 22. *Food Consumption Score dynamics by regions, FSVA6, %*



4.4. Household Food Consumption – Nutrition

Sufficient energy and nutrient intake by individuals are the results of good care and feeding practices, food preparation, diet diversity and intra-household distribution of food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals[5]. Unhealthy dietary habits and lifestyles are a norm in Armenia, and severe regional disparities are seen in the prevalence of extreme poverty, undernourishment, food insecurity and malnutrition[6]. The situation has exacerbated due to recent shocks.

The Food Consumption Score Nutritional Quality Analysis (FCS-N) is a tool derived from the Food Consumption Score indicator, that looks at three main nutrients (**Vitamin A**, **Protein** and **Heme Iron**) of the food items consumed. The gathered data from this FCS-N module is essential for understanding nutritional health and well-being of households. The FCS is calculated by inspecting how often households consume food items from the different food groups during a 7-day reference period. In addition to this, the FCS-N module collects data on sources of the consumed foods acquired by households.

The following food sub-groups are considered while calculating the consumption of Protein, Vitamin A, and Heme – Iron.[7]

- **Vitamin A-rich foods**: Dairy, Organ meat, Eggs, Orange veg, Green veg, and orange fruits.
- **Protein-rich foods**: Pulses, Dairy, Flesh meat, Organ meat, Fish and Eggs.
- **Heme iron-rich foods**: Flesh meat, Organ meat, Poultry and Fish.

The findings showed that 85 percent of households consumed Vitamin A-rich products 7 days in a week. Only 1 percent mentioned not consuming the commodities in this sub-group and 14 percent are consuming Vitamin A-rich food 1-6 days a week. Compared to FSVA5, the daily consumption of Vitamin A-rich food increased by 4 percentage points.

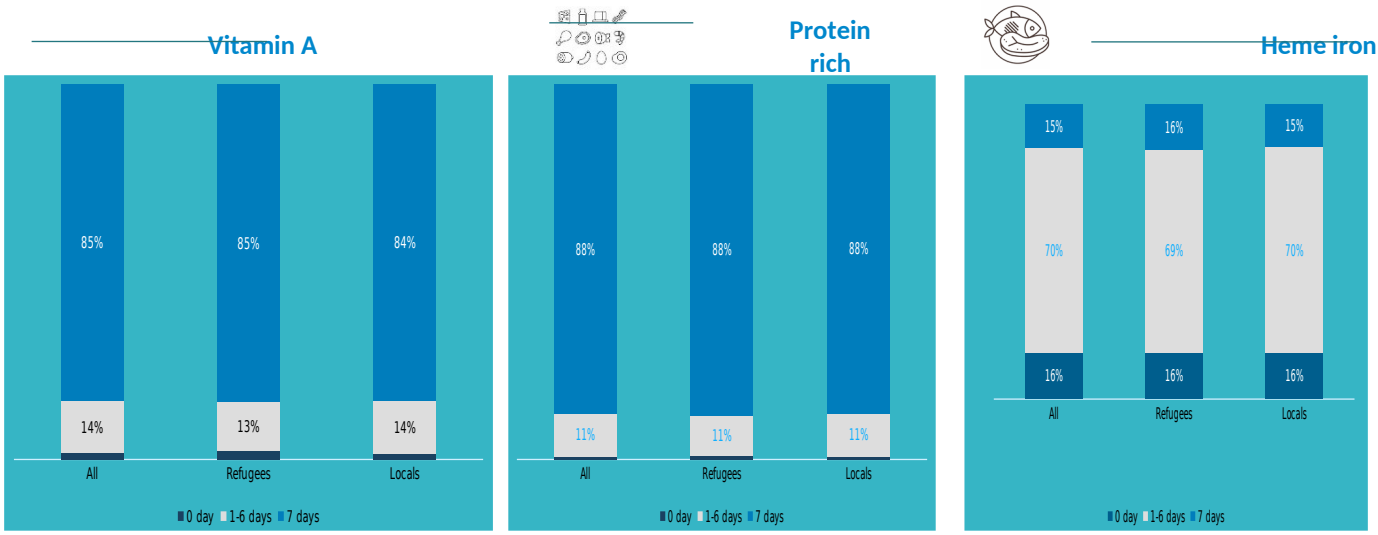
A high share of households reported consuming (88 percent) protein-rich food during the 7 days, 11 percent consumed between 1-6 days and 1 percent didn't consume protein-rich foods at all. This high consumption of Vitamin A-rich and Protein-rich

[5] What is Food Security? There are Four Dimensions (worldbank.org)
[6] WFP. 2018. Armenia Cost of the Diet (https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000062242/download/).
[7] For more information on FCS-N calculation visit

products may be explained by the consumption of eggs, which is a commonly used food in Armenia.

As to heme iron-rich food, 16 percent consumed it within the last 7 days, 70 percent within 1-6 days and 15 percent didn't consume at all. The lower consumption of heme iron-rich foods points to a possible gap in iron intake, which could lead to iron deficiency and related health issues.

Figure 23. *Food Consumption Score – Nutrition*



There was no significant difference in the consumption frequency between locals and refugees. However, disaggregation between urban and rural areas showed a higher proportion of households consuming Vitamin A-rich foods at least 7 days a week in Yerevan (89%) compared to rural (86%) and other urban (83%) areas. A similar pattern was observed for protein-rich food consumption, with 92% in Yerevan, 88% in rural, and 87% in other urban areas.

In terms of heme iron-rich food, a higher proportion of households in Yerevan (76%) consumed these foods for 1-6 days compared to rural and other urban areas (69%). Interestingly, in rural areas, a higher proportion of households reported eating heme iron-rich foods every day (16%) compared to Yerevan (14%) and other urban areas (13%).

Regional analysis indicated high consumption of Vitamin A-rich foods in Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Yerevan, and Armavir. In Aragatsotn, Lori, and Tavush, about 3% of HHs did not consume these foods during the week. Over 90% of HHs in Yerevan, Armavir, Kotayk, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor consumed protein-rich foods daily. The lowest consumption was observed in Lori and Shirak regions.

In Gegharkunik, 26% of HHs consumed heme iron-rich foods every day. The proportion of HHs not consuming iron rich foods during the week was higher in Shirak (25%), Vayots Dzor (20%), and Lori (20%) compared to other regions.

Table 2: Vitamin A-rich, protein-rich, and heme-iron-rich foods consumption per household profile, %

HH profile	Vitamin A rich food			Protein-rich food			Heme-iron rich food		
	0 days	1-6 days	7 days	0 days	1-6 days	7 days	0 days	1-6 days	7 days
Single parent HH	3.0%	17.9%	79.1%	1.1%	16.3%	82.5%	23.3%	63%	13.7 %
HHs having a pregnant or	1.1%	11.4%	87.6%	0.4%	7.6%	91.9%	11.6%	68.8%	19.7

lactating woman									%
HHs having children	1.5%	12.5%	86%	0.9%	9.7%	89.4%	13.6%	71.0%	15.4 %
HH with 3 and more children	2.3%	11.7%	86.0%	1.3%	9.5%	89.3%	14.3%	69.5%	16.2 %
HH without children	2.0%	15.6%	82.4%	0.8%	13.3%	85.8%	18.6%	67.6%	13.8 %
FLSEBP HH	3.7%	23.1%	73.3%	1.9%	20.7%	77.3%	24.3%	66.0%	9.7%
Female-headed HH	2.2%	15.5%	82.3%	0.9%	11.2%	87.9%	17.1%	69.3%	13.7 %
HHs with a disabled member	2.3%	16.5%	81.2%	0.9%	13.9%	85.1%	18.6%	68.3%	13.1 %
Single unemployed pensioner	3.0%	31.1%	65.9%	0.6%	30.5%	68.9%	34.8%	60.4%	4.9%

The table highlights variations in nutrient consumption across different household profiles. Households with pregnant and lactating women exhibit the highest intake of Vitamin A-rich, protein-rich, and heme-iron-rich foods. In contrast, the lowest nutrient consumption is observed among single unemployed elderly individuals, households with three or more children, HHs with a disabled member, and those receiving social support programs (FLSEBP households).

4.5. Coping Mechanisms

Due to socio-economic hardships, many households adopt various coping mechanisms to improve their living conditions and overcome the challenges posed by different shocks. This includes for example borrowing money to purchase foods.

4.5.1. Reduced coping mechanisms

The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is an indicator used to compare the hardship faced by households due to a shortage of food. The index measures the frequency and severity of the food consumption behaviours the households had to engage in due to food shortage in the 7 days prior to the survey.

Compared to FSVA5, which was done during winter, the proportion of HHs adopting food-based coping strategies increased from 47 to 51 percent accordingly. FSVA6 data showed that 36 percent employed low coping strategies, and 14 percent resorted to high coping strategies.

Figure 24. *Reduced coping strategies in FSVA6, %*

Compared to locals, refugees resorted less to coping mechanisms with 38 percent not required to use coping mechanisms, likely due to the humanitarian assistance, including food, provided to them. However, 43 percent of refugees and 34 percent of locals adopted low coping strategies.

13 percent of locals resorted to high coping mechanisms compared to 19 percent of refugees. High coping is reported by 8 percent of HHs in Yerevan, 14 percent in other urban and 16 percent in rural areas.

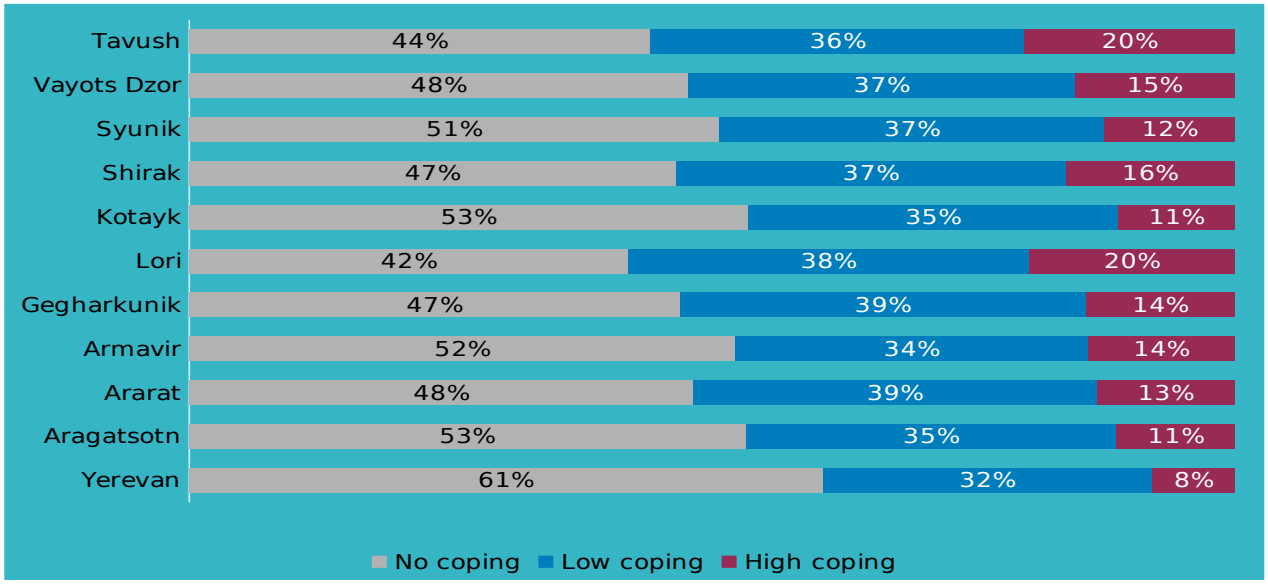
When segregating between urban and rural settlements, it was found that 61 percent of households in Yerevan didn't need to use coping mechanisms, compared to 49 percent in other urban areas and 47 percent in rural areas.

32 percent of HH applied low coping mechanisms in Yerevan, while 37 percent of the households applied low coping in other urban and rural areas.

The highest proportion of HHs employing food-based coping mechanisms were in Lori (58%), Tavush (56%), Gegharkunik (53%) and Shirak (53%).

The lowest were in Yerevan (39%), Kotayk (47%) and Aragatsotn (47%).

Figure 25. *Reduced coping strategies by regions in FSVA6, %*



The HH profiles heavily adopting food-based coping are households receiving the social family transfer (FLSEBP) (68%), single parent HHs (59%), HHs with 3 and more children (59%) and HHs with a disabled member (57%).

4.5.2. Livelihood coping mechanisms

This assessment along with the FCS, measured Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI). To overcome socio-economic deprivations or severe hardships provoked by lack of resources to buy food, households often adopt various coping mechanisms to be able to tackle those predicaments. A livelihood-based coping strategy index is used to better understand the longer-term coping capacity of households in response to shocks. Each coping strategy is in a group of a certain severity[8], which is country or context specific. Each level of severity is described by three-four different strategies that households apply, based on their needs (overall, ten strategies).

