



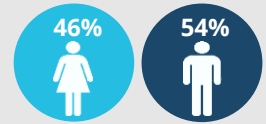
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief January 2025



In Numbers



860 people assisted
in January 2025

9 bakeries received renovation materials

USD 2.9 m six months (February – July 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 December 2024, WFP undertook its sixth budget revision to the CSP (2019-2025), aimed at scaling up the “Milk to School” project by adding milk as a commodity under Activity 1 (school feeding). As a result, schoolchildren will receive a cup of milk every day they attend school.

WFP is working on integrating refugees (115,000 refugees arrived in Armenia in September 2023) in livelihood development activities and initiatives. By the request and close coordination with the Government, WFP assisted them with emergency food and cash to address the urgent food 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 is promoting the use of wholegrain wheat bread as part of the National School Feeding programme and in local markets** by strengthening the capacities of wholegrain value chain actors, specifically targeting bakeries and schools. In January, nine bakeries (seven in Lori, one in Kotayk, and one in Armavir) received renovation materials from WFP. From February onward, WFP will provide these bakeries with necessary baking equipment and solar stations, while continuing to build the capacity through training sessions for bakery staff, school staff, students, and parents in wholegrain bread production. This initiative was initially piloted in Armavir and Kotayk provinces and was scaled up in Lori province in 2025. As a result, over 17,500 schoolchildren will receive wholegrain bread as part of their daily school meals in Lori province, this includes 7,500 schoolchildren who have been consuming wholegrain bread in Lori province starting from 2022.
- **As part of the “Socio-Economic Integration of Refugees in Armenia” (SEIRA) project, WFP developed Standard Operating Procedures for the selection of schools, smallholder farmers, and bakeries by WFP.** The project started in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor provinces, covering the communities of Gavar, Vardenis, Chambarak, and Jermuk. Implementation will expand to Syunik province, covering Sisian and Goris, by the end of 2025. During the reporting period, WFP selected the schools that will receive solar stations to establish revolving funds. The selection process for farmers and bakeries is ongoing. Farmers will receive climate-adaptive agricultural inputs and training to establish backyard berry gardens, thereby improving their livelihoods and creating income-generating opportunities. Bakeries will receive assets and equipment to enhance their operational capacity for wholegrain production.
- To enhance resilience and improve food security in the Nerkin Hand community, **WFP supported the establishment of a community-based revolving fund and assisted ten smallholder farmers with the installation of modular greenhouses.** As part of this initiative, participant farmers received training on the establishment and maintenance of modular greenhouses and sustainable agricultural practices.

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Photo Caption: A delegation from the Regional Bureau in Cairo (RBC), led by Deputy Regional Director Irving Prado, visited WFP project sites and engaged with schoolchildren as part of the National School Feeding Programme.
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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
85 m	48 m
2025 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February-July 2025)
13.2 m	2.9 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.

- In January, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Yerevan State Medical University to collaborate within the framework of the “Milk to Schools” project, which aims to promote healthy dietary habits among schoolchildren. WFP is assessing the project through an experimental study designed to collect data on students' height, weight, concentration, memory, academic performance, and attendance. In addition, WFP will support students by offering consultations about the project and will provide access to project data. In January, a baseline survey, conducted among 1,000 schoolchildren revealed that a significant number of schoolchildren experience hunger throughout the school day: 9 percent start the day hungry, 10 percent eat by the first break, and 49 percent by lunch. Half of the surveyed schoolchildren feel positively about the milk. In January after the season’s holidays, as part of the “Milk to Schools” project, 850 schoolchildren from grades five to nine across nine schools in Lori province and Yerevan received a daily cup of milk.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP’s January Market Price Bulletin highlights that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 1.5 percent and the Food Price Inflation (FPI) was 2.0 percent in December 2024. Both indicators registered an increase compared with December 2023. The highest annual price drop was detected among the products included in “milk, cheese and eggs” (2.6 percent) and “meat” (0.9 percent). The highest annual price increase was seen in “vegetables” (9.7 percent), “oils and fats” (9.7 percent), “fish and seafood” (6.7 percent). CPI and FPI rates were the highest in Shirak (2.9 and 3.1 percents), Syunik (2.9 and 2.5 percent), and Kotayk (2.6 and 3.7 percent).
- As part of WFP Armenia’s new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) formulation process, a delegation from WFP’s Regional Bureau in Cairo and Headquarters visited Armenia, meeting with representatives from the Government, UN agencies, and WFP Armenia staff, including field visits. A three-day workshop was held with WFP team to draft the strategic directions and objectives of the new CSP, including the Theory of Change. The workshop led to the development of a draft line of sight which outlines the main pillars, focus areas and activities. WFP worked carefully to ensure alignment with Government priorities and the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Armenia, currently under formulation.
- In January, WFP finalized the Gender and Age Marker (GAM) monitoring for 2024. All strategic outcomes received a full score of 4, indicating that gender and age outputs/activities were systematically integrated in all WFP operations. During the planning and implementation of activities, WFP ensured equal participation and access to support for boys and girls, as well as women and men.

Donors

Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, 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, USAID/BHA.