



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Armenia Country Brief March 2025

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, complemented with wholegrain cookies.

WFP is working on integrating refugees (115,000 refugees arrived in Armenia in September 2023) in livelihood development activities and initiatives. In response to the request and close coordination with the Government, WFP provided emergency food aid and cash assistance to address the urgent nutritional needs of refugees.

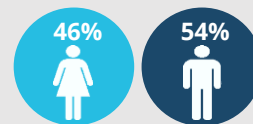
Population: **2.97 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers



2,680 people assisted
in March 2025

USD 3.3 m six months (April – September 2025) net
funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP completed a needs assessment for more than 100 farmers and bakery owners as part of the "Green Energy for Productive Farming" initiative in Armenia. This involved five settlements in Gegharkunik and 19 bakeries from Tavush, Lori, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik. Bakery operators attended workshops on business development, marketing, pricing strategies, financial management, food safety regulations, online banking, taxes, and expense tracking. Farmers gained hands-on skills in sustainable farming, market access, financial planning, and funding opportunities.
- Throughout March, preparations progressed for the Healthy Lifestyle Campaign, a collaborative initiative involving WFP, the Ministry of Health, the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF). The campaign is slated to be implemented in 50 schools to educate 1,500 students on adopting healthier lifestyles. The agenda for student sessions has been finalized to promote healthy habits. Coordination with regional authorities aligned plans and secured local support. The campaign is scheduled to start in April 2025, involving students in interactive educational sessions, followed by regional events in the fall.
- In March, 1,328 schoolchildren received a daily cup of milk along with wholegrain cookies. A March monitoring mission noted continued progress in the "Milk to Schools" initiative. The milk distribution is running smoothly and student participation has increased from 47 percent to 54 percent since the integration of wholegrain cookies in February. Wholegrain cookies, introduced to complement the milk and promote healthy nutrition, were well received, highlighting opportunities for bakery partnerships to enhance quality. Interactive training sessions and co-creation events in four schools in Lori engaged students, especially those with lower participation or consumption rates, using fun activities, monitoring visits, and excursions to Yeremyan Farm. These initiatives are designed to deepen students' understanding of nutrition, promote healthier habits, and ensure the program's long-term impact.

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Photo Caption: Training for farmers and bakers under the "Green Energy for Productive Farming" project.

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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) (April-September 2025)
13.2 m	3.3 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 t from improved capacities of national entities and partners to prevent and respond to emergencies. Focus area: Crisis response	
Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide on-demand service provision to the Government and other partners. 	

Donors

Armenia, Republic of Bulgaria, European Civil Protection, Government of Japan, 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.

- In March, with WFP’s technical assistance, the project implementation team (PIT) under the Ministry of Economy of Armenia launched the "Climate-Adaptive Food Security Enhancement" project. The initiative is funded by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific (JFPR) and administered by Asian Development Bank (ADB). Representatives from WFP and PIT visited Tavush and Shirak provinces to introduce the project to local authorities and officially announced the opening of the application process for rural settlements interested to participate. A tailored application form was developed to collect multi-faceted data from interested rural settlements in both regions. Based on predefined selection criteria, the data will be used to select ten rural settlements — five from each province.
- WFP, in partnership with Swiss Development Agency (SDA), advanced the “Social Economic Integration of Refugees in Armenia” (SEIRA) project to contribute to inclusive economic growth in Armenia. As part of the project, the farmer selection process was refined, with 75 local and refugee farmers from Gegharkunik and 15 from Vayots Dzor. These farmers will be provided with the necessary resources and training to engage in climate-resilient agricultural practices, contributing to improved livelihoods. Additionally, six schools serving more than 1,000 students were selected for the school-based revolving fund initiative. Six 40 kWt-solar stations have been procured for installation in these schools, ensuring energy savings to be directed to diversify and enhance the nutritional value of school meals.
- Within the "Stop Hunger" initiative, installation of school-based intensive orchards is ongoing in Gusanagyugh, Maralik, Qaraberd, Panik communities of Shirak Provinces. Four schools across the same communities have now been equipped with solar stations. This initiative is advancing sustainable agriculture and renewable energy solutions in local schools.

Monitoring and Assessments

WFP’s Market Price Bulletin for March highlighted that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.5 percent, and the Food Price Inflation (FPI) was 4.5 percent in February 2025. The annual prices of the selected food groups in February 2025, as compared to February 2024, were as follows:

The highest annual inflation (%):

Fruit 6.1 %	Sugar, jam honey 3.7%	Bread and cereals 1.9%
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Moderate annual inflation (%):

Vegetables 20.4 %	Fish and seafood 16.2 %	Oils and fats 13 %
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Annual food deflation (%):

Milk, cheese and eggs -3.6%	Meat -0.6%
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The regions with the highest CPIs were (%):

Shirak , 3,7	Kotayk, 3,5	Ararat, 3,3	Syunik, 3
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Food prices peaked in these regions (%):

Shirak, 6,3	Kotayk, 5,7	Yerevan, 4,9	Vayots Dzor and Syunik , 4,7
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