- **Stress strategies** indicate a reduced ability to deal with future shocks as a result of a current reduction in resources or an increase in debts.

[8] The levels of severity are defined as none, stress, crisis or emergency.

- **Crisis strategies** are often associated with the direct reduction of future productivity as it relates to the reduction of expenses on health or education or selling of assets such as means of transportation.
- **Emergency strategies** affect future productivity as well but are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature than crisis strategies as they are associated with selling house or land, the last female animals, engaging children who are under 15 years old in work/ employment, and similar severe actions[9].

The Livelihood Coping Strategy Index is calculated based on WFP methodology and is a result of a higher weighting given to some coping strategies compared to others. Coping strategies are ranked in the following order (descending in severity): emergency, crisis, stress coping strategies.

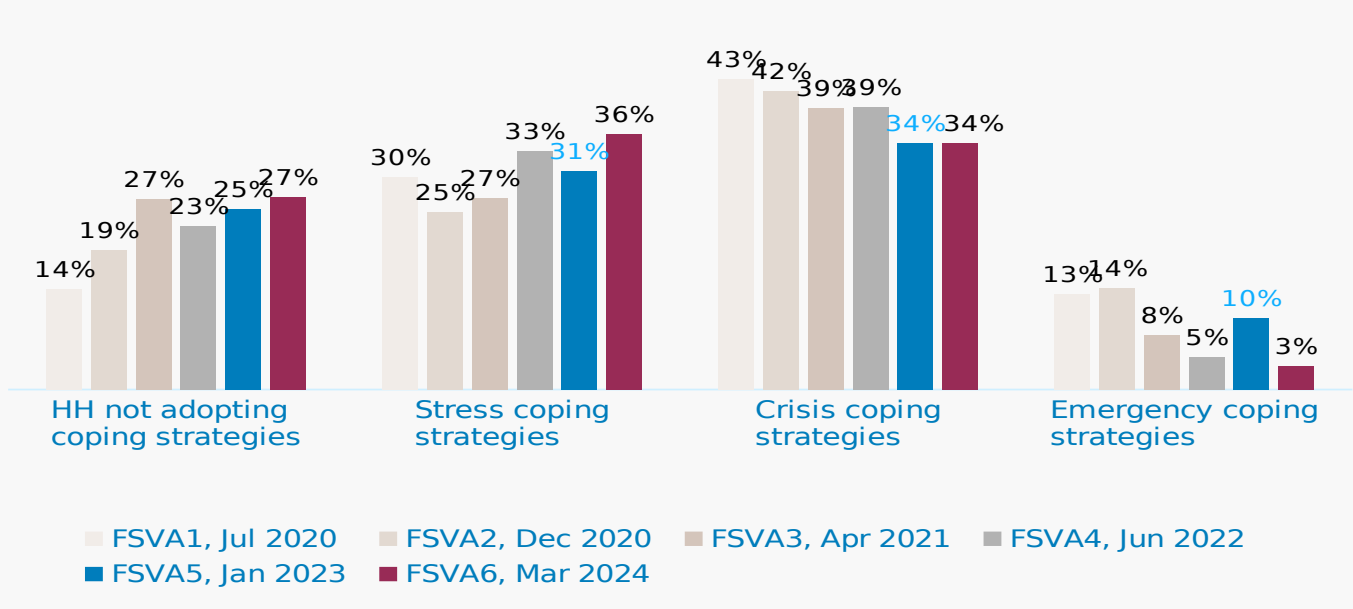
The adoption of crisis coping strategies keeps being high (34 percent) throughout all assessments, showing that almost one third of households reduced non-food expenses within a month such as the education and health expenses to access food. Compared to previous assessments the proportion of households adopting crisis coping has not changed.

Stress coping mechanisms were adopted by 36 percent of households showing a significant 5 percentage points increase compared to FSVA5 (31 percent), entailing that more households had to spend their savings, borrow money or purchase food on credit.

Emergency coping strategies' adoption significantly decreased compared to FSVA5 by 7 percentage points, which means that a smaller share of households (3 percent) had to apply the severest strategies like selling the house, land, last female animal and making children under 15 years old.

These findings suggest that while some progress may have been made in reducing the need for the most extreme coping measures, many households still face considerable financial hardship and are relying on various strategies to manage their economic difficulties.

Figure 26. *Adoption of Livelihood Coping Strategies, %*

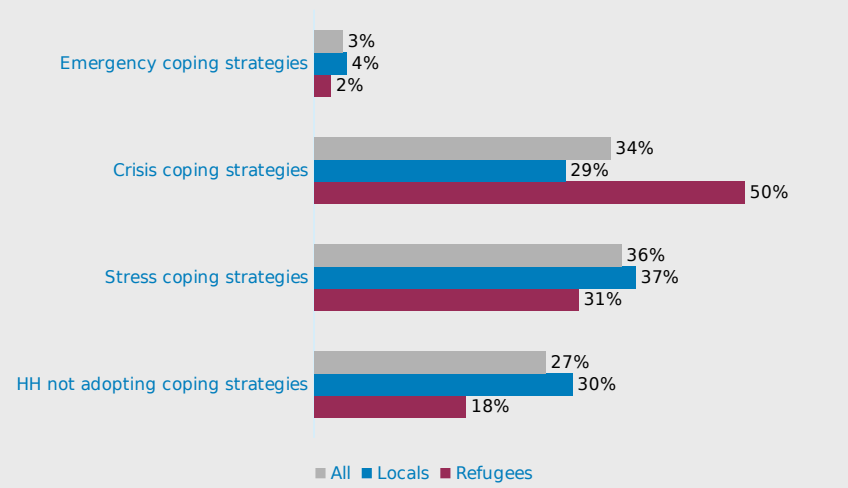


[9] Stress coping: Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewellery, etc.), spent savings, borrowed money, purchased food on credit or borrowed money.
Crisis coping: Reduced non-food expenses on health (including medicine) and education, s old productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc..), were dependent on food rations and/or support from neighbours and relatives as only food/income source.
Emergency: sold a house or land, sold last female animals, children (under 15 years old) were working to contribute to household income (e.g., casual labour)

The analysis shows that a lower proportion of refugee HHs (18%) didn't adopt any livelihood coping strategy compared to local HHs (30%), likely due to the humanitarian assistance provided to refugees by the Government, international and local organizations.

Stress coping strategies were employed by 31 percent of refugees and 37 percent of locals. A significantly higher proportion of refugees (50%) adopted crisis coping strategies compared to locals (29%). And emergency coping is employed by 4 percent of locals only 2 percent by refugees.

Figure 27. *Livelihood Coping Strategy Index per refugees and locals, %*



Decomposing stress coping strategies, the highest share of HHs reported spending savings (47%) with 57 percent of refugees and 44 percent of locals. After the influx to Armenia, refugees had to spend their savings in addition to the received assistance, 37 percent of local population bought food on credit, compared to only 19 percent of refugees. It is assumed that local shops to a less extend are providing credits to refugees, because they are newcomers in the communities and may not stay. Beyond the limited social integration of refugees in the communities, it is also assumed that refugees don't have a habit of purchasing food on credit.

The unpacking of crisis coping strategies showed that 25 percent of local HHs and 33 percent refugee households reduced expenses on health and education to have enough food. About 30 percent of refugees reported being dependent on assistance.

Table 3: *Livelihood Coping Strategies per categories, %*

Classification	Strategy applied	FSVA5 (yes, %)	FSVA6 (yes, %)
Stress	Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, jewelry)	4%	2%
	Spent savings	48%	47%
	Borrowed money	23%	16%
	Purchased food on credit or borrowed money	30%	32%
Crisis	Reduced non-food expenses on health and education	29%	27%
	Were dependent on food support	9%	12%
	Sold productive assets	2%	1%
Emergency	Children under 15 were working	1%	1%

	Sold house or land	1%	0%
	Sold last female animals	5%	1%

In Yerevan, a higher proportion of HHs didn't adopt coping strategies (40%), compared to other urban (27%) and rural (24%) settlements. Stress coping mechanisms were employed by 37 percent of HHs in rural areas, 36 percent in other urban areas and 24 percent in Yerevan. The proportion of households adopting crisis coping strategies was the same in Yerevan and rural areas (36%), and slightly lower in other urban areas (33%). The adoption of emergency coping strategies was significantly higher in rural areas (6%) compared to Yerevan and other urban (1%) areas.

The regional analysis showed that the highest proportion of HHs employing stress coping mechanisms was in Vayots Dzor (42%), Syunik (41%), Kotayk (38%) and Ararat (38%).

Crisis coping mechanisms were heavily adopted in Tavush (38%), Armavir (37%), Yerevan (36%), Kotayk (36%) and Gegharkunik (35%).

People in Tavush (6%) Vayots Dzor, Lori, Gegharkunik and Ararat (4%) adopted emergency coping mechanisms to a higher degree than in the rest of the country.
There is a significant correlation between the adoption of coping strategies and HH profiles, in particular HHs with a disabled member, HHs having 3 and more children, FLSEBP HHs and single parent HHs (t-test, p value > 0,05). The sex and age of HH head had no influence regarding the adoption of livelihood coping strategies.

Table 3: *Livelihood coping strategies by household profiles, %*

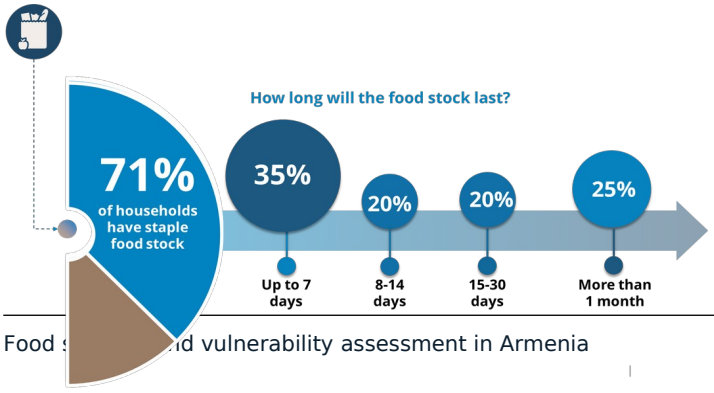
HH profiles	No coping	Stress coping	Crisis coping	Emergency
Single parent HH	20.6%	30.9%	44.7%	3.8%
HHs having a pregnant or lactating woman	23.8%	37.3%	34.7%	4.1%
HHs having children	23.5%	37.3%	34.8%	4.4%
HH without children	31.5%	33.2%	33.6%	1.8%
HH with 3 and more children	19.9%	36.0%	38.3%	5.8%
FLSEBP HH	14.9%	35.1%	42.2%	7.8%
Female-headed HH	25.4%	35.9%	35.7%	3.7%
HHs with a disabled member	21.0%	34.4%	40.3%	4.3%
Single unemployed pensioner	26.8%	26.8%	44.5%	1.8%

4.6.2. Availability of Staple Food Stock and Market accessibility

4.6.1. Availability of Staple Food Stock

A part of the assessment is to understand the availability of food stocks in households and the duration for which these stocks would last. The food stocks considered included staple foods such as wheat flour, grains, and legumes, which can be stored for an extended period.

Figure 28: *Having a staple food stock, %*



Approximately 70 percent of households reported having a stock of staple food. Among these, 35 percent estimated their stocks would last up to 7 days, 20 percent believed stocks would last 8-14 days, another 20

percent estimated 15-30 days, and 25 percent thought their stocks would last more than 1 month.

A significantly higher proportion of refugee households reported having staple food stocks (77%) compared to locals (69%). 31 percent of refugees and 37 percent of locals indicated that these would last for up to 7 days.

The availability of food stocks was not different between urban and rural areas. From a regional perspective, a lower share of HHs having food stocks were seen in Kotayk (57%), Ararat (67%), Shirak (68%) and Tavush (69%).

Figure 29: *Availability of food stocks and food security levels, %*

The crosstabulation of food stock availability and food security levels showed that 21 percent of the food insecure population didn't have stocks, and 16 percent had food stock. Among marginally food security HHs almost the same proportion had (54%) and didn't have (50%) food stocks.

The similar proportions of food-secure households with and without food stock suggest that food security is influenced by a range of factors beyond just having food reserves, such as consistent income, access to food markets, and other socio-economic conditions.

These findings indicate the need for comprehensive strategies that address both immediate food needs and the underlying factors contributing to food security, ensuring that households can maintain stable and sufficient access to food over time, such as the graduation from social and humanitarian assistance.

4.6.2. Market accessibility

Market accessibility plays a critical role in ensuring food security, influencing the availability, affordability, and quality of food. The respondents were asked if they experienced difficulties in accessing markets during 7 days prior to the interviews.

Figure 30. *Households facing or not facing barriers to access the market, %*

About 40 percent of interviewed HHs mentioned experiencing difficulties accessing markets. 75% stated lack of financial means as the main barrier to market access.

