



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP Tajikistan School Meals Recipe Book was named "Best in the World" at the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, held in Yantai, China, May 27-28.
- WFP Tajikistan and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).
- WFP Tajikistan held an event to celebrate School Meals Day at School No 1. in Rudaki District on May 4.
- WFP Tajikistan in partnership with Caritas Switzerland hosted a five-day visit of the Canadian Earth Group in Dushanbe and Muminabad on 13-17 May.

## WFP Assistance

Tajikistan Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200813 (Apr. 2016 – Dec.2020)	79.4 m	19.7 m (25%)	3 m (45%)

\*June- November 2017

GENDER MARKER **2A** CP 200813

**School Meals:** WFP’s school meals programme is an essential component of the Government of Tajikistan’s social safety net. It provides daily school meals to 370,000 students in 2,000 schools (over 54 percent of the total schools) in rural areas. The programme aims to assist vulnerable food insecure communities in rural areas. In May, the Programme’s School Meals Recipe Book was named “Best in the World” and won in the categories “Food Safety/Institutions” and “Special Award of the Jury” at the prestigious [Gourmand World Cookbook Awards](#) in China. The 202-page book is a collection of 127 traditional Tajik recipes, which are used by schools that participate in the WFP school meals programme. The Programme also conducted a School Meals Day Event which was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ambassadors and government counterparts. Additionally WFP CO hosted a working visit of [The Earth Group](#) (TEG) to highlight its achievements and ongoing activities. With the contribution of TEG, WFP will be able to provide more than 400 000 school meals across Tajikistan in 2017.

**Food Assistance for Assets:** Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes help meet immediate food needs of food insecure people while building community assets. Communities contribute to sustainable livelihoods by working on assets, using food, vouchers or cash transfers as incentive. As per the results of the tender procedure on conducting cash-based transfer as assistance modality, WFP selected a financial provider for 20 districts in southern and northern parts of the country. WFP plans to expand the initiative throughout the whole country and issue another tender in July.

**Climate Change Adaptation:** WFP supports global climate objectives to promote climate resilient development and reduce the risks induced by climate change. In June 2016, upon WFP accreditation as a

Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GFC) and the request of the Government, WFP initiated the process of preparing proposal for the GFC project. As a result of the National and District level consultations and assessments by several missions of Climate Change experts from WFP Headquarter and Regional Bureau, a concept note was elaborated and successfully reviewed by the GCF secretariat. Following this and successful cooperation with government counterparts, WFP in coordination with the Committee of Environmental Protection (CEP) designed a four year project on climate resilience of vulnerable and food insecure communities.

**Emergency Preparedness:** WFP supports Tajikistan’s emergency preparedness and response system, working with the government’s Committee for Emergency Situations and other relevant agencies. Based on its solid experience in this sector, WFP is an active member of the national Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team and contributes to achieving objectives of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. On May 8, WFP signed MoU with the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence to strengthen the bilateral cooperation, establish and advance the systems, modalities and procedures for knowledge and information sharing on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and to effectively manage response to natural disasters.

**Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition:** [Tajikistan has the worst nutrition indicators in Central Asia](#). Every year more than 5,000 children are enrolled in a WFP-supported supplementary feeding programme treating moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in selected Primary Health Care Centres.

## In Numbers

**715,000** people in need of food assistance

(Estimated number of the vulnerable rural population classified as in Crisis Phase according to IPC in 2016)

**370,773**  
People Assisted  
May 2017



Main Credit: WFP  
Photo Caption: School Meals Recipe Book (2017).



May 2017

WFP undertook the process of developing Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines and is working to scale up the prevention of chronic and acute malnutrition, contingent upon resources and funding. WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Nutrition Development Coordination Council, and advocates for nutritional goals throughout the framework of the Scale UP Nutrition (SUN) movement in country. In May WFP received a positive feedback from USAID on the submitted project proposal on Prevention and Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition and sent additional required documents for the review. The final results will be announced in June.

## Operational Updates

- WFP - in collaboration with Caritas Switzerland - is exploring opportunities for local purchases of food with the small farmers association.
- Several FFA project proposals have been submitted by the field offices and the most relevant ones have been pre-selected for final project development.
- Data for the last round of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) were collected in April-May, 2017, with the facilitation of UNICEF. FSMS Round 19 bulletin is expected to be published in June 2017. During the round, WFP Tajikistan improved the FSMS questionnaire to incorporate a more comprehensive gender perspective, following a consultation with VAM regional expert.

## Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan urgently requires USD 3 million to implement activities under the Country Programme, in order to provide assistance over the next six months, June - November 2017.
- WFP requires USD 8 million to support national School Meals programme for the next 12 months.
- WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response, which allows to support only 1,500 people over a period of two months. Given the warning of possible severe mudflows in the following months, WFP requires more funding to allocate to emergency response.
- The total project funding need is USD 79.4 million. With USD 19.7 million received, so far 25% of the project needs are funded.
- Due to funding limitations, school meals and FFA activities are operational with reduction in entitlements and coverage while the TB activity is put on hold. With the available resources, WFP was forced to reduce daily ration to children under the school meals programme, resulting in a lower macro- and micro-nutrient intake provided to children. Furthermore, without additional funding, WFP will not be able to provide timely assistance to moderate acute malnourished children under 5 as of October 2017.

## Country Background & Strategy



Tajikistan is a landlocked, lower-middle income, food deficit country with a population of approximately eight million, three quarters of whom live in rural areas. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous challenges to food security during the winter period.

The latest round of Food Security Monitoring System (December 2016) showed that Food Security in Tajikistan follows seasonal variation with higher percentage of food secure households in December and lower percentage in April/May. The prevalence of food insecure group (moderately and severely insecure households) remains relatively stable. In December 2016, 3 percent of the surveyed households were severely food insecure, while 19 percent were moderately food insecure. This is an improvement compared with May 2016, while it is about the same level as December 2015. The food insecurity prevalence was 33 percent for households headed by a woman, while it was 20 percent for household headed by a man. The results of the next FSMS report will be available in June 2017.

The country is the poorest in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with 47 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.33 a day and 17 percent subsisting on less than USD 0.85 a day.

The majority of the population spends between 70-80 percent of their income on food, despite this, around one fifth of the population is affected by food insecurity. According to findings of the 2016 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and FAO, Tajikistan tops malnutrition among the former Soviet republics. GHI indicates the stunting rate to be 26.8 percent and wasting rate to be 9.9 percent in Tajikistan (source: DHS, 2012).

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993.

Population: **8.35 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**129 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors

The Russian Federation, The Earth Group, [Japan Association for WFP](#) and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

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