

WFP Armenia Country Brief May 2025

In Numbers



1,874 people assisted
In May 2025

USD 1.8 m six months (June – November 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 (CSP 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) to expand 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) into livelihood development activities and initiatives. At the request of and in close coordination with the Government, WFP assisted the refugees with emergency food and cash to meet the urgent food needs during the emergency response period.

Population: **3.0762 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

- As part of the *Healthy Lifestyle Campaign*, WFP conducted healthy food trainings in 30 schools in Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor, Lori, Tavush and Syunik regions, reaching 660 children. In May, **370** students joined co-creation sessions on healthy recipe preparation, gaining practical skills in meal planning. These activities aimed to promote healthy eating habits and empower children to make informed food choices. The trainings were carried out jointly with the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention of the Ministry of Health and Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), emphasizing a collaborative approach to childhood nutrition.
- In May, WFP accelerated implementation of the "*Capacity Strengthening of Water Users Associations (WUA) of Armenia*" project, which consists of six training modules on engineering, legal, institutional, accounting, human resources, and procurement. These modules were delivered in collaboration with National Polytechnic University of Armenia (NPUA). Trainings commenced in late April and continued through May at NPUA facilities, each module lasting 5 to 6 days with total participation of **125** employees. Field visits and practical sessions took place in 15 WUA water points.
- WFP continued daily milk and wholegrain cookie distribution to schoolchildren in nine schools of Lori region and Yerevan as part of the "Milk to Schools" project". To address lactose intolerance concerns, non-invasive breath tests were conducted selectively for 76 students. Additionally, in May, an educational puppet show "The Power of Milk" was staged in all nine schools, engaging **1,089** children. The interactive performances promoted the nutritional benefits of milk and were attended by WFP management team, partners, as well as local athletes, all encouraging healthy diet and habits.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2025)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
85 m	75 m
2025 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June-November 2025)
13.2 m	1.8 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: <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 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 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.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP carried out joint field missions in the Lori and Tavush regions, as well as in Yerevan, to gather endline data for *evaluating the “Milk to Schools” project*. Approximately 1,000 students (725 from intervention schools and 314 from control schools) completed questionnaires that measured changes in their milk consumption and snacking habits. Additionally, 105 schoolchildren in three schools participated in the experimental component, which gathered anthropometric, cognitive, and academic data to evaluate health and learning outcomes
- The *Wholegrain Value Chain* project in Tavush region was assessed throughout the May period to measure early impact in nine schools (four rural, five urban). Around, 300 schoolchildren in 3–4 grades completed questionnaires on wholegrain integration into school menus, eating habits, nutrition, dietary behaviour, etc. Interviews with school staff and cooks, along with on-site observations, captured implementation progress and integration of wholegrain bread in school meals quality. Data collection will continue in June to guide future plans for any potential expansion.
- WFP conducted a *Diet Quality Assessment* among 586 schoolchildren from 5 to 9 grades in Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor regions within the “Socio-Economic Integration of Refugees in Armenia” (SEIRA) project. The study revealed that 38 percent of the interviewed schoolchildren did not meet the diet diversity criteria. Boys were more likely to meet diet diversity than girls (65percent compared to 59 percent).
- More schoolchildren in rural areas met minimum dietary diversity compared to those in urban areas, with 66 percent meeting the criteria compared to 55 percent in urban areas. Approximately 61 percent of schoolchildren reported consuming salty food, 88 percent indicated they ate sweet food, and 90 percent mentioned consuming sweet beverages on the day prior to the interview. Among the schoolchildren interviewed, 97 percent reported a regular consumption of vegetables and fruit.
- WFP’s *May Market Price Bulletin* highlights that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.2 percent, and the Food Price Inflation was 5.2 percent in April 2025. Report highlights include:

Highest price increase (%):

Fish and seafood 20.1%	Vegetables 17.9%	Oils and fats 12.5%
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Moderate inflation (%):

Fruit 7.9%	Sugar, jam, honey 5.7%	Bread and cereals 2%
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The highest CPI (%):

Shirak 4.6%	Ararat 3.9%	Kotayk 3.8%
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Food prices peaked in (%):

Shirak 7.5%	Kotayk 6.5%	Yerevan 5.7%
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