



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief May 2019

In Numbers

56,053 people assisted
in May 2019



180 mt of food assistance distributed

56,419 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 m six months (June–November 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Armenia is an upper-middle income, landlocked, net food-importer 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 29.4 percent in 2016.

WFP has been in Armenia since 1993. Initially an emergency operation, WFP's work has since evolved into development assistance after 2000. WFP is currently operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from January 2018 to June 2019.

The results of the National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition shaped WFP Armenia's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024. The CSP was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and has been submitted for final approval. The CSP will leverage the longstanding School Feeding Programme to promote an inclusive, innovative and transformative model to strengthen national capacities and systems, including nutrition. It will also explore approaches and systems for greater impact.

Operational Updates

- The recipe book used for WFP's School Feeding Programme in Armenia, and which was developed together with the Ministry of Education, community members and families, will be awarded with an international prize in Macau, China on 03-07 July. WFP Armenia will receive a special prize at the awarding ceremony of the Gourmand Awards, labelled by many as the "Oscars for Food". During the international Book Fair at the Gourmand Awards, WFP Armenia will be able to share with hundreds of international stakeholders its programmes, particularly the school feeding programme, which aim to tackle and eradicate hunger in Armenia.
- On 06-10 May, WFP Armenia welcomed two missions from WFP's Innovation Accelerator in Munich and from its Headquarters in Rome. The first mission aimed to identify current opportunities to deploy hydroponics solutions as a key component of effective nutrition-sensitive food value chains and transformative school feeding programmes. The second mission was composed of WFP Smallholder Agricultural Market Support experts who researched and suggested solutions to establish food value chains in the country. These will foster local and national production, processing and marketing of nutritionally diversified, healthy food to be made increasingly available to the Armenian population.
- On 31 May, WFP Armenia and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia set grounds for cooperation and joint implementation of programmes aimed at tackling food insecurity and malnutrition while reducing poverty rates in Armenia. The parties agreed that the cooperation and partnership will result in tangible changes in these areas in the nearest future.

Population: **2.97 million**

2017 Human Development Index: 0.755
(positioning it at **83 out of 189 countries**)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **9% of children between 0 and 59 months**

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Photo Caption: Ms. Jelena Milosevic, WFP Representative and Country Director in Armenia at the meeting with the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia

WFP's Ultimate Goal in Armenia is Safe, High Quality, Nutritious Food Accessible and Affordable to Everyone

WFP is launching a pilot project in Bred, Tavush area, where the food insecurity level is above national average reaching 22.6 percent.

Smallholder farmers in Bred, one of the bordering areas in Tavush, face challenges everyday: poor agricultural machinery, use of old cultivation technologies and methods, inefficient water management systems, poor or inexistent aggregation capacity, difficulties to access financial services, high exposure to climatic shocks.

Farmers in this area are now part of a pilot project implemented by WFP and its partners. The project will promote sustainable agriculture and practices aimed at establishing food value chains to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition, and create sustainable income-generating opportunities.

"Everyone in the community is excited about this project. We are sure that the project will help us get twice as much income from the land we have while learning new and innovative technologies. This initiative will also help in using non-cultivated land, which makes the most of the land in our community. We are very excited and we'll readily join the efforts for the successful implementation of this great initiative", says Armine Avagyan, a local farmer.

WFP Armenia will engage partners to create a farmers' association in the community to grow high-quality and market competitive crops. WFP Armenia will also provide technical support on cultivation, crop protection, harvesting, new processing methods, and strategies to minimize post-harvest loss and to boost marketing and sales. With WFP's support, the community will also benefit from a collection center that will be complemented with green innovative technologies, separate warehouses and production facilities, processing and packaging machineries. Together with local farmers, community members and partners, WFP will also support strengthening the linkages with retailers to ensure farmers have larger access to markets. The ultimate goal is to ensure high quality, safe and nutritious food to be made increasingly accessible and at more affordable prices, to everyone.

Donors

Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (January 2018 - June 2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
8.2 m	7.9 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June–November 2019)
6.2 m*	0*

* Includes requirements for Jan-June 2019 (under TICSP) and July-December 2019 (under CSP).

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Provide and facilitate technical, policy and institutional support to the Government

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Conduct school meals activities (in-kind and cash-based transfer) to targeted schools and children

Partnerships

- In May, WFP Armenia extensively worked to broaden its partnership base with new and historical partners alike. The planned roll-out of small-scale pilots in the fields of Food Value Chains, nutrition, social protection and school feeding aim to establish new contacts with national line ministries, international Governments' representatives, international financial institutions, and implementing partners such as the Ministry of Nature Protection, the embassies of the People's Republic of China and Japan in Armenia, the World Bank, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, among many others. These meetings resulted in the fruitful exchanges of ideas and represented the first step for possible future areas of collaboration in the country.
- WFP Armenia has been locally engaging with partners to inform and discuss with them the forthcoming five-year Country Strategic Plan, which will be presented by WFP Armenia Country Director and Representative Jelena Milosevic to WFP Executive Board Members in Rome, Italy on 11 June. The engagements that have taken place over the last months have been pivotal in designing a new phase that will let WFP Armenia take a step further and transform the school feeding programme into a vehicle to invest in human capital. The adoption of new interventions in the field of nutrition, social protection, food value chains and disaster risk reduction will support WFP and its partners' efforts in eradicating food insecurity and malnutrition in the country.