Approximately half of single unemployed pensioners (54%), FLSEBP HHs (52%) and single parent HHs (49%) faced barriers to access food.

Disaggregated data revealed that 45 percent of the refugees and 37 percent of locals experienced barriers to access the market, due to lack of financial resources.

Figure 31. *Access to the market per food security groups, %*

The highest proportion of households experiencing market access barriers are living in the northern regions, namely Lori (45%), Gegharkunik (42%), Shirak (41%) and Tavush (40%). 68% of the food insecure households reported facing difficulties accessing markets, compared to 40 percent of marginally food secure and 13 percent of food secure households. Food insecure households may struggle with transportation issues, financial constraints, or living in remote areas, making it difficult to purchase food regularly and at affordable prices.

Approximately half of the FLSEBP beneficiaries (52%), single unemployed pensioners (54%), single-parent households (49%), and households with a per capita income of less than AMD 24,000 (52%) experienced difficulties accessing markets during the week preceding the interview.

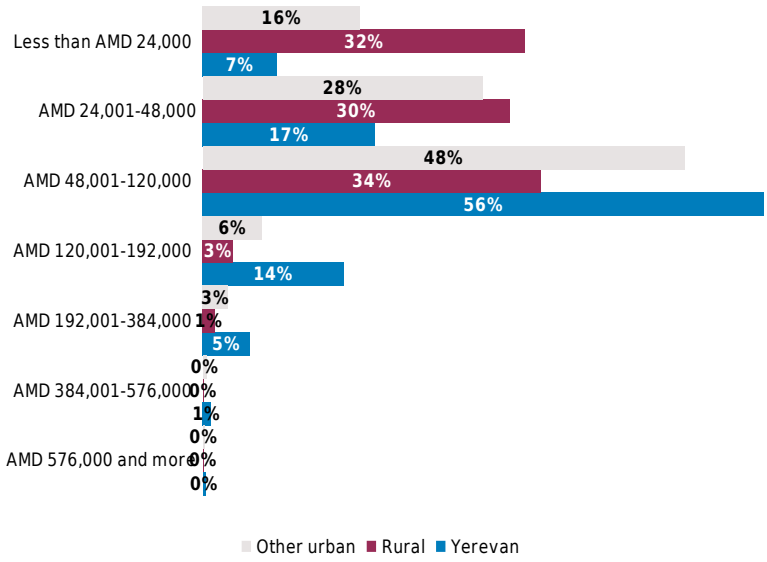
4.7. Economic vulnerability and indebtedness of households

4.7.1. Income changes and income per capita

In the context of food security, economic **vulnerability** refers to the resources available for households to access sufficient and nutritious food. This concept includes elements such as per capita income and expenditure, income sources and dynamics, expenditure patterns, food expenditure share in total expenditures and economic capacity of households to meet essential needs. All of them substantially affect food security levels of households and any changes of these indicators influence susceptibility to adverse economic conditions.

The analysis of monthly per capita income provides insights into the economic situation of the population in Armenia. It helps to understand income dynamics over a year, how different characteristics of households influence income generation capacity, the gaps between monthly per capita expenditures and incomes and the mechanisms households apply to bridge gaps.

Figure 32. *Monthly per capita income, %*

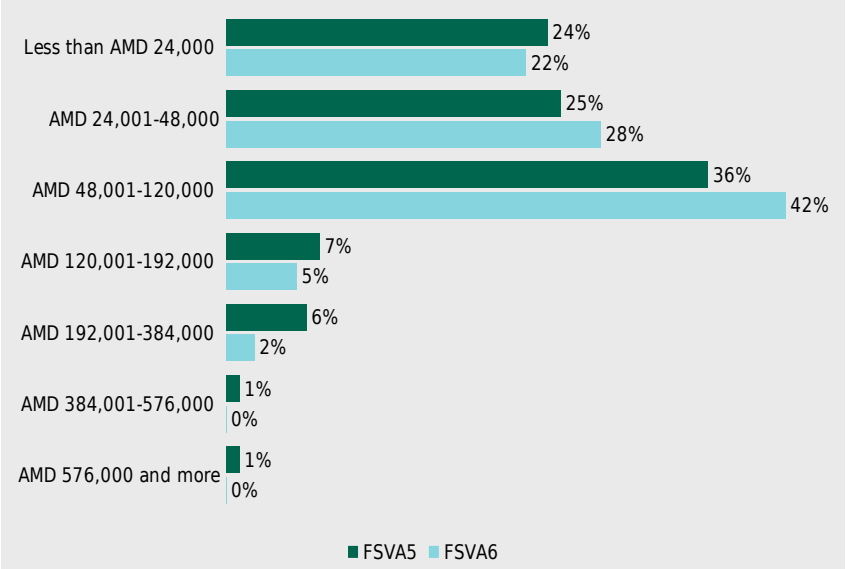


None of the respondent households had incomes above AMD 384,001 per capita per month. The distribution in the bracket of AMD 192,001 – 384,000 was low across all groups. A small percentage of the population across all groups fell into AMD 120,001-192,000 bracket with local population's slightly higher representation (6 percent). A significant portion of the population have incomes between AMD 48,001 –120,000, and 57 percent of refugee households are within this income group. Around one third of the population, especially **locals (30 percent)**, have incomes within **AMD 24,001 – 48,000** per person per month, which is below or close to the average poverty line in Armenia: AMD 52,883 per person per month. Whereas 21 percent of the refugees were within this category. 24 percent of the respondents were reporting incomes below AMD 24,000 which is lower than the extreme poverty line in Armenia: AMD 29,934. Compared to locals, refugees were slightly less represented in this range.

The highest proportion of the population reported their income within the range of AMD 48,001-120,000 in Yerevan, other urban, and rural areas (56 percent, 48 percent, and 34 percent, respectively). The distribution across lower income brackets highlights

conspicuous economic disparities in different geographic areas in Armenia. Notably, the representation of

Figure 33. *Income ranges in urban/rural areas, %*



households in the AMD 24,001 - 48,000 and less than AMD 24,000 categories was considerably high in rural areas (62 percent), while in other urban areas it was 44 percent, and 24 percent in Yerevan. This shows that the income levels among rural populations are lower than for households living in Yerevan and other urban areas. This is expected to be due to better access to employment opportunities in urban areas and the reliance on agriculture in rural areas which is seasonal.

Across the regions Gegharkunik (40 percent), Shirak (29 percent) and Tavush (29 percent) had the highest representation of households with less than AMD 24,000 income.

More households in Syunik and Yerevan have income levels above AMD 120,000 per person per month. For Syunik the higher income levels may be due to active mining industry in the region as well as increased investments in recent years.

Household profiles and income ranges

Lower income ranges: Around 47 percent of the households with less than AMD 24,000 per person per month, are **FLSEBP** beneficiaries. 41 percent of **households with 3 and more children** reported lower income ranges, sustaining their large families with limited resources.

29% percent of the lowest income group are single parent households and those with **pregnant or breastfeeding women.**

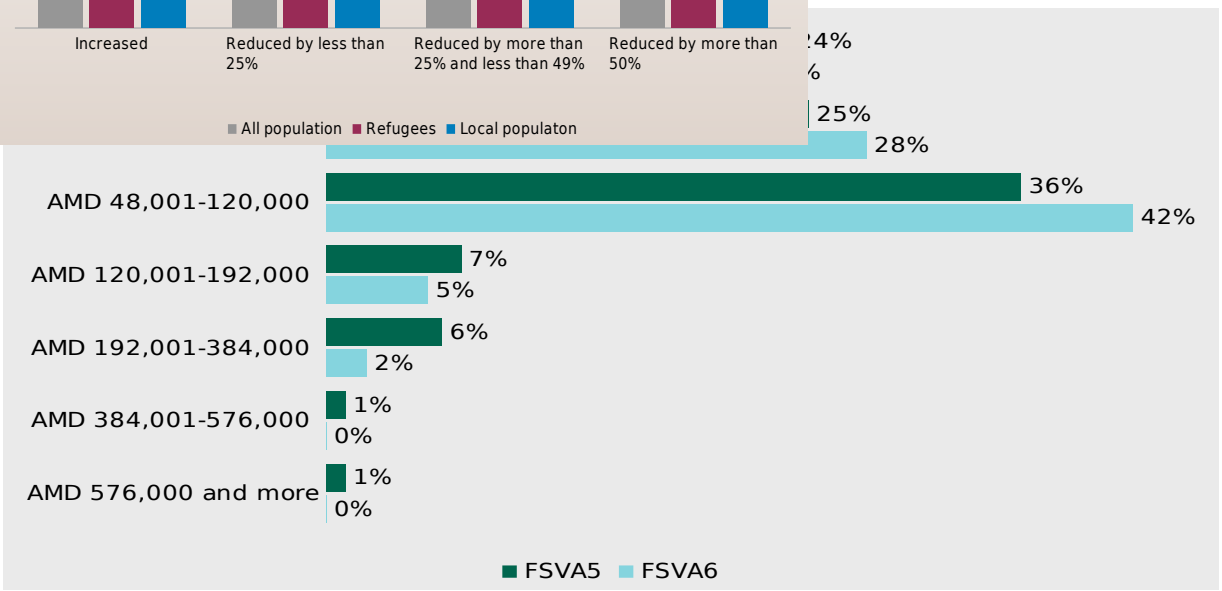
Households within the AMD 24,001-48,000 income bracket are mainly families displaced from Karabakh in 2020 and households with a disabled family member. 69 percent of single unemployed pensioners were within income range of AMD 48,001-120,000, suggesting that they may have access not only to pensions but also to other support mechanisms that place them in higher income brackets.

Higher income ranges: Within the AMD 120,001-192,000 income bracket, single unemployed pensioners had the highest proportion (5 percent). As the minimum state

p elying on other types of financial
s er family members.

M me (48 percent) are within the
A

/A5 and FSVA6, %



Informal jobs were more common in the lower income brackets, particularly less than AMD 24,000 (35 percent) suggesting a reliance on less stable and lower-paying work.

Owning a business was most common for families with incomes between AMD 48,001 - 120,000 (52 percent), suggesting that though small businesses could provide income they might not push households into higher income brackets. Similarly, street retail was a major source of income in the AMD 48,001 - 120,000 range.

Horticulture/cattle breeding was prevalent among the lowest income groups (47 percent) whereas those who rely on remittances from abroad as the main source of income had less than AMD 24,000 (49 percent) per person per month.

FLSEBP beneficiary households are in general belonging to the group with AMD 24,000 income range.

In conclusion, between FSVA5 (winter) and FSVA 6, there has been a shift downwards, with more households having decreased income levels. This may be due to reduced earning opportunities (see below), potentially exacerbated by external factors such as the massive influx into Armenia in September 2023.

Figure 35. *Income change over the past year, %*

Overall 46 percent of all interviewed HHs experienced an income change during the past year, but this is similar to the findings of FSVA5 where almost half of the population reported an income change.

Figure 36. *Income dynamics over the past year, %*

24 percent of those reporting income change experienced an increase in their earnings. 14 percent of the population

reported an income reduction of less than 25 percent. Another 14 percent had moderate income reductions between 25 – 49 percent.

Even though the proportion of households reporting income change during the last year was almost identical in FSVA5 (February 2023) and FSVA6 (March 2024), the dynamics of income changes during these 2 assessments was negative. During FSVA5, the proportion of households with severe income reduction of 50 percent and more was 32 percent which was 16 percentage points less than during FSVA6 (48 percent), out of which 77 percent were refugees and 27 percent were locals.

The implications of income changes on food security levels demonstrated that income significantly contribute to households' food security situation. The proportion of food secure households decreased from 41 percent to 18 percent through the groups with income increase to income reduction of more than 50 percent. As a result, the share of food insecure households was growing accordingly (from 12 percent for income increase to 44 percent for income reduction of more than 50 percent). However, the proportion of marginally food secure households was substantial for all income change groups highlighting a serious risk for most of the of households to fall into food insecurity.

Figure 37. *Food security levels across income changes, %*

The region with the highest increase of income was Syunik (32 percent) followed by Armavir, Ararat and Aragatsotn (29 percent equally). The regions with the highest share of households reporting income reduction of more than 50 percent were **Gegharkunik (55 percent)**, **Lori (55 percent),** and **Kotayk (54 percent).** HHs in Vayots Dzor and Tavush showed the highest percentages of slight income reductions (18, 17 percent). HHs in Gegharkunik and Shirak were most affected by moderate income reductions (18 percent equally). The data underscores regional income inequalities and dynamics, with HHs in certain regions facing more pronounced economic challenges.

Disaggregation between local and refugee population showed that 36 percent of locals experienced income change compared to 75 percent of refugees reporting change of income during the previous year. The difference might be related to the disruption of supply routes to Karabakh region resulting in reduction and loss of employment and livelihood opportunities among the population, who later became refugees.

