



In Numbers

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



489 schools in five provinces

0 school children assisted in August due to school holidays

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 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 operative in Armenia since 1993. Initially as an emergency support provider, in 2010 the organisation shifted towards a development-led type of assistance. With the newly adopted five-year CSP, WFP's endeavour will focus on enabling, supporting and strengthening the government's capacities to provide solutions aimed at increasing food and nutrition security.

Armenia is an upper-middle income, landlocked, net food-importer country vulnerable to external shocks. It is ranked among the 60 most disaster-prone countries in the world. 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

Operational Updates

- Adequate funding levels are critical to sustain programmatic activities and prepare for enhancing work related to improving nutrition, social behaviour change, food systems and disaster preparedness. Without assurances of additional funds, WFP Armenia activities will be halted in September.
- The various ministries continue the internal re-organisations and are formulating sector visions and strategies with the end of the summer recess. Throughout September and October, the Armenian Government plans consultations on sector visions and draft strategies, aiming to finalise these in May 2020. WFP has been actively engaged in providing inputs to the agricultural strategy incorporating food and nutrition security, nutrition sensitive food systems and food value chains, as key elements in the agricultural strategy. WFP is also a main partner for the development of the education strategy, placing school feeding as a key element in promoting access to education, investing in the learners, providing social safety nets and investing in human capital development. The country office has also been partnering with the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues contributing to the development of Gender and Employment Strategies, as well as the Human Rights Strategy. The country office is awaiting further consultations from other sectors.
- UN agencies in Armenia are continuously preparing the Contingency Plan and Cluster Response Plans for two scenarios: (i) earthquake and (ii) armed conflict. WFP Armenia has requested to merge the Food Security and Nutrition Clusters into one. UNICEF Armenia has agreed, while FAO Armenia is awaiting final feedback from its Headquarters.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 (CSP) (July 2019 - June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
27.9 m	2.0 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2019 – March 2020)
6.2 m	0.8 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

Activity 1:

- Strengthen and complement the national school feeding programme to facilitate handover to the Government

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

Activity 2:

- 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

Partnerships

- Over the last months, WFP Armenia has worked closely with the Embassy of the Republic of Italy in Armenia to identify a series of events centred around increasing awareness on the importance of addressing food security and access to nutrition. This fostered an additional partnership with Armenian Caritas focusing on inclusiveness of disabled children. The joint campaign “Changing Lives, Nurturing Opportunities” successfully contributed to raising the topic on the public agenda. As a first step the campaign gave the children an opportunity to meet the Italian and Armenian national football teams as part of the UEFA qualification match and will continue with other initiatives in the months to come.

Armenian Children among the Winners of WFP Children Design Competition 2019

WFP Armenia is happy to share great news! Mher Mayilyan is one of the winners of WFP Children Design Competition 2019 and David Gaboyan has received a Special Mention.



‘What is healthy food and diet for you?’ This is the question children have been expressively addressing through art by participating in WFP Children Design Competition.

WFP invites children from around the world that benefit from the school meal programmes to participate in the competition that takes place every year.

David Gaboyan is 7 years old. He goes to Karnut community secondary school in Shirak province and plays sports. He lives in a big family, where everyone gives importance to healthy food.

“I am so happy to participate and receive a Special Mention in the Competition. I wanted all children to know how healthy food can help to learn better and have better achievements at school”, says David.

This year, 20 winning artworks were selected from 11 countries. The winning artists will be awarded a Children's Design Competition certificate and will receive \$100. To that, the children's schools will also receive \$200 for stationery and art supplies.

Donors

Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, WFP 2030 Funds