



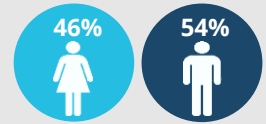
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief February 2025



In Numbers



1,546 people assisted in February 2025

USD 6,300 transferred to beneficiaries (as part of the new e-wallet initiative)

USD 2.8 m six months (March – August 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. The border closure with Turkey and Azerbaijan since its independence in 1991 has limited economic development.

The latest National Statistical Service data indicates that the poverty rate was 24.8 percent in 2022. WFP's sixth Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment, conducted in March 2024, indicated that 20 percent of households experience food insecurity. 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 revised its CSP (2019-2025), aimed at scaling up the "Milk to School" initiative. 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

- In February, WFP, in coordination with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), initiated a pilot cash-for-food emergency assistance for refugees and local households to support their food needs. Sixty-two refugees received cash transferred to their e-wallets to buy food. The pilot leverages existing digital infrastructure to develop accessible and innovative mechanisms to deliver cash assistance more rapidly to vulnerable populations in Armenia. The e-wallet for food pilot will expand in March, targeting 200 vulnerable local households.
- WFP is co-financing a cooperative-based logistics hub in Tavush, covering 55 percent of the funding with the community contributing 45 percent. This hub is designed to improve local fruit, berry, and vegetable value chains, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and generate new economic opportunities for smallholder farmers. It will facilitate the collection, sorting, storage, and processing of fruits, vegetables, and berries, ensuring they remain fresh or are processed into frozen or dried products for market distribution. The center will support around 30,000 smallholder farmers and 250 medium-sized farms. WFP provides implementation support, agricultural inputs (including machinery, equipment, and production lines), non-food items for construction activities, and capacity-building for stakeholders.
- In February, nine bakeries (seven in Lori, one in Armavir and one in Kotayk provinces) were renovated as part of the Wholegrain Value Chain activities. This initiative involved roof repairs by bakeries to facilitate the installation of solar stations, with each bakery set to receive a 20 kWt capacity solar station. Solar stations will lower operational costs and improve the bakeries' market competitiveness, particularly for wholegrain wheat products. The bakeries provide 30 percent co-financing to be included in the whole grain value chain.

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Photo Caption: Promoting milk consumption among Lori province schoolchildren through interactive training and co-creation events in the "Milk to Schools" initiative.
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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) (March-August 2025)
13.2 m	2.8 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.

- As part of the “Milk to Schools” initiative, in February, 1,190 schoolchildren from grades five to nine across nine schools in Lori Province and Yerevan received a daily cup of milk along with wholegrain cookies.
- To encourage behavior change among schoolchildren who did not initially drink milk, WFP conducted interactive training sessions and co-creation events at three schools in Lori province. With the participation of 294 schoolchildren, these sessions aimed to shift attitudes by educating students on the health benefits of milk and wholegrain products. Wholegrain cookies were introduced to encourage milk consumption. During these co-creation events, students prepared milk-based desserts and breakfast items, to promote milk consumption. As a result, many schoolchildren expressed a willingness to include milk in their daily diet.

Meanwhile, WFP completed the data collection for the project’s mid-term assessment. This assessment included inquiries regarding preferences for milk and snacking habits among 400 schoolchildren from one school in Yerevan and two schools in Lori.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP’s February Market Price Bulletin highlights that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 1.7 percent, and the Food Price Inflation (FPI) was 2.5 percent in January 2025. Both indicators rose from January 2023. The highest annual price increase was detected among products included in “vegetables” (13 percent), “oils and fats” (12 percent) and “fish and seafood” (11 percent) categories.

Annual price dropped by 3.5 percent for “milk, cheese and eggs” and by 1.5 percent for “meat”.

CPI rates were higher in Shirak (3 percent), Ararat (2.8 percent) and Syunik (2.6 percent). FPI rates were the highest in Shirak (4.5 percent), Syunik (3 percent), Kotayk (2.9 percent), Vayots Dzor (2.9 percent) and Ararat (2.9 percent).

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.