Within last year 37 percent of locals experienced income increase compared to 7 percent of refugees. A reduction of 25 percent or less in income was more prevalent among locals (19 percent) rather than among refugees (7 percent). Similarly, 17

percent locals compared to 9 percent refugees experienced income reduction of 25-49 percent.

4.7.3. Expenditure per capita, food share of monthly expenditures

The expenditure patterns provide information about the economic capacity and resources of a household to prioritize access to nutritious food. The assessment data includes insights on food and non-food expenditures and was collected using WFP's expenditure module. The monthly per capita expenditure was calculated based on the retrieved data which then was classified within ranges.

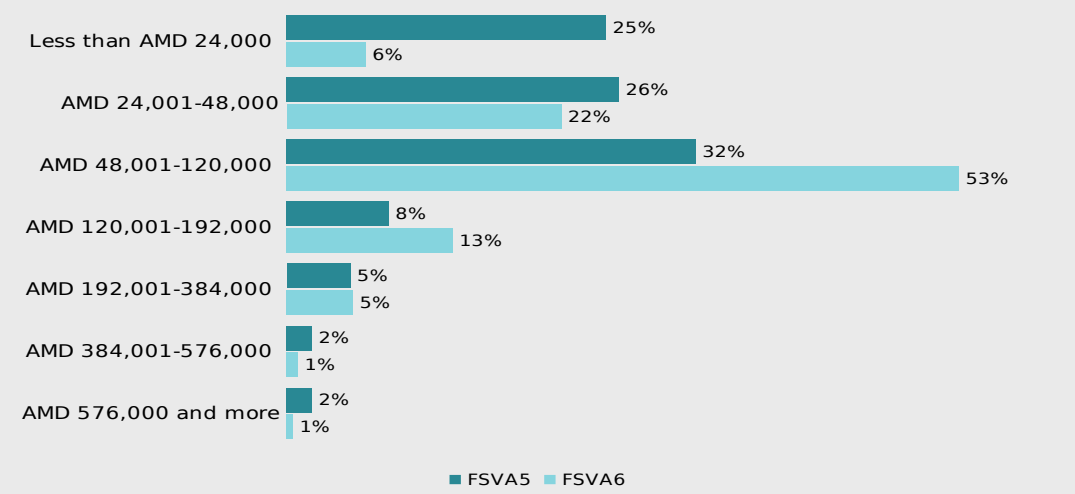
Figure 38. *Per capita expenditure ranges among population in Armenia, %*

53 percent of total population in Armenia have monthly expenditures per capita between **AMD 48,001 – 120,000**, whereas 21 percent had expenditures within the range of AMD 24,001 – 48,000, of which 55 percent are living in rural areas. 65 percent of the population having expenditures less than AMD 24,000 per month resided in rural areas. 13 percent had expenditures within AMD 120,001 – 192,000. The proportion of households with higher monthly expenditure brackets was statistically insignificant.

The biggest share of households with monthly per capita expenditure of less than AMD 24,000 (63%) and AMD 24,001 – 48,000 (55%) were seen in **rural areas** of the country. There was a higher distribution of households with more than AMD 48,001 monthly per capita expenditure in **other urban areas.** Overall, the monthly per capita expenditure among rural population is lower compared to populations in urban settings, where standard of living might be higher due to relatively more employment opportunities and access to services.

In the northern regions (Shirak, Gegharkunik, Lori and Tavush) the share of households with monthly expenditures **less than AMD 48,000** per capita was comparatively higher than in Yerevan and other regions. indicating higher vulnerability and susceptibility of these regions to food insecurity. Triangulation with the income per capita showed that higher proportion of households in northern regions have the lowest income (less than AMD 24.000) and expenditures (less than AMD 48.000) compared to Yerevan and other urban areas.

Figure 39. *Comparison of monthly per capita expenditure in FSVA5 and FSVA6, %*



The data shows that the number of households with monthly expenditures below AMD 24,000 per capacity has decreased from 25% to 6%. Overall, the comparison of monthly per capita expenditure during FSVA5 and FSVA6 could point to a trend of increased expenditures with a notable shift towards the middle and lower-middle expenditure brackets. When comparing with income, there were fluctuations within the income ranges in FSVA5 and FSVA6 indicating slight positive changes.

The highest concentration of both local and refugee population has an expenditure range between AMD 48,001 – 120,000., with around 66% of the refugees having expenditures in this range and 48 percent of local populations.

Food expenditure share (FES) is another indicator measuring economic vulnerability of a household. The higher the share of household's consumption expenditures on food, the more vulnerable the households are to food insecurity. FES was **29 percent** for the entire population in Armenia.

The food expenditure share of the total monthly expenditures was higher in Yerevan (37 percent) compared to rural (26 percent) and other urban areas (31 percent). This may be due to, for example, home-based production of dairy and other products, baking as well as bartering are common practices in rural areas. Whereas for Yerevan, higher food prices and more opportunities to eat out, which is more expensive than home cooked meals. Overall, refugees have higher expenditure ranges than local households due to settling and housing costs. For example, the monthly cost share of rents and food constituted 21 percent and 28 percent respectively for refugees, whereas local population had a food expenditure share (FES) of 30 percent but minor costs of housing. The lower FES among refugee population might be due to the unconditional/ humanitarian food assistance distributed to them.

***Figure 40**. Food security levels across expenditure ranges, %*

Households with higher monthly per capita expenditure brackets (AMD 120,000 and above) had better food security levels and populations with expenditures less than AMD 48,000, who faced various degrees of food insecurity. For many households, **winterization expenses** represent a significant financial burden, often forcing them to make difficult choices among their competing needs, including reducing their spending on food.

While the FSVA6 data was collected in March, the impact of winterization costs was considered to understand the potential prolonged impacts of winter on food expenditures of a household.

68 percent of refugees prioritised to pay their utilities (gas and electricity) instead of buying food compared to 52 percent of locals. This suggests that heating is a primary concern, especially for refugees who may face inadequate housing conditions.

A higher percentage of refugees (31 percent) spent money on winter clothes and shoes compared to the local population (14 percent) during March 2004 (data collection period), likely due to adaptation to the climate in Armenia and, that, refugees arrived with limited luggage. 9 percent of the refugees spent funds to buy blankets compared to 1 percent for local households.

Table 4. Winterization expenditure: Did you have to save on food to pay for…

	Yerevan	Rural	Other urban
gas, electricity, utility bills	49%	54%	**61%**
fuel for heating	0%	**15%**	4%
winter clothes and shoes	11%	18%	**20%**
winter fodder for animals	0%	**10%**	1%
warm blanket	2%	3%	**4%**

Regarding the impact of winter in Yerevan, rural and other urban areas, a significant concern for the households across all regions was the burden of utility bills. To cover these costs, many households reduce their food spending, as adverse weather conditions drive up heating expenses and disrupt household budgets.

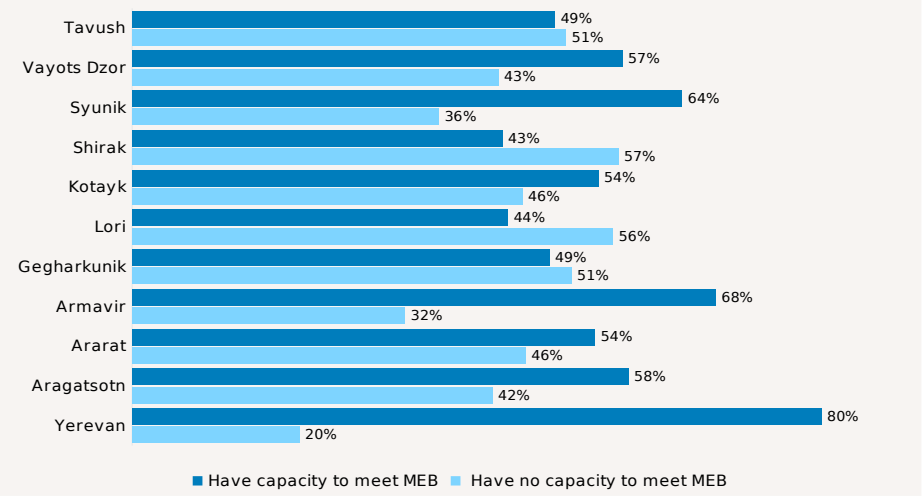
In rural areas 15 percent of HHs prioritized fuel for heating over food expenditures. Around 20 percent of HHs in rural and other urban areas prioritized warm clothes. 10 percent in rural areas prioritized buying animal fodder to secure one of their sources of livelihood.

4.7.4. Economic capacity to meet essential needs (ECMEN)

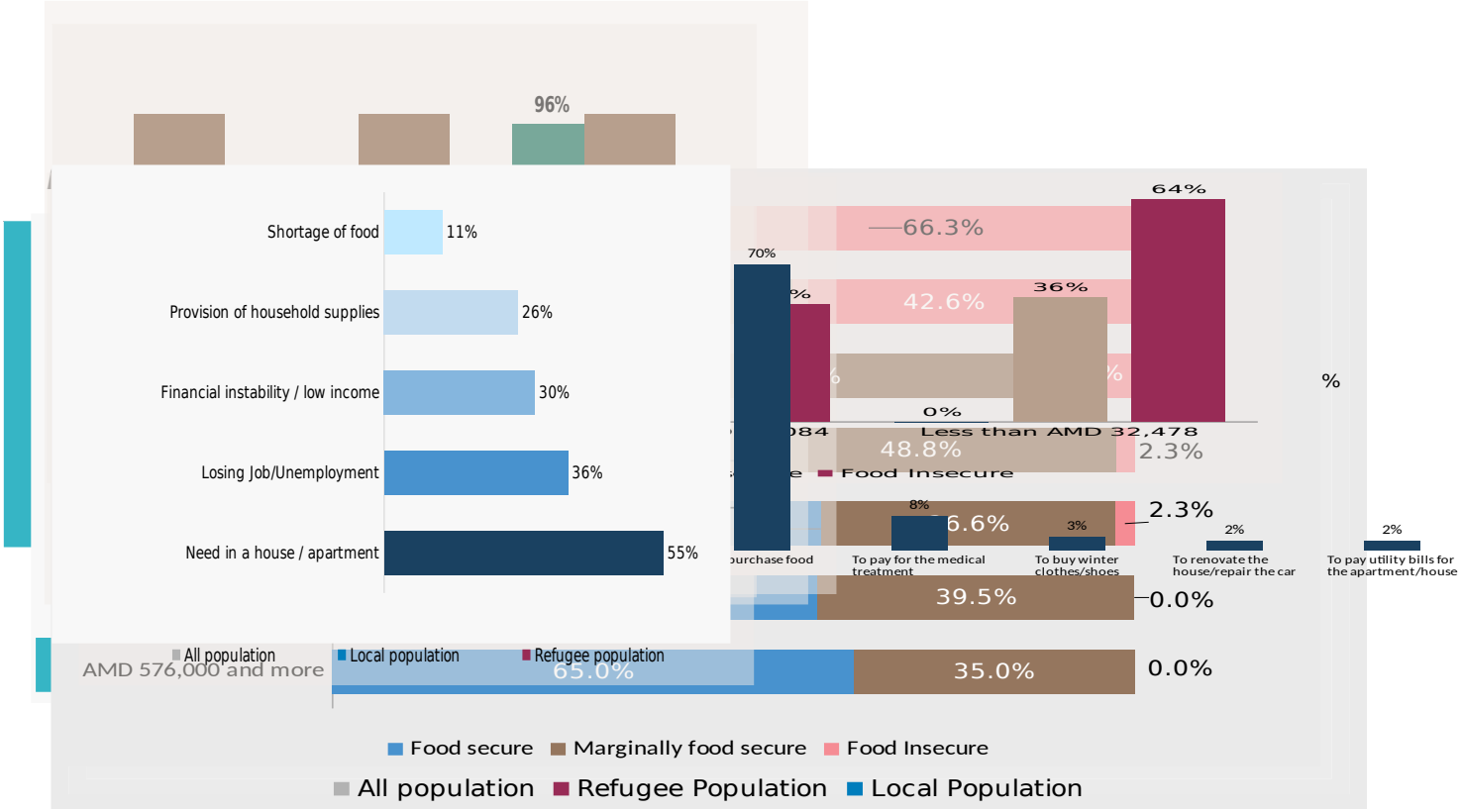
The economic capacity to meet essential needs (ECMEN) is a measure to understand the economic vulnerability of a population. It is defined as the percentage of households whose economic capacity is sufficient to meet their essential needs, measured against the minimum expenditure basket (MEB)[10].

Households are considered to have the economic capacity to meet their essential needs if their consumption expenditures exceed the minimum expenditure basket (MEB). An MEB is defined as what a household requires to meet their essential needs, on a regular or seasonal basis, and its cost. Within the scope of FSVA6, monthly per capita expenditure was compared against the cost of monthly per capita MEB calculated and published by the Statistical Committee of RA based on the average prices of the 4th quarter of 2023 – **AMD 60,084.5.**

Figure 42. *Economic capacity to meet* ***MEB*** *in the regions of Armenia, %*



Socio-economic situation in Armenia in January-December 2023, Interesting Statistics, Annex 2



The survival minimum basket (SMEB) is considered when measuring economic capacity of households. The survival minimum basket (SMEB) is defined as the cost of per capita monthly food basket calculated and reported by the Statistical Committee of Republic of Armenia, based on the prices of the 4th quarter: **AMD 32,478.** According to the assessment, **44 percent** of population in Armenia **lack financial capacity** to meet essential needs which impacts their quality of life and livelihoods.

Consequently, many families are left with little to no financial flexibility to cope with economic shocks or unexpected expenses, exposing them to more economic vulnerability.

The economic capacity of households in the regions revealed that the highest proportion of households with insufficient capacity were concentrated in the northern regions of the country, namely in Shirak (57 percent), Lori (56 percent), Gegharkunik (51 percent) and Tavush (51 percent). These were the regions where significant proportion of households with more than 50 percent of income decrease were detected (Shirak 50 percent, Lori 55 percent, Gegharkunik 55 percent, Tavush 42 percent) and households in these regions also have the highest prevalence of food insecurity (27, 28, 24 and 25 percent, respectively).

The economic capacity of households in Yerevan stood out with highest economic stability, whereas in rural areas half of the households are facing financial challenges in meeting basic needs. However, while income levels and salaries are lower in rural areas, the households may be able to consume own products Other urban areas fell in between, showing better economic conditions than rural areas but further behind Yerevan.

Comparing the households meeting MEB between FSVA6 and FSVA5 shows that there is a slight decrease of 1 percentage point in the proportion of households that reported having no capacity to meet their essential needs (44 and 45 percent in FSVA6 and FSVA5).

When comparing the economic capacities of local and refugee

Figure 44. *Economic capacity of* ***refugee*** *households to meet* ***MEB*** *with and without assistance, %*

population to meet the essential needs, there is a higher economic vulnerability among local population compared to refugee population. Almost **half of local population** in Armenia have **no economic capacity** to meet their basic needs while among refugee population **one third** was struggling economically to meet their fundamental necessities. The difference between local and refugee population is due to the assistances refugees have been receiving since their arrival in Armenia. This includes the state social assistance of AMD 50,000 per person per month for rental and utility payment which provides economic capacity to cover basic needs. As this assistance is planned to stop after December 2024, refugee households need to be involved in different income earning activities to sustain their food security needs and economic stability.

As shown in Figure 43 subtracting the state social assistance from the monthly per capita expenses, only 25 percent of the refugees would be able to meet their essential needs.

Within the analysis of economic capacity of households, the comparison of per capita monthly expenses against survival minimum basket (SMEB) was done.

14 percent of the entire population in Armenia were economically **unable to meet the survival minimum essential basket.** However, the majority of people facing this level of hardship are the local population (17 percent) as opposed to the refugee population where only 4 percent were economically challenged.

Figure 45. *Proportion of households meeting* ***SMEB,*** *%*

The reason for this disparity is assistance received by refugees. If the amount of assistance is subtracted from monthly per capita expenditures, the proportion of refugee households with capacity to meet the survival minimum basket increases to 47 percent.

Figure 46. *The capacity of* ***refugee*** *households to meet* ***SMEB*** *with and without assistance, %*

This underlines the dependence of refugee population on state social assistances to meet basic and food security needs. The food insecurity levels among the refugee population will change from 17 percent with assistance to 42 percent without aid.

Overall, the economic vulnerability classification taking MEB and SMEB as benchmarks was the following: **14 percent** of the population in Armenia whose monthly per capita expenditure falls below SMEB (AMD 32,478) is considered **highly vulnerable, 30 percent** with monthly per capita expenditure between SMEB (AMD 32,478) and MEB (AMD 60,084) is considered **vulnerable,** and **56 percent** of households with more than

MEB (AMD 60,084) monthly per capita expenditure are considered **the least vulnerable.**

Figure 47. *Economic vulnerability levels of the population in Armenia, %*

The households that were in the state provided social safety-nets, were the most vulnerable. 40 percent of family benefit (FLSEBP) households had less than AMD 32,478 monthly per capita expenses (also 47 percent of them was represented in less than AMD 24,000 income bracket). Households with 3 and more children were the second most vulnerable group of population in Armenia with 27 percent of less than AMD 32,478 monthly per capita expenses.

40 percent of single unemployed pensioners, 36 percent of both HHs with 3 and more children and FLSEBP beneficiary HHs fell between the range of AMD 32,478 – AMD 60,084 monthly per capita expenses. H**ouseholds that rely on various state assistance are the most vulnerable. Yet, despite the support they receive from state assistance projects, the households remain vulnerable and are unable to meet their basic needs.**

Table 5. Economic vulnerability classification across household profiles, %

	Less than AMD 32,478	AMD 32,478 - AMD 60,084	More than 60,084
Single parent family	**20%**	**32%**	**48%**
Having a pregnant or lactating woman	**19%**	**33%**	**47%**
Have a disabled member	**15%**	**32%**	**53%**
Single unemployed pensioner	**6%**	**40%**	**54%**
HH with 3 and more children	**27%**	**36%**	**37%**
HH displaced from Karabakh in 2020	**10%**	**27%**	**63%**
FLSEBP beneficiary HH	**40%**	**36%**	**24%**

Food insecurity was **64 percent** among the households with **less than AMD 32,478** monthly per capita expenditure. The share of marginally food secure households was the highest (**66 percent**) among those falling between **AMD 32,478 – AMD 60,084** monthly per capita expenditure**.** This underlines a risk for the households of becoming food insecure in case of unplanned or out-of-pocket expenses.

Figure 48. *Food security levels across economic vulnerability levels, %*

4.7.5. Indebtedness

In this assessment, questions related to debts were referring to **informally borrowing money from people and shops and therefore excluding loans and credits from financial institutions.**

According to the FSVA6, **33 percent** of the population in Armenia reported having informal debts.

In Armenia, buying on credit from the nearby shops is a normal practice. Shops serve as the primary source of debt. Out of 33 percent of HHs having informal debts, 64 percent bought food on credit from shops. Though the reasons for this behavior may vary, accumulation of debts creates financial stress and dependence on the credit-giving shops. While the practice improves food consumption, it increases the socio-economic vulnerability of households as they eventually divert a part of their income to debt payment compromising other essential needs.

The second significant source of debt, accounting for 32 percent, was borrowing from friends and relatives. social networks therefore play a significant role in financial resilience. The trust inherent in these relationships allows for more flexible repayment and interest rate terms compared to borrowing from financial institutions. In addition, financial institutions require documentation to prove the ability to re-pay loans including a certain income level. In rural areas, opportunities to present guaranteed stable income are less, providing a barrier to access formal loans.

Figure 48. *Indebtedness, reasons, and sources, %*

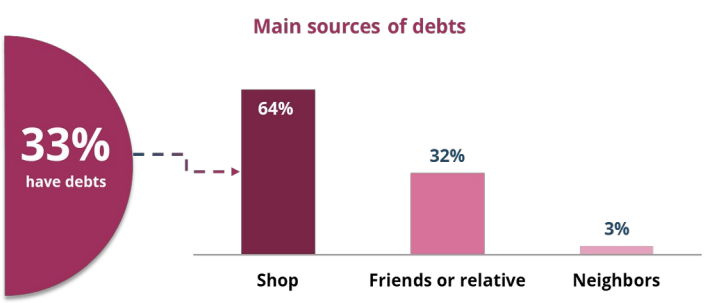
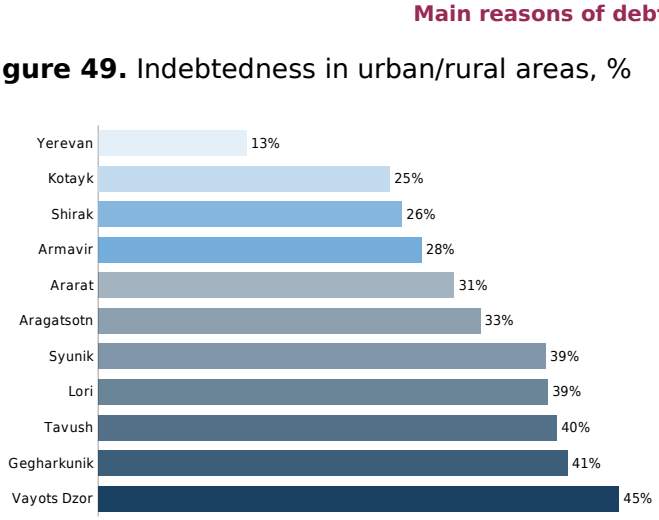


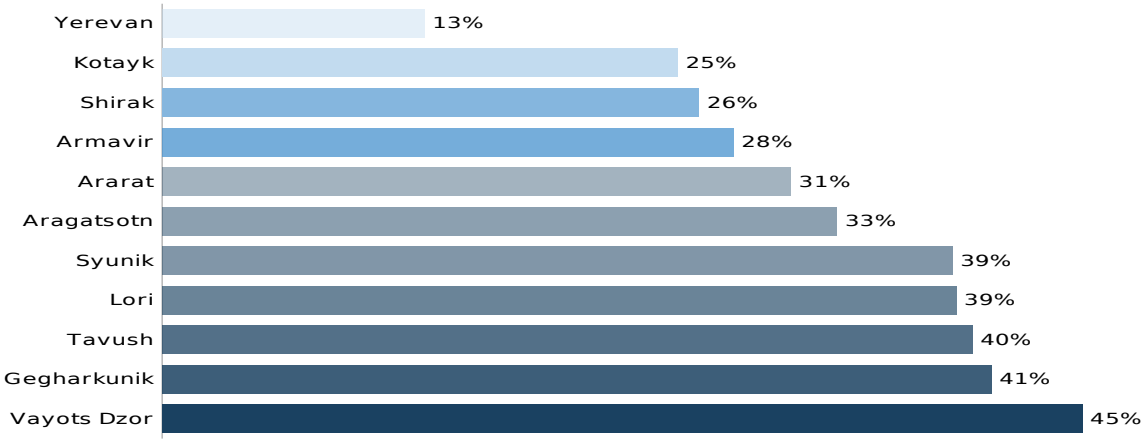
Figure 49. Indebtedness in urban/rural areas, %



41 percent of rural population said they had informal debts while 27 percent of the population living in other urban areas used debts as a coping mechanism to tackle financial challenges. In Yerevan, 13 percent increase their informal debts as coping mechanism. This can partly be because less stores provide purchase on credit options or the financial stress levels of the Yerevan based households are less. In general, households with informal debts had higher food insecurity levels than households with no informal debts: 35 and 13 percent, respectively.

The highest prevalence rates of informal debts among the population were in Vayots Dzor with 45 percent. In Gegharkunik it was 41 percent, Tavush: 40 percent, Lori: 39 percent. These were also the regions with the highest food insecurity rates.

Figure 50. *Indebtedness in the regions of Armenia, %*



In 70 percent of the cases, the reason for household indebtedness was the need to purchase food. The second reason for informal debt-taking related to access to medical treatment, comprising 8 percent of the total. This indicates that health-related expenses are also a considerable burden for many households, likely exacerbated by low geographical coverage of healthcare services compelling to travel to access necessary ones, inadequate health insurance coverage or out-of-pocket medical costs.

3 percent of debts were used for buying winter clothes and shoes, suggesting that households struggled to afford essential seasonal clothing, reflecting broader financial hardships beyond immediate food and health needs.

Indebtedness is closely correlated with food security: households with debts are more likely to experience food insecurity. only 10 percent of households with debts were food secure, whereas 33 percent of the food secure households had no debts. In contrast, 35 percent of households with debts were food insecure compared to 13 percent of food insecure households with no debts.

