



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Armenia Country Brief December 2018

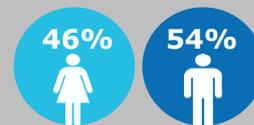
## In Numbers

145 mt of food assistance distributed

0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 m six months (February–July 2019) net funding requirements

52,403 people assisted in December 2018



## Operational Context

Armenia is an upper-middle income, landlocked, net food-importer country, and is 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 present in Armenia since 1993. Initially an emergency operation, WFP's work has evolved into development assistance since 2000. WFP is operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from January until December 2018.

The results of the ongoing National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition will shape WFP Armenia's five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The CSP (2019-2023) will leverage its current core programme towards an inclusive, innovative, and transformative model to strengthen national capacities and systems, including nutrition. It will also explore pilot approaches and systems for greater impact.



Population: 2.97 million

2018 Human Development Index: 83 out of 188

Income Level: Lower middle

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

## Operational Updates

- WFP has recorded several achievements in 2018 aimed at changing the lives of people it assists in Armenia. One major accomplishment was the successful transfer of management and implementation of the School Feeding Programme in Shirak province. The transfer was efficiently implemented with the Government of Armenia, strategic and implementing partners, communities, school children and their families. The second accomplishment was the successful launch of preparation activities for the smooth transfer of the Aragatsotn province School Feeding Programme to the Government in September 2019 as per preliminary agreed plan. To that end, WFP and its partners have been implementing targeted activities since early 2018:
- To enhance the conditions for meal provision, WFP provided construction materials to 70 schools for renovations of kitchens and cafeterias. Provision of kitchen equipment to 87 schools is in process. These schools were targeted based on the results of the assessment conducted in 2018.
- WFP and the Sustainable School Feeding Foundation organized trainings for the headmasters and kitchen staff of 90 schools in the province. The training for the headmasters included topics on food safety and nutritional composition of the menus, monitoring and reporting, financial procedures, procurement, and logistics. The kitchen staff was equipped with skills and knowledge on menu composition, food safety. Practical sessions were also held.
- Additionally, WFP representatives held consultations with the headmasters of all 87 schools for the implementation of the cash-based transfers (CBT modality) in 2019. Starting on 15 January, the schools in the Programme will receive 120 AMD (0.25 USD) per child per day to organise procurement locally, replacing the current six food commodities provided by WFP.
- WFP conducted a retailer assessment in the province to ensure that the schools have available produce for local procurement and to select a bank where the schools will be able to open accounts for money transfers by WFP.

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## A Story from the Field: School Meals and Golf – a joint journey towards healthy lifestyle

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

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (February-July 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>8.2 m</b>	<b>7.9 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

Yet another step forward in changing the lives of the people WFP serves in Armenia is promoting a healthy lifestyle at schools. Knowing more about a healthy lifestyle, smiling, learning, exercising, and playing golf is the approach we at WFP Armenia used jointly with the Armenian National Golf Association.

#### 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



## Monitoring

Recapping the results of the activities implemented by WFP serving people in Armenia in 2018:

- 68,500 primary school children, kitchen staff and their household members in 623 schools of six provinces of Armenia, accounting for over 80% of all schools in these provinces, benefitted from the School Feeding Programme.
- As per the preliminarily agreed-upon plan with the Government of Armenia that aimed at full nationalisation of the School Feeding Programme, the implementation and management of the Programme in Shirak province was successfully transferred to the Government of Armenia in September 2018.
- WFP distributed 1745 metric tons of food: Wheat flour, rice, pasta, vegetable oil, buckwheat, and yellow split peas.
- 336,569 USD was transferred to 143 schools in Shirak province from January to May 2018 under the cash-based transfer modality. With this modality in place, the schools purchased 20 food commodities instead of the previous 6 provided by WFP from 47 local suppliers in Shirak province, thus boosting community development and local production.
- 12 of 20 commodities purchased through WFP cash-based transfers in Shirak province were produced locally.
- WFP provided construction materials to 152 schools in Shirak and Aragatsotn provinces to improve their kitchen, cafeteria and storage conditions.
- 184 schools received kitchen equipment.

"We are proud to see school children smiling; Enjoying new activities we implement to complement the healthy school meals. We see the positive change these new endeavours bring to children's learning and lives, and this makes us especially happy", says Vladimir Malkhasyan, a WFP Armenia Monitoring Assistant.



Currently, WFP Armenia provides hot and nutritious meals to 60,000 primary school children in five of Armenia's ten provinces on 180 days of the school year, thus providing meals to over 85% of the primary school children in those provinces.

"I am so happy with the School Meals Programme because I know that my son eats nutritious food at school which makes him more energetic and alert for classes", the mother of Arman, 7, says.

## Donors

- Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation