



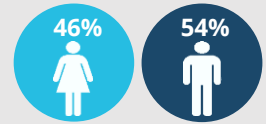
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief November 2024



In Numbers



1,499 people assisted
in November 2024

USD 10.8 m six months (December 2024 – May 2025)
net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Armenia, WFP supports the Government and partners in their efforts to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to implement the Government of Armenia’s development agenda.

Together with the Government, WFP contributes to human capital development, health promotion and sustainable economic growth to benefit the Armenian population.

Armenia is an upper-middle-income, landlocked, net food-importing country vulnerable to external shocks. Since its independence in 1991, the border closure with neighbouring Turkey and Azerbaijan has constrained the country’s economic development.

According to the latest National Statistical Service data, the poverty rate reached 24.8 percent in 2022. WFP’s sixth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment conducted in March 2024 revealed that 20 percent of households are food insecure. Through the adoption of its Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025), WFP’s interventions in Armenia support the strengthening of a shock-responsive social protection system; sustainable food systems and value chains; provision of evidence and analysis to support evidence-based policy and decision-making; strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction, preparedness and response capacities; enhancing and fully nationalising the School Feeding programme and, as needed, delivering emergency food assistance and supply chain service provision.

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

Population: **2.97 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Operational Updates

- **WFP has launched the "Socio-Economic Integration of Refugees in Armenia" (SEIRA) project**, in cooperation with the Armenian Non-governmental Organization, Strategic Development Agency (SDA). The project will be implemented over the coming three years to improve the livelihoods and resilience of refugees and vulnerable host communities, while promoting their socio-economic integration. WFP will ensure that refugee and local populations have access to healthy diets, utilizing nutritious and safe home-grown food produced through sustainable agricultural practices. Around 700 smallholder farmers will strengthen their climate-smart agricultural capacities and another 150 smallholder farmers will receive climate-adaptive agricultural inputs. Ten schools will receive solar stations and establish “Revolving Funds”. Ten local bakeries will receive assets and equipment to improve their operational capacity for whole grain production.
- As part of the tripartite cooperation framework signed between WFP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Armenia’s Ministry of Economy (MoE), **WFP is providing technical assistance to MoE to implement and institutionalize WFP’s “Revolving Fund” community development model**. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of ten communities, enhance their energy security, and create a source of economic regeneration. During November, WFP developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the community and household targeting process, which will be used by the MoE Project Implementation Team (PIT) to select participating communities and households.
- **WFP, in collaboration with the Eurasian Development Bank and Yeremyan Projects (a dairy-producing company), launched the “Milk to Schools” initiative** to promote healthy dietary habits and improve growth, learning, and overall health of schoolchildren. In November, a total of 1,009 schoolchildren from grades five to nine, across nine schools in Lori province (seven schools) and Yerevan (two schools), received a daily cup of milk, which will be provided on each school day throughout the 2024-2025 academic year.

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Photo Caption: Schoolchildren enjoying their daily cup of milk as part of the “Milk in schools” project.
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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
84 m	47 m
2024 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2024- May 2025)
14.1 m	10.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable populations in Armenia, including schoolchildren, have access to adequate and nutritious food year-round.
Focus area: *Root Causes*

- Activities:**
- Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government.

Strategic Outcome 4: Vulnerable populations in Armenia have access to basic needs and livelihoods during and in the aftermath of a crisis.
Focus area: *Crisis Response*

- Activities:**
- Support to Government and partners to identify and provide food assistance to vulnerable populations.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement SDGs

Strategic Outcome 2: National policies, programmes and systems are strengthened to improve food security and nutrition among targeted groups by 2024.
Focus area: *Root Causes*

- Activities:**
- Provide technical support to national institutions to generate an evidence base and inform policies, strategies, and systems to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Armenia.
 - Strengthen national food systems in Armenia, supporting actors along the food value chain.
 - Provide support to national institutions to strengthen the national social protection system.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable populations benefit from improved capacities of national entities and partners to prevent and respond to emergencies.
Focus area: *Crisis response*

- Activities:**
- Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners.

- Under the Transformative School Feeding project, WFP supported five schools in Syunik province with school-based agricultural initiatives** to enhance educational opportunities and generate additional income to sustain the provision of nutritious hot meals. Two greenhouses, two berry gardens, and one orchard are now operational in the five schools. To reduce maintenance costs, WFP also supported the installation of five solar stations (180 kilowatts total capacity). In November, WFP, in

cooperation with its partners, provided 15 training sessions on intensive gardening, to 450 schoolchildren, parents, and school staff.

- In November, **WFP also conducted Financial Literacy Training-of-Trainers (ToT) sessions for 20 social workers** in Shirak and Syunik provinces. These sessions aim to enhance social workers' financial literacy skills, empowering them to integrate financial education into their community support strategies and foster economic well-being among vulnerable households.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Crisis Management State Academy, conducted a two-day regional workshop on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP)** in the Gegharkunik, Syunik, Shirak, and Ararat provinces. The workshops involved 20 participants, including representatives from the Unified Social Service (USS) social workers, community social workers, regional authorities, local self-government representatives, and NGOs. These workshops were designed to enhance social protection response capabilities during shocks and to test the establishment of triage centers for emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP's November Market Price Bulletin highlights that the nationwide Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 0.6 percent and the Food Price Inflation (FPI) decreased by 0.5 percent in October 2024, compared with October 2023. The highest annual price drop was detected among the "vegetables" (7.8 percent), "oils and fats" (1.8 percent) and "meat" (1 percent) product groups. The highest annual price increase was observed in the fruits (5.1 percent). CPI rates were the highest in Syunik (2.4 percent), Vayots Dzor (2 percent) Kotayk and Ararat (1.4 percent equally). FPI rates were higher in Shirak (1.3 percent) Vayots Dzor (1.1 percent) and Syunik (1 percent).
- In November, WFP completed the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of food card cash assistance to approximately 364 refugee households (1,458 individuals) residing in the Ijevan, Berd, and Noyemberyan communities in Tavush province. Key findings from the PDM indicated that **all respondents had an acceptable food consumption score**. Nevertheless, about 35 percent of respondents adopted coping strategies to ensure adequate food consumption, with 46 percent using stress coping strategies and 19 percent using crisis coping strategies. **Thanks to WFP assistance, many respondents were able to reduce negative coping mechanisms and meet other needs such as health and education expenses.**

Donors

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