Figure 51. *Food security and indebtedness, %*

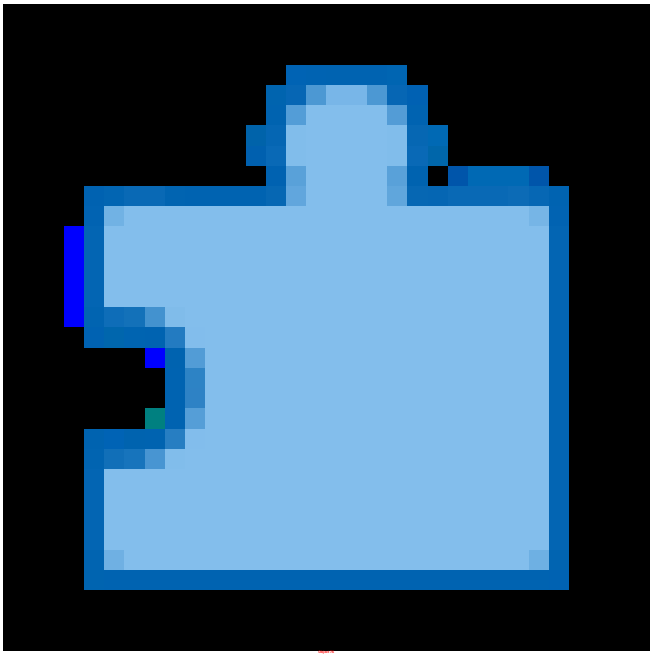


Figure 52. Indebtedness among refugee and local population, %

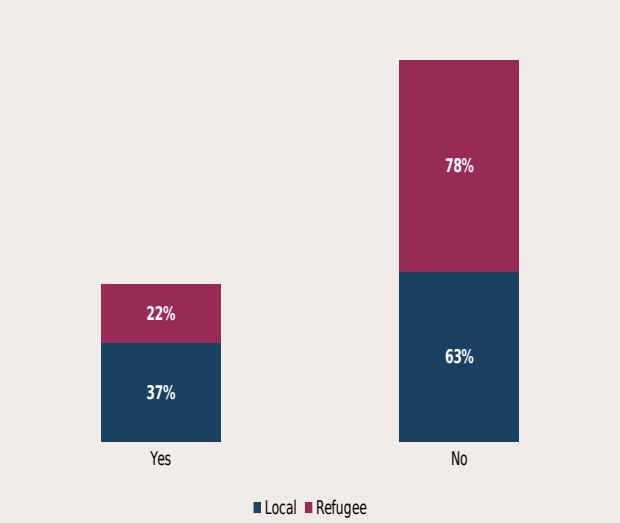
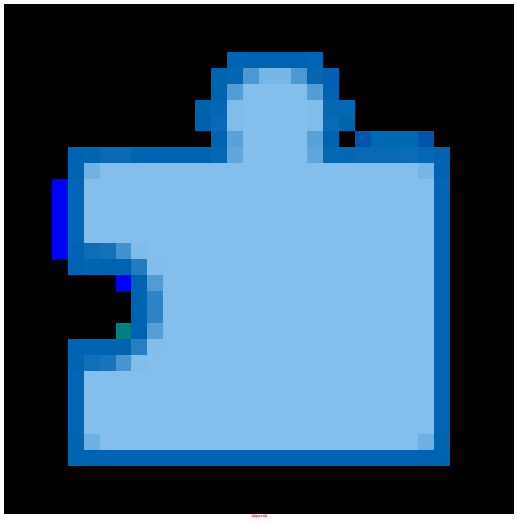


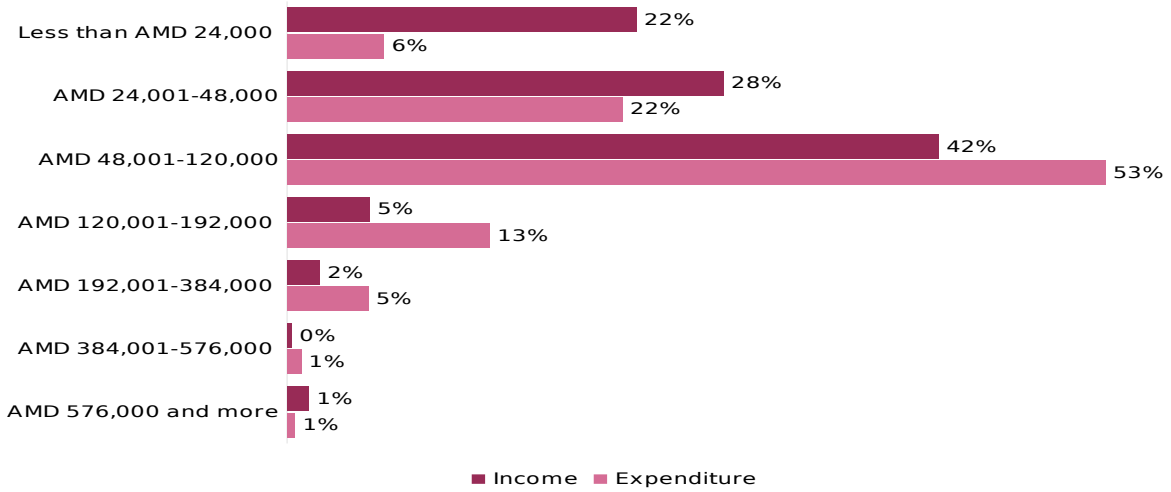
Figure 53. Sources of debts for local and refugee population, %



When comparing the level of indebtedness among local population in FSVA5 and FSVA6, it shows that the situation notably worsened, as indebtedness was 30 percent in FSVA5 and among local population in FSVA6: 37 percent.

The comparison of indebtedness among local and refugee population drew the following picture: **37 percent of local and 22 percent of refugee** population reported **having informal debts.** Further analysis suggested that even though shops were the primary source of informal debts for both local and refugee population, locals prefer borrowing from shops more than refugees: 67 and 49 percent, respectively. This higher reliance among locals could be due to established relationships with shopkeepers and a stronger sense of community trust. In contrast, refugees, who may be newer to the area and less integrated into local commercial networks, are less likely to secure debts from shops. Refugees are more likely to turn to friends or relatives for informal debts, with 46 percent of them doing so compared to 29 percent of the local population. Both populations primarily incur debts to purchase food, indicating that food security is a critical issue for both groups. However, a higher percentage of locals (72 percent) who take debts for food compared to refugees (59 percent). This could suggest that despite which hardship refugees face, humanitarian aid in the form of food alleviates their food security compared to locals. Paying rent is a notable reason for refugees to incur debt, with 11 percent of them borrowing for this purpose. This is not listed as a reason for the local population.
Similarly, 5 percent of refugees borrow to pay utility bills, while it is not noted as a reason for locals. This again points to the financial instability refugees face regarding basic living expenses. A slightly higher percentage of locals (9 percent) obtain debts for medical treatment compared to refugees (6 percent) which might be due to limited access to free or subsidized healthcare services.

Figure 54. Income – Expenditure dynamics, %



The analysis of monthly per capita income vs expenditure revealed discrepancies between income and expenditure within the same range. Those discrepancies were insignificant for high income brackets (AMD 384,001 and above) while for middle (AMD 120,001 – 384,000) and lower (AMD 0 – 120,000) income brackets differences were notable. For households with expenditure of AMD 48,001 and above exceeded the share of households within this income range. Many households therefore spent more than they earned. If households are spending more than their income, they may have other types of non-registered incomes or financial coping strategies, such as relying on savings. Households across different income brackets cope differently with financial restrictions. Households in the highest-income range didn't apply any coping strategies. Households in low- and middle-income ranges had to deploy a variety of coping mechanisms to tackle their financial constraints. Low- and middle-income groups rely on their savings and take on additional informal debts. The households also reduced their non-food expenses in case of financial hardship.

	Borrowing informal debts	Spending savings	Borrowing money	Buying food on credit	Reducing non-food expenses on health and education
AMD 576,000 and more	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AMD 384,001-576,000	0%	8%	0%	0%	8%
AMD 192,001-384,000	14%	29%	2%	8%	11%
AMD 120,001-192,000	16%	28%	4%	13%	8%
AMD 48,001-120,000	23%	45%	10%	23%	23%
AMD 24,001-48,000	39%	48%	18%	39%	30%
Less than AMD 24,000	50%	56%	28%	47%	37%

Table 6. Coping mechanisms per income ranges, %

4.8. Concerns, implications of refugee influx in communities and enabling factors for refugees' income earning.

Primary concerns of local and refugee population

Following the influx of refugees from Karabakh in September 2023, the Armenian Government, in collaboration with international and local organizations, conducted a comprehensive needs assessment in December 2023. The report was released in June 2024.

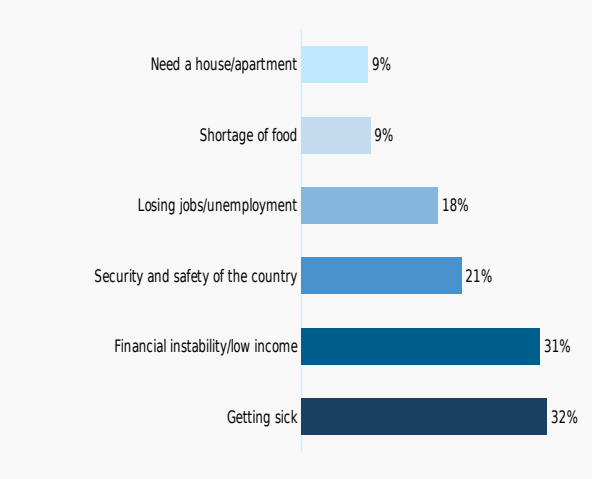
FSVA6 aimed to identify the primary concerns of the refugees several months after their arrival to Armenia.

Equal to many other assessments, housing was the predominant concern for the refugees, with 55 percent of respondents citing the need for a house or apartment. The immediate humanitarian support provided by the government was subsidies for rent and utilities, and to support more permanent solutions, the Government of Armenia launched a housing program in June 2024, offering financial assistance of AMD 3,000,000 to each family member for purchasing a house or apartment. This initiative is expected to significantly contribute to the alleviation of the housing challenges among the refugee population.

The FSVA6 assessment also identified other concerns, approximately 36 percent of the refugee respondents reported job loss and lack of employment opportunities, underlining the importance of providing sustainable job and economic integration opportunities. 30 percent of the refugee population underscored the need for robust financial support systems and economic aid to ensure their stability and well-being. Approximately 32 percent of local households reported getting sick as their primary worry. As well as financial instability and low income, which 31 percent of local households mentioned. Concerns about security and safety of the country were mentioned by 21 percent of respondents. Unemployment and the fear of losing jobs were concerns for 18 percent of local HHs.

Figure 55. *Main concerns among refugees, %*

Figure 56. *Main concerns among locals, %*



Implications of refugee influx to communities

Local HHs were also asked about the implications of the refugee influx in their communities. 67% of the respondents mentioned that the population number in their communities had increased, 53 percent indicated the increase of housing prices causing difficulties for those who rent houses to buy.

16 percent of local population mentioned traffic jams because refugees brought their cars and reduction of job opportunities as concerns. About 10 percent had concerns about social cohesion, as tensions were arising because of the targeted assistance provided only to the refugee population.

Locals indicated also positive implications of refugee influx, social-cultural changes (16%) and new education opportunities (8%) were created.

Enabling factors for refugees' income earning

According to the refugees there are several key factors enabling them to have financial stability. 18 percent of the refugees mentioned farm animals and livestock as an income source contributing significantly to their financial stability.

Another 8.3 percent expressed a need for training opportunities to develop skills and enhance employability.

Similarly, 8.3 percent mentioned access to tools and equipment for various crafts as a driver towards a stable income. Finally, 3.3 percent of refugees mentioned that having land to grow crops would help them achieve financial stability. This underscores the importance of access to rent or buy arable land for those who rely on agriculture as their primary source of income.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the Sixth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment, 20 percent of households in Armenia is experiencing food insecurity. Food insecurity levels were found to be lower among refugee households (16%) compared to local households (22%). However, calculations revealed that without the Government cash assistance for rent and utilities of AMD 50,000 per person per month, refugees would have become more food insecure by compromising food expenditure to pay for rent and utilities. As one of the components of food security indicator is the economic capacity, when deducting this AMD 50,000 from their expenses per capita per month, the food insecurity among refugee households deteriorates from 16 percent to 42 percent.

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) analysis showed that 94 percent of households have an acceptable food consumption level, with 46 percent adopting food-based coping strategies.

The consumption of Vitamin A-rich foods was high, with 85 percent of households consuming it daily. Similarly, 90 percent of households consumed protein-rich foods within the same period. However, only 16 percent consumed heme iron-rich foods in the reported period. 51 percent of the interviewed households adopted food-based coping strategies in the week prior to the survey. The FSVA6 also showed that 70 percent of households had a stock of staple foods. However, 40 percent of households faced challenges in accessing markets.

44 percent of Armenia's population lacks the economic capacity to meet their essential needs. Economic struggles are more concentrated in rural areas (50 percent) compared to other urban areas (41 percent) and Yerevan (20 percent). Among refugees, 73 percent of households have adequate economic capabilities to meet their basic needs,

compared to 51 percent of locals, largely due to the assistance they have or are receiving.

33 percent of Armenia's population has informal debts, an increase from FSVA5 (30 percent). The primary sources of these debts are local shops (64 percent) and relatives or friends (32 percent). The main reason for borrowing is to purchase food (70 percent).

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are developed. The main stakeholder of these recommendations is the government, which holds the mandate for domestic policy and program execution and coordinates with international and local organizations which act as crucial partners on food security and livelihood programs.

Recommendation 1: *In the light of recurring shocks (both economic and co-variate) that have impacted Armenia and its population, in recent years; set up a national early warning systems that include socio-economic shocks and sectoral national early action mechanisms.*

Establishing robust early warning systems can help anticipate and prepare for potential shocks that may lead to increased food insecurity. By identifying vulnerable populations in advance, it becomes possible to take anticipatory actions and develop resource mobilization mechanisms to prevent them from falling below the food security threshold.

