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# WFP To Delegate Powers To Armenian Government

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The UN World Food Program (WFP) will delegate powers to the RA Government before the end of 2008.

Head of the Program Department, WFP office in Armenia, Liana Kharatyan reported that the WFP has no wish nor can it stay in the countries that recorded high economic growth.

According to her, the indicators show that the country does not need this aid, and the Government is able to support the socially vulnerable sections of the population. Kharatyan reported that the WFP been working in Armenia since 1993. During this period, Armenia has received \$83mln humanitarian aid. She reported that aid was first provided to Armenian refugees and internally displaced people. The program was later expanded and involved socially vulnerable sections of the population.

Head of the Department for Coordination of Charity Programs Martin Mkhitarian said that Armenia was informed in advance that the UN WFP intended to terminate its projects in Armenia. In this connection, the RA Government assumes the responsibility for further assistance to socially vulnerable sections of the population.

In 2007, Armenia started elaborating a relevant strategy envisaging two ways of rendering further assistance: in-kind and financial aid, Mkhitarian said.

He pointed out that on January 1, 2007, the RA Government raised pensions, social allowances and lump-sum benefits.

He also pointed out that, after the RA Government takes over the WFP projects, the number of families receiving in-kind aid will be reduced.

"A total of 35,000 families currently receive in-kind aid, and from 2009 this figure will be reduced," Mkhitarian said.

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