



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Armenia Country Brief June 2019

Operational Context

With the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2019-2024, WFP Armenia embraced a new phase of programme implementation with innovative interventions and new delivery modalities in the areas of nutrition, social protection, food value chains and disaster risk reduction. The new programmes will continue contributing to the efforts to end hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030. To ensure sustainable and equitable impact, WFP programmes are inclusive and gender-transformative to empower women in key areas, ensure education for all, have a climate-sensitive design and improve the sustainable management of natural resources. WFP Armenia will continue nurturing its continuous and efficient partnership with the Government of Armenia, national and international partners, and involve stakeholders from the whole of society for a maximized and greater impact.

WFP has been in Armenia since 1993, initially to provide emergency support. Since 2000, WFP has shifted to development assistance and under the CSP focuses on enabling, supporting and strengthening an environment for the government to provide solutions for increased food and nutrition security.

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.

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**

In Numbers

55,078 school children assisted during the 2018-2019 academic year due to school holidays



489 schools in five provinces

0 school children assisted in June due to school holidays

Operational Updates

- The 2019 – 2024 Country Strategy Plan (CSP) for WFP Armenia was approved by WFP's Executive Board on 11 June. The CSP, which was developed in close consultation and collaboration with the Government of Armenia, national and international partners, aims to continue tackling hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The strategic orientation of the CSP was based on findings and recommendations of the National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Armenia (NSR). The NSR was carried out in 2018 under the stewardship of the Government with technical assistance from WFP Armenia.
- With the CSP, WFP Armenia will further advance the School Feeding Programme as an impetus to promote sustainable agriculture, food quality and standards, a diversified nutrition, accessible food as well as green energy solutions. To implement this vision, WFP will provide schools with greenhouses, solar panels, bakeries and other facilities allowing them to grow and produce food that can be used to further diversify school menus. These efforts will be complemented through prototype projects that include farmers and communities, to create the necessary linkages that will support the production, processing, marketing and sale of nutritionally diversified, healthy food, making it increasingly available and accessible to everyone.
- In order to further improve Armenia's nutritional situation, nutrition-sensitive interventions are to strengthen the government's capacities to generate nationwide data to develop evidence-based policies, improve dietary habits through social behaviour change activities and nutrition education to jointly tackle the root causes of malnutrition.
- WFP Armenia successfully concluded the School Feeding Programme (SFP) for the academic year 2018-2019 in May. Through the programme, WFP provided hot nutritious meals to over 55,000 primary school children, helping promote their education and learning, improve their cognitive abilities, as well as their nutrition, acting as a safety-net for them and their families.

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Photo Caption: Ms. Jelena Milosevic, WFP Representative and Country Director in Armenia at the WFP Executive Board meeting. ©WFP

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

Review of the academic year 2018-2019 completed in May:

- ✓ **64 new schools** joined WFP SFP, increasing the number of supported schools to **489 in five provinces**;
- ✓ WFP provided hot meals to **55,078 primary school** children every day of the school year;
- ✓ **7,370 kitchen staff** and their household members benefitted from take-home rations consisting of wheat flour, sunflower oil and split peas;
- ✓ WFP distributed **2,292 MT** of food and approx. **63.5 million AMD** in cash to schools for the provision of daily meals;
- ✓ Kitchens and cafeterias in **70 schools** in Aragatsotn province were rehabilitated with construction materials provided by WFP;
- ✓ Currently, rehabilitation activities are taking place in **21 schools in Aragatsotn** province and additional **64 schools** in Syunik and Ararat provinces;
- ✓ WFP provided kitchen equipment to **108 schools** in Aragatsotn, Shirak, Tavush, Kotayk and Armavir provinces.
- ✓ **1005 pre-schoolers in 50 schools** in Shirak, Lori and Gegharkunik provinces received complementary school snacks from October 2018 to May 2019 within the framework of a pilot project complementing the School Feeding Programme. The pilot aims to provide evidence that will be analysed through an impact evaluation to inform the potential role of school snacks in supporting the learning of preschool-aged children.

Partnerships

WFP Armenia launched its [@WFPArmenia](#) twitter account which will inform a global audience with the latest information on what WFP Armenia does to achieve Zero Hunger, how it assists people and changes lives in the country, as well as interesting data and facts on food security, healthy nutrition, malnutrition, sustainable agriculture and food value chains.

Musaler School Joins WFP School Feeding Programme

Musaler community in Armavir province has a school that lacked basic kitchen and canteen facilities and could not provide its students with school meals. Consequently the school's administration was eager to join WFP's School Feeding Programme. The school principal, Mrs. Naira Svaryan, decided to mobilize all possible resources to ensure sure the school obtained all the required facilities to join the programme, allowing the school to start providing daily nutritious meals to the school children.

Mrs. Svaryan engaged the local community head, Mr. Edgar Hovhannisyanyan, as well as representatives of the province and central government authorities. Thanks to these efforts, the school managed to raise funds for the reconstruction of the kitchen and canteen. WFP stepped in to provide the equipment required to run the kitchen. To build up the momentum of the project, Mr. Hovhannisyanyan, the head of the community, donated kitchen and cafeteria furniture.

As a result of efficient cooperation and resource mobilization efforts between the school administration, local and provincial government bodies, as well as the World Food Programme in Armenia, a school that once was in a state of despair now has a fully renovated kitchen and cafeteria, a breakroom for the cooks, toilets, showers, and extra storage space – all in line with best standards. With the support of WFP, Musaler school can now provide daily nutritious hot meals to 130 primary school students starting from September 2019.

The success of Musaler school exemplifies the power of community mobilization to jointly solve problems for the benefit of the children and the community at large. Every day, WFP and its partners work hard to bring us closer to a zero hunger world.

Since 2010, the World Food Programme and the Government of Armenia, with financial support from the Russian Federation, have been jointly implementing the School Feeding Programme to ensure that 100,000 primary school children in Armenian provinces receive hot meals in schools every day for improved health and better learning.

The value and the results of the programme are seen as exemplary within and beyond the borders of the country, thanks to the successes achieved so far. The School Feeding Programme is truly integrated in the life of children, their families, communities and the country. It is a vehicle for global change nurtured and advanced through a partnership approach with all school children, their parents, school headmasters, communities, local administrations and ministries.

Donors Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security