Recommendation 2: *Promote Dietary Diversity to increase the consumption of nutrient-rich food and healthy diets.*

Implement educational campaigns to inform households about the importance of a balanced diet and the benefits of consuming a variety of nutrient-rich foods. Examples of such activities could include developing and implementing targeted social and behaviour change campaigns and trainings, ensuring nutritious food is available and affordable in markets as well strengthening of referral mechanisms from social protection and other programmes to nutrition promoting programmes.

Recommendation 3: *Implement livelihood building programmes tailored to the needs and capacities of refugee and local population.*

Develop vocational training programs focused on in-demand skills such as agriculture, industry, self-employment, etc. Facilitate access to necessary resources such as tools, seeds, equipment, and microloans to support small-scale farming, artisanal crafts, and other livelihood activities. Encourage joint participation of refugees and locals in livelihood programs to foster social cohesion and mutual support.

Recommendation 4: *Strengthen the social safety nets to ensure the most vulnerable refugees have access to essential resources.*

Simplify the process for refugees to obtain necessary documentation to apply for the Government social support programmes. Employ social workers to provide personalized support and case management for the most vulnerable refugees, helping them access various services and resources. Refine the transfer value for social safety nets adjusting those to the changing context and price inflation in the country.

6. Annexes

6.1. Questionnaire

WFP FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY FOURTH ASSESSMENT

Introduction. Hello, my name is (.....), I am representing _____ company and I am approaching you on behalf of the **United Nations World Food Programme** (WFP). We are conducting a survey to understand food and market situation in Armenia. Your household has been selected randomly for the survey. The survey is anonymous, and the data is going to be analyzed in a generalized way. Personal data might be harvested during the survey as well, hence we ask for your consent to share it with us.

Q1. Could you please allocate 30 minutes to answer our questions?

1. Yes □ **CONTINUE** 2. No □ **END**

Q2. Please indicate whether you participate in the process of deciding or preparing the household's diet, or are you well aware of all the mentioned processes. It is also important to be aware of the costs.

1. Yes □ **CONTINUE** 2. No □ **END**

INTERVIEWER: IF THE ANSWER IS NO, ASK TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH A FAMILY MEMBER WHO CAN BEST ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATED TO HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION AND EXPENDITURES.

SECTION 1. PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Q3. Mention your place of residence

Q3.1 Rural	Q3.2 Urban

Q4. SELECT THE APPROPRIATE REGION, ONE ANSWER

1	Yerevan
2	Aragatsotn urban
12	Aragatsotn rural
3	Armavir urban
13	Armavir rural
4	Ararat urban
14	Ararat rural
5	Kotayk urban
15	Kotayk rural
6	Shirak urban
16	Shirak rural

7	Lori urban
17	Lori rural
8	Gegharkunik urban
18	Gegharkunik rural
9	Vayots Dzor urban
19	Vayots Dzor rural
10	Tavush urban
20	Tavush rural
11	Syunik urban
21	Syunik rural

SECTION 2. DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION

Q5. Sex of the respondent (DON'T READ THE ANSWERS , IN CASE OF DIFFICULTIES TO ANSWER ASK THE NAME)

1. Male 2. Female

Q6. How old are you? (record the age of the respondent) |____| years old

Q8. Are you the head of your household? If the respondent is below 18 finish the interview.

1. Yes Ò **Go to the Q8.2** 2. No Ò **Go to the Q8**

Ask the question if Q8=2

Q8. Please mention the sex of the HH head

1. Male 2. Female

Q8.1 Please mention age of the HH head

1. 12-17 years old
2. 18-59 years old (adults)
3. 60 years old and above

Q8.2 Please mention marital status of the HH head

1. Single
2. Married
3. Divorced

4. Widow/Widower

Q9. What is the completed education level of the head of the HH? DON'T READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, MENTION THE RELEVANT ANSWER IN THE TABLE BELOW, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE (PROBE, IF THE ANSWER IS NOT CELAR)

1. No elementary and not literate
2. No elementary, but literate
3. Elementary (1-4)
4. Primary (5-9)
5. Secondary (10-12)
6. Pre-vocational (crafts)
7. Secondary vocational (technical school, college)
8. Incomplete higher
9. Higher (Bachelor)
10. Postgraduate (Master/PhD)
98. Difficult to answer **(DO NOT READ)**
99 Refuse to answer **(DO NOT READ)**

Q10.1 How many people are living in your household (including yourself)? Please, take into consideration only those members, who live in your HH at 4 nights in this house. Please, do not list those people, who live at your place as a guest. **BY SAYING GUEST WE MEAN A PERSON, WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING AT YOUR PLACE NOT PERMANENTLY. Don't include as a HH member people who work abroad and students who are not at home permanently.**

|__|people

Q10.2 Now I will list age groups, please indicate how many males and females of each age group are living in your household.

	Male	**Female**
1. Children - under 2 years old		
2. 2-<4 years old		
3. 5<17 years old		
4. 18-59 years old (adults)		
5. 60 years old and above		

Q11. Does your Household fit with following profile? PLEASE ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS

	Profile	**Yes**	**No**	**Ref. to answer**
1.	Single parent family	1	2	98

2.	Have a pregnant and lactating woman	1	2	98
3.	A person with a disability (including a child) either officially registered or undocumented	1	2	98
4.	Have a member with disability status without official document	1	2	98
5.	Single unemployed pensioner	1	2	98
6.	Households with 3 and more children under 18 years old	1	2	98
7.	Households displaced from NK (2020)	1	2	98
8.	Households displaced from NK (2023)	1	2	98

SECTION 3. HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Q12.1 Please describe the ownership of your housing.

1	Owned
2	Rented
3	Hosted
4	Informal

Q13. How many meals did the adults (**18+**) in the household eat **yesterday:** guests living with you should also been considered? **In case it was an unusual day (funerals, wedding, etc.) ask about the previous day.**

1. Female		**2. Male**	

Q14. How many meals did the female children in this household eat **yesterday:** guests living with you should also been considered?

1. 2- < 5 years old children		**2. 5 – 17 years old children**	

Q15. How many meals did the male children in this household eat **yesterday:** guests living with you should also been considered?

1. 2- < 5 years old children		**2. 5 – 17 years old children**	

SECTION 4. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND FOOD SOURCES

Q16. How many days over the last 7 days, did most members of your household (50% +) eat the following food items, and what was their source? *(Use codes below, write 0 if not consumed in last 7 days)*. ***Note for enumerator: Determine whether consumption of fish, milk was only in small quantities.***

	Food	Number of days eaten in past 7 days
1.	**Cereals, grains, roots and tubers** Rice, pasta, bread, sorghum, millet, maize, potato, yam, cassava, white sweet potato	|___|
2.	**Pulses/ legumes / nuts:** beans, cowpeas, peanuts, lentils, nut, soy, pigeon pea and / or other nuts	|___|
3.	**Milk and other dairy products**: fresh milk / sour, yogurt, cheese, other dairy products (Exclude margarine / butter or small amounts of milk for tea / coffee)	|___|
4.	**Meat, fish and eggs:** goat, beef, chicken, pork, blood, fish, including canned tuna, escargot, and / or other seafood, eggs (meat and fish consumed in large quantities and not as a condiment)	|___|
4.1	**Flesh meat:** beef, pork, lamb, goat, rabbit, chicken, duck, other birds, insects	|___|
4.2	**Organ meat:** liver, kidney, heart and / or other organ meats	
4.3	**Fish/shellfish:** fish, including canned tuna, escargot, and / or other seafood (fish in large quantities and not as a condiment)	|___|
4.4	**Eggs**	|___|
5.	**Vegetables and leaves:** spinach, onion, tomatoes, carrots, peppers, green beans, lettuce, etc	|___|
5.1	**Orange vegetables (vegetables rich in Vitamin A):** carrot, red pepper, pumpkin, orange sweet potatoes,	|___|
5.2	**Green leafy vegetables:** spinach, broccoli, amaranth and / or other dark green leaves, cassava leaves	|___|
6.	**Fruits:** banana, apple, lemon, mango, papaya, apricot, peach, etc	|___|
6.1	**Orange fruits (Fruits rich in Vitamin A):** mango, papaya, apricot, peach	|___|
7.	**Oil / fat / butter:** vegetable oil, palm oil, shea butter, margarine, other fats / oil	|___|
8.	**Sugar, or sweet:** sugar, honey, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, pastries, cakes and other sweet (sugary drinks)	|___|
9.	**Condiments / Spices:** tea, coffee / cocoa, salt, garlic, spices, yeast / baking powder, lanwin, tomato / sauce, meat or fish as a condiment, condiments including small amount of milk / tea coffee.	|___|

Q17. During the **last 7 days**, were there days (and, if so, how many) when your household had to employ one of the following strategies (to cope with a lack of food or money to buy it)?		Frequency (number of days from 0 to 7)
1	Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	|___|
2	Borrow food or rely on help from relative(s) or friend(s)	|___|
3	Limit portion size at meals	|___|
4	Reduction in the quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children	|___|
5	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	|___|

Q18. During the past 30 days, did anyone in your household have to engage in any following behaviors due to a **lack of food or a lack of money to buy food?**

	1 = No, because I did not need to	2 = No, because I already sold those assets or have engaged in this activity within the last 12 months and cannot continue to do it	3= Yes	4=Not applicable (DO NOT READ)
1. Spent savings	1	2	3	4
2. Borrowed money	1	2	3	4
3.Purchased food on credit or borrowed money (Purchase on credit)	1	2	3	4
4. Reduced non-food expenses on health (including medicine) and education	1	2	3	4
5. Were dependent on food rations and/or support from neighbors and relatives as only food/income source	1	2	3	4
6. Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewelry, etc..)	1	2	3	4
7. Sold last female animals	1	2	3	4
8.Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc..)	1	2	3	4
9. Children (under 15 years old) were working to contribute to household income (e.g. casual labour)	1	2	3	4
10. Sold house or land	1	2	3	4

SECTION 5. FOOD AND MARKET ACCESSABILITY SECTION

Q19. Does your household currently have a stock of staple foods (eg. wheat flour, rice, spelt) **ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**

1. Yes **ASK Q20**	**2. No** **GO TO Q21**	**1. Difficult to remember GO TO Q21**

Q20. How long do you think the food stock would last? **ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**

1.	Up to 7 days
2.	7-14 days
3.	15-21 days
4.	22 – 28 days

5.	More than 1 month

Q21. In the past 7 days, has there been a time when you or your household members faced difficulties/barriers to access food?

1. Yes **ASK Q21.1** | **2. No** **GO TO Q22**

Q21. What were the reasons?
PLEASE WRITE HERE _____

ACCEPT ALL APPLICABLE OPTIONS. IF THE RESPONDENT SELECTS MORE THAN ONE OPTION, ASK HIM/HER TO CHOOSE THE MAIN REASON FROM THE SELECTED OPTIONS – 21.1

Q21.1. What was the main reason for that?

		Q21.1 Mark all the answers **(several answers are acceptable)**	**Q21.1** Mention the most important reason **(only 1 answer)**
1.	Lack of financial resources		
2.	Increased food prices		
3.	Absence of desired food items in shops nearby		
4.	Market\grocery store is too far		
5.	Movement restrictions, including the unavailability of transportation		
6.	The nearest shop is closed		
7.	Concerned about going out of the house due to disease outbreak		
8.	Movement restrictions, including concerns about security and safety		
9.	Due to health issues		
10.	Other (**REGISTER**)_____		

SECTION 6. INCOME SOURCES

Q22. Many HHs have several sources of income. I will read out some possible sources of income and ask you to indicate whether your HH has had a monetary income from these sources in the last 12 months. Please remember about the income of all your HH members. **PLEASE IN Q22.1 MENTION THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF YOUR HH INCOME, AND IN Q22.2 MENTION THE SECONDARY SOURCES**

		Q22.2 Primary source **(One response)**	Q22.1 Secondary Sources **(several answers are**

			acceptable)
1.	Salaried work with regular income		
2.	Informal daily/casual labour		
3.	Own business/trade		
4.	Retail/selling on street		
5.	Horticulture/cattle breeding		
6.	Remittances received from a family member working abroad		
7.	Remittances/support from relatives living in Armenia		
8.	Remittances from relatives living abroad		
9.	Income from renting real estate/car/equipment		
10.	Regular State social support program (eg. Paros/FLSEB)		
11.	State social assistance for displaced people		
12.	Emergency state social support program		
13.	Other state assistance		
14.	Pension		
15.	Disability support		
16.	Assistance received from NGOs		
17.	Other (**SPECIFY**)		

Q23. How much was your total household income last month after paying taxes? **DON'T READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, WRITE DOWN THE AMOUNT MENTIONED BY THE RESPONDENT AND THEN CIRCLE IN THE RELEVANT RANGE. DO NOT CONSIDER GUESTS' INCOME.**
PLEASE WRITE DOWN HERE _____

1.	More than 576,001 AMD
2.	384,001-576,000 AMD
3.	192,001-384,000 AMD
4.	120,001-192,000 AMD
5.	48,001-120,000 AMD
6.	24,001-48,000 AMD
7.	Less than 24,000 AMD

8.	Do not know **(DO NOT READ)**
9.	Refuse to answer **(DO NOT READ)**

Q24. Please, let us know, how many people from your Household earned money during the last 12 months? Take into consideration all types of activities and positions (for example, pensioner) which bring monetary income to your family. |__|

Q25. Has your HH income changed in the last year? **ONE RESPONSE**

1. Yes **ASK Q26**	**2. No** **GO TO Q27**

Q26. To what extent has it impacted your salary? PLEASE mention the percentage.

1. Increased
2. 'Reduced by less than 25%
3. Reduced by more than 25% and less than 49%
4. Reduced by more than 50%

Expenditure

27. Did you purchase the following items during the **last 30 days** for domestic consumption? If none, write 0 and go to next item		27.2.1 Estimated expenditure during the **last 30 days (cash and credit in total)** **(local currency)**	In the **past 6 months** how much money have you spent on each of the following items or service? Use the following table, write 0 if no expenditure.		27.2.2 Estimated expenditure during the **last 6 months (cash and credit in total) (local currency)**
27.1	Food consumed at home		27.A.1	Non-food durable goods (e.g., furniture, phone, washing machine, etc)	
27.2	Alcohols at home		27.A.2	Medicine/pills	
27.3	Tobacco at home		27.A.3	Clothing, Shoes	
27.4	Food consumed outside		27.A.4	Education, school and university fees (e.g., textbooks, parental activities, etc.)	
27.5	Alcohols consumed outside		27.A.5	Debt repayment to shops	
27.6	Soap & household items (non-food items)		27.A.6	Dept repayment for real estate	
27.7	Public transportation (including taxi)		27.A.7	Dept repayment to relatives, friends and others	
27.8	Fuel for car		27.A.8	Agricultural inputs (e.g., cattle, equipment, etc.)	
27.9	Fuel for heating (wood, paraffin, etc.)		27.A.9	Agricultural goods (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, etc.)	
27.10	Water		27.A.10	Irrigation water	
27.11	Electricity/lighting		27.A.11	Savings	
27.12	Gas		27.A.12	Professional courses (including trainings)	
27.13	Communication (phone, internet, TV subscription)		27.A.13	Other services(e.g. nurse, gardening, house maintenance)	
27.14	House rent		27.A.1	Recreation, sports, Culture and	

			4	leisure	
			27.A.15	Transactions related to a real estate	
			27.A.16	Other services	

Q28. In the past month, did you have to save money on food to Read, accept one answer

		1. Yes	2. No	99. Difficult to answer DO NOT READ
1	cover the costs of heating the apartment: gas, electricity utility bills	1	2	99
2	buy fuel for heating: wood, coal, diesel, etc	1	2	99
3	buy winter clothes and shoes	1	2	99
4	buy winter fodder for animals	1	2	99
5	buy a warm blanket	1	2	99
6	other (specify)	1	2	99

Q29. Does the household have debt for food bought on credit from a shop or from a person?

1. Yes **ASK Q29.1** | **2. No** **GO TO Q30**

Q29.1 If yes, what is the amount of the dept? _____

Q29.2. If yes, from whom was the money borrowed?

1. Friends or relative
2. Colleagues
3. Neighbours
4. Shop
5. Other

Q29.3 What was the main reason for the dept?

1. To purchase food
2. To pay for the house/apartment rent
3. To pay utility bills
4. To buy fuel (wood, coal)
5. To pay for the medical treatment
6. To renovate the house/repair the car
7. To pay educational costs
8. To buy winter clothes
9. Other (please specify) _____

SECTION 7. ADDITIONAL

Q52. Currently, what are your main concerns related to your household's wellbeing/living conditions? **INTERVIEWER: DO NOT READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTION, SELECT UP TO THREE RESPONSE OPTIONS THAT BEST FITS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE RESPONDENT, OTHERWISE SELECT OTHER**

1.	1st priority ___	1.	Shortage of food

2.	2nd priority ___	2.	Increase in food prices
3.	3rd priority ___	3.	Shortage of medicine
		4.	Disruption of medical service
		5.	Getting sick , health issues
		6.	Losing Job\Unemployment
		7.	Loss of livelihood source
		8.	Travel restrictions
		9.	Unstable financial conditions, less income
		10.	Not having a house/apartment
		11.	Education of children
		12.	Clothing problem
		13.	Paying debts and credits
		14.	Improvement of housing conditions
		15.	Improvement of household supplies and furniture
		16.	Legal and documentation issues
		17.	Help to receive state social assistances
		18.	Security and safety of the country
		19.	No concerns
		20.	Other (REGISTER) _____

Q31. Are you experiencing any impact on your HH as a result of the September 2022 Azeri aggression?

Yes (**Ask Q32**) No (**Ask Q33**) Difficult to answer (**Ask Q33)**

Q32. **How is/was this effect expressed? DO NOT READ THE ANSWERS, CHOOSE ALL THE ANSWERS.**

1. We had loss of life/s (HH member)
2. We had wounded people
3. We lost our jobs
4. We are unable to engage in agricultural work
5. We are unable to provide HH with food because we are unable to engage in agricultural works
6. Other_____

99. Difficult to answer

Q33. **Are there people displaced from Artsakh in 2023 in your place of residence and/or community?**

Yes (**Ask Q34**) No (**Ask Q36**)

Q34. Did you hosted/ currently host a family from Artsakh in your home or have you provided your home/apartment to them (free from rent)

Yes (**Ask Q35**) No (**Ask Q36**)

Q35. For how long?

1. They live to this day
2. Up to a week
3. 2-3 weeks
4. 1-3 months
5. More than 4 months

Q36. What was the impact of the presence of Artsakh residents in your community
Read the options, choose all mentioned

1. Thanks to them, new opportunities for education were created in our community
2. Thanks to them, new groups and places of entertainment have increased in the community
3. Thanks to them, new jobs were created in our community
4. Thanks to them, the population in our community has increased
5. Thanks to them, socio-cultural changes took place in our community
6. Due to their arrival, housing prices/rents have increased in the community
7. As a result of their arrival, inflation of products (including food products) has been observed in our community
8. Because of them, job opportunities in our community have been reduced
9. Because of them, the traffic in the community has been overloaded (
10. Because of them, the number of pupils in our community increased, which affected the quality of education
11. Tensions have arisen between some of our community residents and the support provided to them
12. Other_____

99. Difficult to answer

SECTION 7. SECTION FOR REFUGEES

Q37. What are your plans regarding the place of residence in the next 1 year?
READ THE OPTIONS, ACCEPT ONE ANSWER

1. Will stay in this house, in the same house
2. Will stay in this house, but don't know in the same house/apartment or not
3. Will stay in this settlement, but will change the house**(next question)**
4. Will move to another place of residence, to a rural area **(next question)**
5. Will move to another place of residence, to urban area **(next question)**
6. Will move to Yerevan **(next question)**
7. Will emigrate from Armenia **(next question)**
8. (**DO NOT READ**) In case of an opportunity, will return to Artsakh
9. **(DO NOT READ)** It's still not clear

Q38. What is the reason you want to move from this setlement
DO NOT READ THE OPTIONS, ACCEPT SEVERAL ANSWERS

1. There is no possibility of work and livelihood here (in the settlement)
2. There is tension here (in the settlement) between the locals and the displaced (the residents don't treat us well)
3. The displaced people in this settlement are treated poorly by the local authorities

4. We will stay in the settlement, but we will change the house, because the rent has increased and we are not able to pay
5. We will stay in the settlement, but we will change the house, ... so that we can do agricultural work
6. Just want to live in an urban/capital city
7. We want to live in a village where, for example, we can practice agriculture and/or animal husbandry
8. We want to be closer to our relatives and friends
9. For the family reunion
10. We will hand over the house (apartment, accommodation) to the owner
11. We cannot integrate with the residents of this settlement
12. The community/settlement is bordered and not safe for us to stay
13. We will move to another community (for example, bordering) because various state support programs are implemented there
14. The climatic conditions here are more severe, ... and they are also unfavorable for doing agricultural work
15. Other_____
98. Refuse to answer

Q39. Do the HH members (any of the members) currently have any employment/job (including farming, self-employed)?

Yes (**Ask Q40**) No (**Ask Q41**)

Q40. Please indicate the HH member's field of employment or self-employment
Read the options. Accept several answers.

1. Work in state or local government bodies
2. Education sector (school, kindergarten, vocational institution, university)
3. Healthcare sector (doctor, nurse)
4. Art and cultural sphere (music, painting)
5. High tech sphere
6. Field of science
7. Military forces
8. Construction sector
9. Service sector (hotels, restaurants, beauty salon, taxi, others)
10. Trade sector (supermarkets, shops)
11. Financial-banking sector
12. Craftsmanship (welder, lathe, jeweler, carver/stone maker, carpenter)
13. Other_____

Go to Q42

Q41. What do you/your HH members need to earn income?
DO NOT READ THE OPTIONS, ACCEPT SEVERAL ANSWERS

1. Training / course
2. 2. Information about programs implemented for Artsakh residents
3. Farm animals for livestock farming
4. Land for growing crops (farming)
5. A greenhouse
6. Arrangement of documents for employment in the state system
7. *Nothing is needed (e.g. elderly/s living alone)*
8. Other_____

Q42. Which of the following types of support have you received in the past 30 days?
Read the options. Accept several answers.

1. Cash assistance (including voucher and food assistance card)

2. In kind food
3. Hygiene kit
4. Clothing
5. Medicine
6. Blanket
7. Heater
8. Fuel
9. Construction materials and tools
10. Professional assistance
11. Agricultural assets
12. No assistance was received (**DO NOT READ**)
13. Other _____
99. Difficult to answer.

6.3 Glossary of Terms

Coping strategy	Relieve the impact on households of shocks that they are unable to protect themselves against, through mitigation or prevention, due to lack of assets, access to instruments or the magnitude of the shock. They include social assistance or welfare programmes as well as relief operations in response to natural disasters or civil disturbances. These measures prevent troughs in income profiles that would reduce levels of well-being below accepted thresholds (OECD, 2007).
Food consumption score (FCS) Indicator	The score was calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the seven days before the survey. The standard thresholds are poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption (WFP, 2015).
Food Consumption Score Nutritional Analysis (FSC-N)	Consumption of nutrient-rich groups by the HH and which are essential for nutritional health and well-being: protein, iron and vitamin A (WFP, 2015).
Family Living Standards Enhancement Benefit Program (FLSEBP)	This refers to two types of cash transfers; the Family Benefit (cash transfer provided to vulnerable families with children under 18) and the Social Benefit (cash transfer provided to vulnerable families without children under 18). Both benefits form part of the Family Living Standards Enhancement Benefit Program.
Food security	Food security exists when all people, always, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability. The nutritional dimension is integral to the concept of food security (FAO, 2009).
Heme iron	Dietary iron is found in two forms, heme and non-heme iron. Heme iron, which is present mainly in meat, poultry and fish, is well absorbed. Non-heme iron, which accounts for the majority of the iron in plants, is less well absorbed. More than 95 percent of functional iron in the human body is in the form of the heme (Hooda, Shah and Zhang, 2014).

Iron Deficiency Anemia	Iron-deficiency anemia is a common type of anemia that occurs if you do not have enough iron in your body. People with mild or moderate iron-deficiency anemia may not have any signs or symptoms. More severe iron-deficiency anemia may cause fatigue or tiredness, shortness of breath, or chest pain (NHLB Institute). Iron deficiency impairs the cognitive development of children from infancy through to adolescence. It damages immune mechanisms, and is associated with increased morbidity rates (WHO, 2001)
Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) Indicator	An existing WFP corporate indicator is collected to understand the behaviors in which vulnerable households engage to meet their immediate food security needs in times of crisis or shock. It is designed to assess the extent to which households engage in such behaviors, but also considers the impact of these coping strategies on the household's livelihood: given that certain behaviors may affect longer-term productive ability, households' engaging in these will have a reduced capacity to cope when faced with future hardships. Households are categorized based on the severity (stress, crisis or emergency) of livelihood coping strategies employed (WFP, 2018).

World Food Programme

14 Petros Adamyan St, 0010, Yerevan, Armenia

Contact persons: Zaruhi Ohanjanyan, Programme Policy officer, zaruhi.ohanjanyan@wfp.org

Sona Avakimyan, Programme Policy assistant, sona.avakimyan@wfp.org

Photos: WFP Armenia

wfp.org/countries/armenia