

## EMERGENCY OPERATION ARMENIA 200558

<b>Emergency food assistance to displaced population of Syrian Armenians</b>	
Number of beneficiaries	<b>5,000</b>
Duration of project	<b>1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013 (6 months)</b>
WFP food tonnage	<b>490</b>
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	<b>434,360</b>
Total cost to WFP	<b>531,279</b>

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ongoing fighting between Government forces and opposition groups in the Syrian Arab Republic has forced Syrians of ethnic Armenian origin to leave their homes in Aleppo and Damascus. According to the Armenian Government, as of mid-2013 some 8,000 Syrian Armenians had fled to Armenia from the violence in Syria.

The situation for the majority of Armenian Syrians has deteriorated over time, as many were not able to find employment upon arrival in Armenia, and consequently, have depleted their assets. The Government and all stakeholders are engaged in an effort to provide both: (i) immediate support through relief and safety nets and (ii) assistance with the integration of the Syrian Armenian population into Armenian society.

This WFP emergency operation (EMOP) will provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian Armenians, further to the request from the Armenian Ministry of the Diaspora, the Government body tasked with the implementation and coordination of assistance to Syrian Armenians. The goal is to meet immediate food needs, while curbing the negative coping strategies of a population that sustained multiple shocks over the previous two years.

The objectives of this EMOP are aligned with WFP Strategic Objective 1 “Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies”, specifically to:

- maintain food security; and
- protect livelihoods and help prevent the depletion of assets.

This EMOP will cover six months of food assistance, from July to December 2013 and will provide immediate support to Syrian Armenians while the Government puts in place a strategy and programme for their sustainable integration.

Should the situation deteriorate further and the number of vulnerable Syrian Armenians in Armenia increase, the requirements and transfer modality will be reassessed and the budget adjusted in line with developments and needs.

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## **SITUATION ANALYSIS**

### **Context**

1. The Armenian Ministry of the Diaspora estimates that 8,000 Syrian Armenians have arrived in Armenia since May 2012. Most have obtained, or are in process of obtaining, Armenian citizenship or permanent residency as they consider Armenia to be their home country. Some 600 Syrian Armenians have filed refugee claims with the authorities. However, the vast majority of Syrian Armenians choose not to do so, as all persons of Armenian heritage can obtain citizenship upon arrival in the country, and the Government has made provisions to allow Syrian Armenians to obtain citizenship or permanent residency in an expedited manner.
2. The main challenge faced by Syrian Armenians is the lack of employment opportunities, which has resulted in the depletion of existing household assets and resources. Most Syrian Armenians are skilled workers and merchants who left behind small businesses in Syria. One of the main priorities of the Armenian Government is to ensure that these people will be absorbed into society and the labour market as promptly as possible.
3. While the situation in Syria remains unstable, Syrian Armenians continue to arrive in Armenia. According to the Ministry of the Diaspora, in April 2013 alone, 500 more Syrian Armenians arrived, while others are reported to be trying to do so. Among the new arrivals are Syrian Armenian families and individuals who had fled from Syria to Lebanon, but due to the situation there, subsequently moved on to Armenia. WFP will continue to closely monitor the vulnerability and needs of those arriving in the country.

### **The Food Security and Nutrition Situation**

4. Many Syrian Armenians were not in immediate need of assistance upon their arrival. However, the Rapid Needs Assessment conducted by WFP jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), World Vision and in collaboration with the Armenian Apostolic Church has shown an increasingly vulnerable Syrian Armenian population, as assets have been depleted over time.
5. Syrian Armenians report that, compared with Syria, the cost of living is much higher in Armenia. The protracted stay away from home and the lack of income-generating opportunities has meant that families have exhausted their savings and are now

resorting to negative coping strategies such as selling their assets and refraining from purchasing medication in order to have sufficient funds for food and rent.

6. Until the long-term solution of integrating Syrian Armenians into Armenian society and the work force is put in place by the Government, immediate interim support to the Syrian Armenian population will be needed. The Rapid Needs Assessment highlighted the need for food assistance to contribute to maintaining the food security status and preventing further depletion of assets of the Syrian Armenian population. According to the findings of the vulnerability assessment undertaken by the Ministry of the Diaspora, out of the 8,000 Syrian Armenians currently in the country 5,000 were considered to be vulnerable and in need of food assistance.
7. Other basic needs including housing, employment and health were also highlighted as critical by the assessment. Many Syrian Armenians are facing health issues, with respiratory diseases among the most common. Those with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease report they cannot afford their regular medication.
8. No updated nutrition data on Syrian Armenians is currently available. WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Institute of Human Nutrition of Columbia University are considering conducting a nutrition survey for Syrian Armenians to gain a better understanding of needs; part of a broader nutrition assessment set to take place over the next few months.
9. WFP will continue to closely monitor the situation and assess the food security and nutrition situation of Syrian Armenians. This will include assessing the nutrition risks which may arise, especially among children, should diets and feeding practices change substantially.

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## **POLICIES, CAPACITIES AND ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS**

### **Policies, Capacities and Actions of the Government and Coordination**

10. The Ministry of the Diaspora holds the overall responsibility for implementing and coordinating the response and providing assistance to Syrian Armenians. The Ministry has requested that WFP provide food assistance to 5,000 vulnerable Syrian Armenians, for a limited duration, while a long-term solution of integrating Armenian Syrians into life in Armenia is put in place. The Ministry of the Diaspora has supported the establishment of the Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues, a non-governmental organization (NGO) represented by Syrian Armenians. This NGO is actively helping address the needs and is facilitating the integration of Syrian Armenians. An inter-ministerial working group on Syrian Armenian issues has also been created to coordinate the response and guide the development and implementation of coping and integration strategies.

## **Social Safety Nets**

11. The Armenian Government has a cash transfer social safety net system that includes family benefits for the vulnerable and a social health care system, allowing the population to have free access to health care.
12. Syrian Armenians are able to obtain Armenian citizenship and subsequently have access to all of the Government's safety net programmes. Family benefits including care for pregnant and lactating women as well as child development and growth monitoring during the first five years of life are available at primary healthcare clinics.

## **Policies, Capacities and Actions of Other Major Actors**

13. The Armenia Round Table of the World Council of Churches (ART) provided food assistance to 2,000 Syrian Armenians for two months at the end of 2012 as well as to 2,500 Syrian Armenians during the months of April and May 2013. WFP will coordinate closely with ART to make sure that there is no duplication of beneficiaries in the food assistance interventions.
14. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided some 300 Syrian Armenians with winter clothing and footwear under a winterization scheme. UNHCR further provided 400 Syrian Armenians with household items and an additional 200 Syrian Armenians received medical treatment and medication. UNHCR also supported the Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues and the Syrian Armenian Primary school with office equipment and furniture.
15. UNHCR currently supports information and orientation sessions on small business development which are carried out by the Small and Medium Entrepreneurship Development National Centre of Armenia within the Ministry of Trade and Economy. At the same time, UNHCR is working with the State Employment Agency of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to establish vocational training projects and internship programmes as well as other skill-development activities.
16. The Armenian United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is exploring sustainable modalities of support to be provided to the Government for the medium and long term, including through job training and job creation activities for Syrian Armenians.

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## **OBJECTIVES OF WFP ASSISTANCE**

17. In line with WFP's strategic objective 1, Saving lives and protecting livelihoods in emergencies, the specific objectives of this EMOP are to:
  - maintain food security; and
  - protect livelihoods and help prevent the depletion of assets.

18. During the transitional period, while a long-term integration strategy is being put in place, the Government has requested WFP to provide a limited in time food-based intervention. Should the situation drastically deteriorate, the requirements and transfer modality would be reassessed.
19. The objectives of this EMOP are in accordance with the priorities identified in the assessment conducted by WFP and United Nations sister agencies, Government authorities and partners. The assistance is limited in time, and aimed at providing immediate assistance, while a long-term plan of integration of Armenian Syrians into Armenian society and the labour market is finalized and implemented by the Government.

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## **BENEFICIARIES AND TARGETING**

20. The Armenian Government, represented by the Ministry of the Diaspora, requested WFP to assist 5,000 vulnerable Syrian Armenian out of a total of 8,000 in the country, based on the overall availability of assets and their continuous depletion.
21. The Ministry’s vulnerability assessment, was carried out with the support of the Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues. The assessment was done through home visits, using a set of interview questions aimed at revealing immediate needs, including employment and food, as well as physical observations of the living conditions of the visited homes.
22. More than 50 percent of the displaced population is female as some male family members remained in Syria to protect properties.
23. The table below shows the number of people in need of food assistance.

<b>TABLE 1: BENEFICIARIES BY ACTIVITY</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Boys/Men</b>	<b>Girls/Women</b>	<b>Total</b>
Relief food distribution	2,000	3,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>

24. The situation of Syrian Armenians is challenging largely as a result of the limited job opportunities in Armenia. The main source of livelihood of the most vulnerable is low-paid casual work, when available. After an extended period in Armenia without regular employment, the most vulnerable Syrian Armenians have depleted their resources.
25. To cover basic needs and prevent further depletion of assets and consequent deterioration of the food security and nutritional status of Syrian Armenians, WFP

will distribute five types of food commodities, indicated during focus group discussions as preferred by Syrian Armenians. Starting from 1 July 2013, WFP will roll out relief food distributions of five food commodities which provide 2,077 kcal per day.

26. The wheat flour and vegetable oil used as part of the intervention are fortified.

<b>TABLE 2: FOOD RATION/ TRANSFER BY ACTIVITY</b> <i>(g/person/day)</i>	
	<b>Activity 1</b>
Wheat flour	400
Vegetable oil	35
Pulses	35
Rice	35
Pasta	35
Cash/voucher <i>(US\$/person/day)</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>
<b>Total kcal/day</b>	<b>2 077</b>
% kcal from protein	<b>11.8</b>
% kcal from fat	<b>18.3</b>
Number of feeding days	<b>180</b>

<b>TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS BY ACTIVITY</b> <i>(mt)</i>		
<b>Commodity Type</b>	<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Total</b> <i>(mt)</i>
Wheat flour	360	360
Vegetable oil	34	34
Pulses	32	32
Rice	32	32
Pasta	32	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>490</b>

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## **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

27. WFP will conduct distributions once a month from two distribution points in partnership with the Centre for the Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues and the Armenian Apostolic Church.
28. WFP will use the consolidated lists from earlier distributions by the Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues, the Armenian Apostolic Church and ART.

29. The Centre for the Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues will inform beneficiaries about the food distributions and locations.

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**PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

30. Monitoring will be undertaken using WFP’s internal monitoring capacity. Furthermore, WFP will train the Centre for Coordination of Syrian Armenian Issues in monitoring procedures.

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**HAND-OVER STRATEGY**

31. This operation is intended to be limited in time, while a long-term solution is being formulated by the Government. WFP will continue to closely monitor the situation of Syrian Armenians in Armenia, while helping strengthen the capacity of the Government and implementing partners.

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**RISK MANAGEMENT**

32. The main risk is an increased displacement of Syrian Armenians into Armenia which would strain the country’s capacity to respond. The UNCT is now elaborating a contingency plan in order to ensure readiness for this possible development.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

33. The Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer is requested to approve the proposed Emergency Operation (Armenia 200558) under the delegated authority of the Executive Director.

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**APPROVAL**

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Amir Abdulla  
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer  
Date: ... ..

## ANNEX I-A

<b>PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN</b>			
<b>Food</b>	<b>Quantity (mt)</b>	<b>Value (US\$)</b>	<b>Value (US\$)</b>
Cereals	424	315,960	
Pulses	32	36,800	
Oil and fats	34	81,600	
Mixed and blended food	-	-	
Others	-	-	
<b>Total food</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>434,360</b>	
Cash transfers			-
Voucher transfers			-
Total food, cash and voucher transfers			434,360
External transport			-
Landside transport, storage and handling			28,190
Other direct operational costs			31,006
Direct support costs (see Annex I-B)			2,966
Total WFP direct costs			<b>496,522</b>
Indirect support costs (7 percent)			34,757
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>			<b>531,279</b>



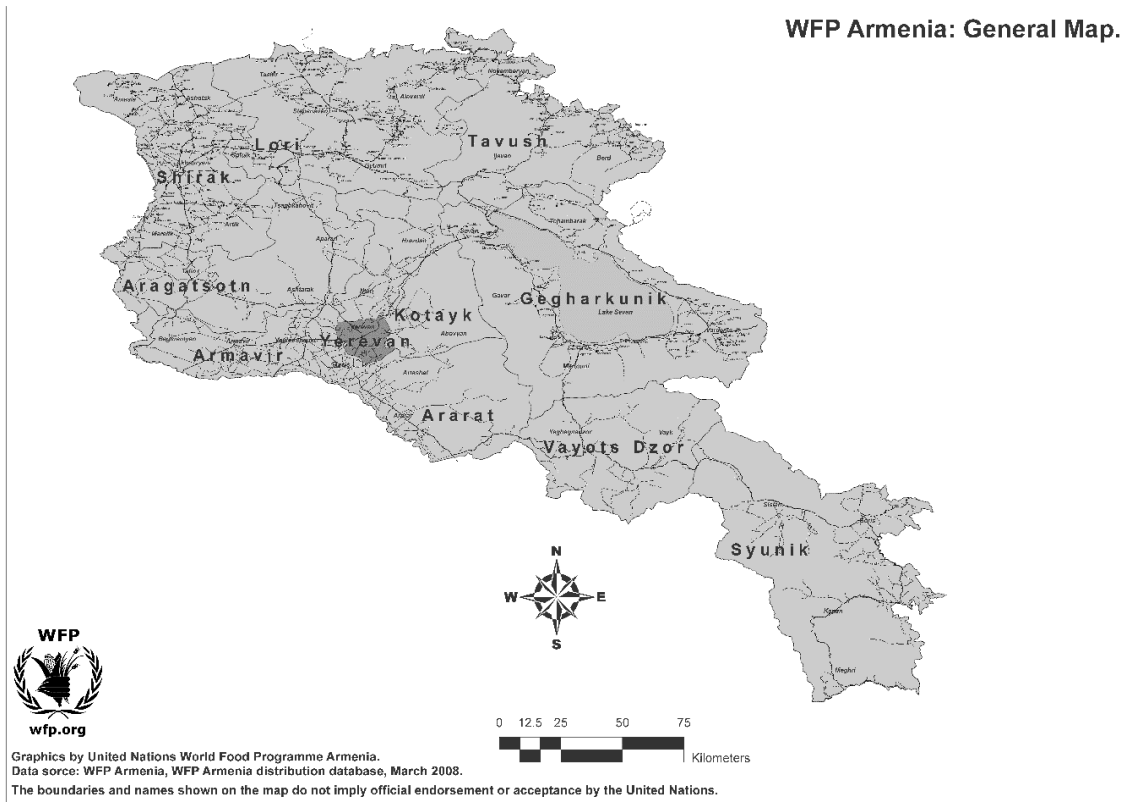
## ANNEX I-B

<b>DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)</b>	
<b>Staff and staff-related costs</b>	
International professional staff	-
International general service staff	-
Local staff - national officers	2,530
Local staff - general service	-
Local staff - temporary assistance	436
Local staff – overtime	-
Hazard pay and hardship allowance	-
International consultants	-
Local consultants	-
United Nations volunteers	-
Commercial consultancy services	-
Staff duty travel	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,966</b>
<b>Recurring expenses</b>	
Rental of facility	-
Utilities	-
Office supplies and other consumables	-
Communications services	-
Equipment repair and maintenance	-
Vehicle running costs and maintenance	-
Office set-up and repairs	-
United Nations organization services	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Equipment and capital costs</b>	
Vehicle leasing	-
Communications equipment	-
Local security costs	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>2,966</b>

**ANNEX II: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

<b>Results</b>	<b>Performance indicators</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Strategic Objective # 1. SAVE LIVES AND PROTECT LIVELIHOODS IN EMERGENCIES</b>		
<p><b>Outcome 1.1</b> <i>Improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted population groups</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Food Consumption Score exceeded the threshold for 80% of cases</i></li> </ul> <p>Target: <i>FCS exceeded 28 for target households</i></p>	<p><i>Timely food distribution, as planned; No delays in the pipeline</i></p>
<p><b>Output 1.1.1</b> <i>Food is distributed to targeted population groups in sufficient quantity and quality, under secure conditions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Tonnage of food distributed, by type, as % of planned distribution</i></li> <li><i>Number of women, men, girls and boys receiving food by category as % of planned</i></li> </ul> <p>Target: <i>no less than 90 % of the plan</i></p>	

MAP



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## **ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT**

ART	Armenia Round Table of the World Council of Churches
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund