



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED VULNERABLE GROUPS IN ARMENIA

March 2023

SDGs:



Country:

Armenia

Project Code:

TCP/ARM/3804

FAO Contribution:

USD 350 000

Duration:

22 January 2021-22 January 2023

Contact Info:

FAO Representation in Armenia
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Implementing Partners

Ministry of Economy of Republic of Armenia; local municipalities of Gegharkunik Province and Syunik *marzes* of Armenia; Strategic Development Agency (SDA) NGO.

Beneficiaries

Refugee-like population displaced during the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

FAO-Armenia CPF 2021-2025

Outcome 1 (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework [UNSDCF] Outcome 4), Output 1.1: Inclusive and sustainable local development enabled and promoted through development of nutrition sensitive and green agribusinesses and value chains leaving no one behind.

Strategic Objective 5, Outcome 5.4: Countries and regions affected by disasters and crises with impact on agriculture, food and nutrition prepare for, and manage effective responses.



BACKGROUND

Military escalation in 2020 across the Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) borders led to the displacement of around 90 000 people from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. A multisector needs assessment conducted in 2020 revealed that 68 percent of the arrivals from NK borders were in need of food assistance (61 000). Approximately 80 percent were accommodated and supported by the families hosting them, with these arrangements stretching the household resources of the hosting families and impacting their purchasing power. According to a December 2020 REACH multisector needs assessment, 31 percent of hosting households reported themselves as in need of food assistance, a much higher rate than the average rates of food insecurity across Armenia prior to the conflict (16 percent). Displaced households also needed support in establishing themselves and reinstating their food security, livelihoods and self-reliance.

Of a high priority was providing support in protecting the income-generating assets that people had relocated with, particularly livestock, to establish and maintain certain levels of resilience. According to the estimates, 12 000 and 55 000 cows and between 60 000 and 90 000 small ruminants had been moved to Armenia by displaced families. These families were facing difficulties feeding and grazing their animals during the winter season. According to experts, up to 80 percent of the transferred animals would be slaughtered if the displaced families were unable to provide feeding, shelter, and proper health care to their animals.

This emergency Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project was formulated to provide a rapid response to cover critical gaps in support to the Government of Armenia's interventions, through the provision of agricultural inputs (feed for animals, equipment and materials for building temporary shelter for displaced farming livestock, fertilizers and vegetable seed kits to restore and protect food availability and ensure income generation, etc.). The project included a capacity-building programme to increase public awareness and practical knowledge, better identify priority actions during emergency situations, as well as better usage of available resources, etc., to enable smoother and faster recovery from the crisis.

IMPACT

The project activities enabled the displaced population to maintain and enhance its food security and nutrition status. The project also contributed to creating decent self-employment and to generating income for the most vulnerable households. In addition, the beneficiary households were able to keep their livestock alive over the winter season. As a result of the project interventions, the number of head of cattle increased by 25-30 percent and the volume of milking by 20 percent.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project provided comprehensive support to the most vulnerable beneficiary households in two provinces of Armenia. This included the provision of live poultry and animal feed and a comprehensive training programme, as well as access to veterinary services.

The country team conducted a large-scale needs assessment survey to assess the food security and livelihoods situation of about 400 displaced and some host families in 42 rural settlements. Beneficiary households received combined feed for cattle for 90 days of two winter seasons, in order to keep their livestock during the winter season, as well as a limited income to maintain food security and nutritional status.

In total, 186 020 kg of combined feed for cattle were distributed to 99 beneficiary households during three distribution rounds.

In addition, 5 503 live chickens were provided to 275 of the most vulnerable households to enable beneficiaries to produce their own nutritious food. Dual-purpose Yerevanyan breed was chosen for distribution, so that beneficiaries could use the chickens for meat production or keep them in a flock for egg production. Beneficiary households received in total 96 380 kg of poultry feed through two rounds of distribution. The third round of distribution included 6 200 kg of poultry feed and covered only 17 newly displaced households. The project also initiated the procurement of three-month-old vaccinated poultry, feed, and basic material for housing, and supported the building and renovation of 11 coops.

The project designed a capacity-building programme tailored to the needs of the project beneficiaries. The training sessions, which were both theoretical and practical, covered topics on good animal husbandry practices, including feeding, housing, and animal health practices. Trainees' knowledge on the topics covered during the training was assessed before and after the sessions. The results of the post-training assessment showed that the majority of the participants had successfully acquired knowledge as a result of the training. In addition, training materials were designed for displaced families, who either had previous experience in livestock farming or were new in the field.

A service provider was contracted for the provision of veterinary services to beneficiaries, including treatment and preventive veterinary services, as well as artificial insemination for cattle. This output was not initially envisaged but proved to be an important intervention for improving breeding characteristics, as well as productivity of cattle farming.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

The TCP resources for this emergency project were provided in a timely manner, and the proposed modality of intervention enabled the efficient achievement of the project objectives. All the planned outputs and deliverables were achieved, with the exception of the horticulture activities. This was because an initial needs assessment revealed the lack of available land for the cultivation of crops, as well as the substantial mobility of the beneficiary population, making the implementation of such activities unfeasible.

The selection of the beneficiaries presented some challenges, as it was necessary to contact every community to receive the list of displaced people that had been settled. This led to some delay in the identification of the project beneficiaries. In addition, the implementation of the project coincided with the escalation of military conflicts on the borders of Armenia in the project target regions, as well as with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these constraints the project was implemented within the planned budget. Given the military situation around the target communities of the project, the FAO country team closely collaborated with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to ensure the safety of the personnel, and all the required safety procedures were duly followed.

The project team also implemented a Rapid Food Security and Livelihoods Needs Assessment among the conflict-affected and displaced rural population, qualifying the conditions in which the displaced population was accommodated and quantifying the needs and possible support interventions for the displaced families and host families. As the main activities related needs assessment and beneficiaries selection were conducted by the project team, this allowed for substantial savings in corresponding budget lines, which was later directed towards the provision of additional services to project beneficiaries (i.e. some veterinary services, including artificial insemination, which was not initially envisaged).

In August/September 2022, the deportation and resettlement of the Armenian population from the regions surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh led to an increased number of newly displaced people in the target communities of the project. Based on the needs assessment carried out by the project team on the newly displaced population a no-cost extension was requested, and approval was granted to provide assistance to the newly displaced households settled in Syunik *marz*.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

The Government is making efforts to support the population that were displaced from/around Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the 44-day war, including the provision of cash assistance, which has become one of the most important income sources for the majority of the displaced households. The continuation of the provision of such assistance and ensuring access to humanitarian aid is important, while the COVID-19 pandemic and continued military tension on the borders has severely affected the Armenian economy.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

The project built the capacities of 155 beneficiaries on good animal husbandry practices in cattle and poultry farming.

In terms of establishing partnerships that will contribute to the project's sustainability, the project worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); thus the project beneficiaries were also supported by the UNDP's interventions. In addition, the project partnered with the Strategic Development Agency (SDA) NGO, which provided the beneficiaries with veterinary services; and it was expected that the project beneficiaries would use the services provided by the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) upon completion of the project.

With regard to follow-up actions, the project team developed a concept note focusing on economic recovery and sustainable livelihoods of conflict-affected households.

2. Gender equality

Of the 391 beneficiary households, in 173 households women were the primary beneficiaries. These households rely on livestock to complement the nutrition of their families.

In addition, the project provided the opportunity for female beneficiaries to be engaged in decent work and subsistence farming, to provide a stable source of animal protein for their households. The proportion of female farmers who participated in the capacity-building programme was 52 percent.

3. Environmental sustainability

While the issues of environmental sustainability were not directly addressed, the project supported small-scale livestock farming, which is a sustainable way to produce nutritious and balanced food with a low environmental impact.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

For most of the beneficiaries, livestock is the only sustainable source of nutrition and balanced food, as well as a means of decent self-employment. The project contributed to fulfilling the rights of beneficiaries to access adequate and nutritious food at all times, and decent work.

5. Technological sustainability

The project successfully contributed to the development of local knowledge, capacity and resources through a series of training sessions for project beneficiaries on good animal husbandry practices in poultry and cattle farming. The sessions included both theoretical and hands-on training.

6. Economic sustainability

As mentioned above, the project partnered with the UNDP, thus the project beneficiaries received additional support from the United Nations agency.

With regard to the products and services developed/ provided by the project being affordable to beneficiaries and stakeholders, the displaced population is slowly adapting to the new realities of their current dwelling places. If there are no further escalations of military conflicts, beneficiaries will be able to procure animal feed for their livestock. The project provided emergency assistance to beneficiaries to help them keep their livestock alive over the most challenging newly displaced period.



DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ <https://hetq.am/hy/article/127607>
- ❑ <https://news.am/arm/news/629335.html>
- ❑ <https://echo.am/social/346206/>
- ❑ <https://m.shabat.am/am/article/248444/PGK-n-hratap-ognutyun-ktramadri-Hayastanum>
- ❑ <https://a1plus.am/hy/article/393677>
- ❑ <https://24news.am/news/153761>
- ❑ <https://www.auroraneews.am/news/2021-02-18-mak-y-hratap-ognutyun-ktramadri-lgh-paterazmits-tuzhatsnerin>
- ❑ <https://medialab.am/132347/>
- ❑ https://mineconomy.am/news/2199?fbclid=IwAR0ny58bP76kQKzAxAAqMMHwH7OCUypnC2DSSOqM5uk_KV1oMOuOT6i8Xfg
- ❑ <https://lratvakan.am/details/18841/am/>
- ❑ <https://lurer.com/?p=406874&l=am>
- ❑ <https://newarmenia.am/news/133104>
- ❑ <https://www.aravot.am/2021/02/18/1171952/>
- ❑ <https://armenia.un.org/en/125950-fao-supports-conflict-affected-people-armenia>
- ❑ <https://hetq.am/hy/article/132958>
- ❑ <https://b24.am/economy/282419.html>
- ❑ <https://www.aravot.am/2021/07/02/1202338/>
- ❑ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Aravot.daily/posts/854969305124473>



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- ❑ [InfoPort - եղիր տեղեկացված](#)
- ❑ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=577079917030392&id=103318734406515
- ❑ <https://shamshyan.com/hy/article/2021/07/02/1190536/>
- ❑ <https://nt.am/am/news/303176/>
- ❑ [Պարենի և գյուղատնտեսության կազմակերպությունն աջակցում է հակամարտությանից տուժած ընտանիքներին \(lurer.am\)](#)
- ❑ [ՄԱԿ-ի Պարենի և գյուղատնտեսության կազմակերպությունն աջակցում է ԼՂ հակամարտության հետևանքով տուժած ընտանիքներին խոցելի խմբերին | \(artsakhreports.am\)](#)
- ❑ <https://www.facebook.com/artsakhreports.am/posts/202343215226630>
- ❑ <https://freenews.am/post/5c9f1076e8e38df0e9edab85737354ce>
- ❑ The first public television station made a special broadcast; they visited two beneficiaries and interviewed the FAO Programme Manager. The programme is available online: [Տեղահանված արցախցիներին օգնություն ՄԱԿ-ից \(lurer.am\)](#)
- ❑ [Public TV](#)
- ❑ <https://news.am/arm/news/742278.html>
- ❑ <https://www.aravot.am/2023/01/31/1320653/>
- ❑ <https://www.lragir.am/2023/01/31/761990/>
- ❑ <https://b24.am/economy/349058.html>
- ❑ <https://nt.am/am/news/322518/>

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	Food security and resilience of displaced households is enhanced and maintained for the upcoming agricultural season and preparations completed for further support		
Outcome	Vulnerable household are able to keep their livestock alive over the winter season and generate limited income to maintain food security and FAO has developed an medium term support programme for sustainable livelihoods and food security		
	Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Change in size of agricultural production.– Change in value of agricultural production.– Data needed is collected.– Proposals for donor funding developed.	
	Baseline	0	
	End Target	Approx. 500 households/families affected by crisis.	
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	The implementation of the project coincided with a significant depreciation in the United States dollar and an increase in the cost of the main agricultural inputs. Given the funding limitations, and in order to cover the most vulnerable population as envisaged, it was agreed with national counterparts to apply eligibility criteria of having five head of cattle as a benchmark for the “cattle assistance package”, and for the poultry package the main eligibility criteria was not to have any agricultural assets (including livestock), and to be willing to do poultry farming. Considering the above-mentioned conditions, the project reached the most vulnerable 391 beneficiary households in two provinces of Armenia. As a result of the project intervention the size and value of agricultural production increased by about 25%. The project also collected the required data, which was shared with the United Nations counterparts to support their interventions. In addition, a concept note for donor funding was developed.	
Output 1	Livestock inputs including feed, medicine , and basic materials for husbandry are provided to selected vulnerable households		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Kg of feed provided (grain, pellet and hay/silage).– % of livestock population reduction.– % productivity of livestock.– Number of households receiving special kits that contain preventive and curative medicine.– Number of animals/eligible households receiving preventive and curative treatment by authorized people (vets/vet students or paravets).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– At least 85% of eligible household’s livestock meeting at least maintenance requirement per animal among eligible households.– No reduction.– No reduction or improvement.– Each eligible household receive a special kit that includes medicine for its animal based in needs to be defined during project implementation.– Eligible households animals receive required preventive or curative medicine to maintain health during the next five month.	Yes
	Baseline	0	
Comments	In total, 186 020 kg of combined feed for cattle were distributed to 99 beneficiary households during three distribution rounds. As a result of the project interventions, the number of head of cattle increased by 25-30% and the volume of milking by 20%. A service provider was contracted for the provision of veterinary services to beneficiaries, including treatment and preventive veterinary services, as well as artificial insemination for cattle, which was not initially envisaged but proved to be an important intervention for improving breeding characteristics as well as productivity of cattle farming.		
Activity 1.1	Developing eligibility criteria		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The country team conducted a large-scale needs assessment survey to assess the food security and livelihood situation of displaced and some host families in 42 rural settlements with the highest concentration of displaced population. Based on the results of the assessment and considering the availability of budget, the eligibility criteria of households to be covered by the project were developed and agreed with stakeholders.	

Activity 1.2	Conducting survey to identify families		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Following the identification of the target regions for the project, the project team contacted local municipalities, and requested them to provide the list of displaced families fitting the predefined eligibility criteria. The team conducted field visits on sites to validate the eligibility of the households to be included in the project and verify availability of agricultural assets, as well as conditions for livestock keeping.	
Activity 1.3	Conducting survey on feeding needs		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	A survey on feeding needs, particularly the availability of grazing areas, their quality, and an estimation of their carrying capacity was carried out to quantify the livestock needs, based on which the procurement action was initiated.	
Activity 1.4	Procurement of livestock inputs		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The procurement of combined feed for cattle was initiated, in line with FAO procedures, and based on the developed technical specifications cleared by the project lead technical officer (LTO).	
Activity 1.5	Inputs delivery		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The selected supplier of the combined feed was also responsible for the delivery to the beneficiaries' locations, based on the delivery plan agreed with the FAO Country Office. The project team, together with the representatives of local municipalities, conducted the monitoring of the distribution process.	
Output 2	Eligible families are provided with seeds , plants , basic green house material , and fertilizers to enable at least subsistence production of vegetables		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Number of eligible families receiving inputs.– Change in size of horticultural production.– Change in value of horticultural production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– At least 85% of eligible families receiving inputs.– No reduction.– No reduction or improvement.	Partially
Baseline	0		
Comments	Based on the results of inception assessments, Output 2 was only partially carried out, as, owing to the lack of available land for the displaced population and the significant mobility of the beneficiary population from one region to another, the full implementation of the output was unfeasible. Although the planned procurement and distribution of seeds and fertilizers was not carried out, the project team conducted a number of activities under this output. These included the assessment of the livelihoods of the displaced and hosting population, identification of the eligible families, crop and food security assessment, etc., the results of which were shared with the United Nations and state counterparts, and can also be used for the formulation of a new project.		
Activity 2.1	Development eligibility criteria		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The country team conducted a large-scale need assessment survey to assess the food security and livelihood situation of displaced and some host families in 42 rural settlements with the highest concentration of displaced population. Based on the results of the assessment and considering the availability of the budget eligibility, the criteria of households to be covered by the project were developed and agreed with stakeholders.	
Activity 2.2	Identifying eligible families		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Following the identification of the target regions for the project, the project team contacted local municipalities, requesting that they provide the list of displaced families fitting the predefined eligibility criteria. The team conducted field visits on sites to validate the eligibility of the households to be included in the project and verify the availability of agricultural assets, as well as conditions for livestock keeping.	

Output 3	Eligible families are provided with support on good livestock practices, including health, feeding and housing as well on vegetable growing the prudent use of fertilizers		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	– Number of eligible families receiving training. – Number of families receiving printed material.	– At least 85% of eligible families receiving training and printing material.	Yes
		– Number of dead animals is <5% of the total estimated livestock of eligible families.	Yes
– At least 60% of families able to produce by June 50 kg of vegetables.		No	
Baseline	0		
Comments	Printed information materials on feeding and animal husbandry practices were provided to each beneficiary household. Theoretical and hand-on training on best practices of poultry and cattle farming were organized for project beneficiaries.		
Activity 3.1	FFS on basics in animal husbandry		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The SDA NGO was contracted for the provision of the training programme on good animal husbandry practices for the project beneficiaries. The training was held in the format of discussions and active questions and answers. Considering that the evaluation score was important evidence of the effectiveness of the conducted training, pre-training and post-training questionnaires (tests) were developed for the targeted audience.	
Activity 3.2	FFS on growing vegetables		
	Achieved	No	
	Comments	Activities related to the horticulture component were dropped, as it was revealed during the inception phase that there was no available free land to be used by the displaced population; in addition, the displaced population was very mobile and tended to move from one location to another.	
Activity 3.3	Information material		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Training materials were designed for displaced families, who either had previous experience in livestock farming or were new in the field. For the target audience the course material was presented in both theoretical and practical form, so that the information would be more comprehensible and the acquired skills could be easily reinforced. All the training modules were reviewed and cleared by the project LTO.	
Output 4	Eligible families are provided with 3 month old vaccinated poultry, materials for basic housing and basic training		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
	Number of eligible families receiving poultry, poultry raising inputs and basic training.	At least 85% of eligible families receiving inputs.	Yes
Baseline	0		
Comments	The project team contacted the local municipalities to receive the list of displaced population settled in each community, after which they conducted field missions to assess the living conditions and verify the assets of households. Based on the findings of the missions, it was agreed to consider all displaced households that were settled in rural communities and who did not have any assets, were willing to do poultry farming and had coops, or had the possibility for the project to help them build/renovate coops, as the eligible beneficiary of the “poultry assistance package” of the project. 5 503 three-week-old vaccinated dual-purpose breed chickens were provided to 275 most vulnerable households (depending on the household size from 7-40 chickens) to enable beneficiaries to produce their own nutritious food. Beneficiary households received in total 96 380 kg of poultry feed through two rounds of distribution. The third round of distribution included 6 200 kg of poultry feed and covered only 17 newly displaced households. The project also supported the building and renovation of 11 coops.		
Activity 4.1	Developing criteria		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The country team conducted an in-depth assessment to assess the food security and livelihoods situation of displaced and some host families. Based on the results of the assessment, the eligibility criteria of households to be covered by the project were developed and agreed with stakeholders.	

Activity 4.2	Selection of project beneficiaries	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The project team conducted field visits on sites to validate the eligibility of the households to be included in the project and assess premises for coops, and to assess whether raising poultry was feasible in the short term.
Activity 4.3	Procurements of poultry and inputs	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	FAO Armenia initiated the procurement of 3-month-old vaccinated poultry, feed, and basic material for housing, as per FAO procurement regulations.
Activity 4.4	Delivery of poultry and inputs	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Selected suppliers were also responsible for the delivery of the poultry and inputs to the beneficiaries' locations, based on the delivery plan that was agreed with the project team. The project team, together with the representatives of local municipalities, conducted the monitoring of the distribution process.
Activity 4.5	Providing basic training on poultry raising	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The SDA NGO was contracted for the provision of training on good animal husbandry practices in poultry farming. Two hands-on training sessions (theoretical part in the classroom and practical part in the chicken house) were designed for each formed group. In total, eight training groups were formed and 16 training sessions were conducted. In addition, the project national livestock specialist provided ongoing technical assistance and coaching throughout the project.
Activity 4.6	Producing information leaflets	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	Information materials on good practices in raising backyard poultry were distributed to project beneficiaries.

Partnerships and Outreach

For more information, please contact: Reporting@fao.org

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