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 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

- WFP Armenia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Fund for Armenian Relief and a selected group of smallholder farmers jointly launched a pilot project and established sustainable nutrition-sensitive food value chains in the Berd community of Tavush province. The pilot project will boost the farmers production and facilitate much needed linkages with the markets. In the initial stage, the pilot project will start with providing farmers with seeds and machinery to be used during the cultivating season starting in late April.

- WFP Armenia will receive a mission from WFP’s Innovation Accelerator Munich during 15-19 April. The mission will analyse the potential to establish hydroponics irrigation systems as an innovative technology to improve productivity and best usage of natural resources such as water and soils. Hydroponics is an integral part of WFP Armenia’s strategic vision to establish effective nutrition-sensitive food value chains in support of smallholder farmers. The missions will identify current opportunities to deploy hydroponics for vegetable production in urban and rural communities, and assess the conditions and needs that hydroponics can address in Armenia.

- WFP and the Government of Armenia have been successfully implementing the nationalisation of the School Feeding Programme according to the mutually agreed plan. The Government is currently managing the implementation of the Programme in five out of ten Armenian provinces: Syunik, Shirak, Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Ararat. WFP is managing and implementing school feeding in the other five Armenian provinces: Aragatsotn, Armatir, Gegharkunik, Kotayk and Lori. Presently, WFP focuses its efforts and investments to enhance school infrastructure, in all ten provinces to advancing the provision of hot meals in all ten provinces of Armenia.

In Numbers

- 55,078 people assisted in March 2019
- 135 mt of food assistance distributed
- 24,082 cash-based transfers made
- US$ 0 m six months (April–September 2019) net funding requirements

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

Contact info: Hripsime Ohanyan (Hripsime.Ohanyan@wfp.org)
Representative and Country Director: Jelena Milosevic
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/armenia

Photo Caption: Healthy Nutrition Week Award for children in Diorama
WFP Armenia
WFP Armenia Country Brief
March 2019

With an official ceremony that brought together primary school children, their parents, teachers and representatives of the Government, UN agencies, and international and national organizations.

The International School Meals Day is a unique campaign to raise awareness on good nutrition for children, regardless of their circumstances. In marking the occasion this year, Armenia put the emphasis on the nutritional value of school meals and the connection between healthy eating, education and better learning.

“We’re here today to celebrate our efforts to eradicate food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty in Armenia,” said WFP Representatives and Country Director in Armenia Jelena Milosevic. “This is an opportunity for us to stress the connection between healthy eating and education, and how school meals can play a role in ending hunger and poverty through education.”

The event has helped promote a healthy diet and lifestyle in schools through interactive performances, games, talks and competitions.

“The schools we work with have become a unique platform and vibrant social hubs that promote inclusiveness, healthy lifestyle, nutrition and resilience, and contribute to improved health, education, social protection and productivity in Armenia,” said Ms. Milosevic.

Donors

- Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation