



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief September 2018



Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, lower-middle income, food deficit country. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous food security challenges during the winter period. 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.

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993. Moving away from crisis assistance, WFP is focusing its strategy on supporting national social protection and safety nets; nutrition; and resilience building and disaster risk reduction.

WFP is currently operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) since January, and is in the process of preparing the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which is expected to be approved by mid-2019.



Population: **8.8 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **129 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

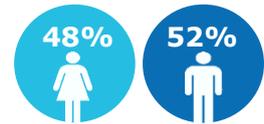
In Numbers

798 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3,120 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.7 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

414,568 people assisted
in September 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP conducted a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Design Workshop with the participation of all staff on 25-28 of September. The draft concept note of the five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024 will be presented at a high-level second consultation meeting on October 9. The CSP will support Tajikistan's efforts to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.
- The Food Assistance for Assets projects in eight districts of Sughd and Balkhi district of Khatlon region continue to be implemented as planned. The SCOPE/Conditional on Demand Assistance (CODA) implementation, an application to register and manage the assistance for children affected by acute malnutrition. for current and future Food Assistance for Assets projects with cash-based transfer (CBT) modality is planned for October 2018.
- The gender expert visited all four regions of Tajikistan and interviewed more than 250 people - women and men of different age groups for a gender analysis in the context of food security and nutrition. The findings will be incorporated in the development of the next Country Strategic Plan.
- WFP took part in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Structured Dialogue with Eastern Europe and Central Asia on 11-14 September. The Dialogue offered an important platform to facilitate exchanges of information, experiences, and challenges that need to be tackled to make progress on the sphere of climate change in the region.
- WFP in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization is taking preparatory steps for the celebration of the World Food Day 2018 to be held on October 16.

Contact info: Dilbar Ruzadorova (dilbar.ruzadorova@wfp.org)

Deputy Country Director: Mariko Kawabata

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (1 January 2018 – 30 June 2019)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Months Net Funding Requirements (October 2018– March 2019) (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 28.3 m | 18.5 m* | 0.7 m |

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Primary school children in targeted districts and people with special health needs meet their basic food requirements by 2021.

Focus area: School Meals

Activities:

- Implement the nutrition-sensitive school meals programme in food insecure areas and test novel approaches like home-grown school feeding. Meanwhile national authorities' capacity will be strengthened to take over and expand the current WFP-supported school meals programme into a sustainable, country-owned programme with educational, social protection and nutritional objectives.
- Provide food assistance to TB patients registered under the DOTS programme and their families in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to build capacity

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Children, pregnant and lactating women and girls in districts with high malnutrition rates have improved nutritional status in line with national standards by 2019.

Focus area: Nutrition

Activities:

- Treat moderate acute malnutrition for children 6-59 months in pilot districts while building Government capacity to address nutrition gaps.
- Implement Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) activities related to nutrition

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable communities in areas exposed to recurrent shocks increase their resilience by 2019.

Focus area: Food for Assets

Activities:

- Asset creation and livelihood activities to support resilience to natural and man-made shocks and stressors. (in kind, cash-based transfer)
- Assessment, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response activities to improve capacity and readiness of institutions and civil society.

Monitoring

- During September 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 192 project sites. 13 planned visits had to be cancelled due to the road rehabilitation works in the districts of Khatlon and Rasht valley.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of September. In all project areas, WFP has provided the

relevant WFP office phone numbers to its beneficiaries, as part of the feedback mechanism in place.

Challenges

- Due to funding constraints since 2012, WFP was forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Meals Programme. Every child receives only 61 percent of the planned entitlement, which is 120 g/day of mixed commodities instead of 198 g/day. This has resulted in a low macro and micro-nutrient intake provided to schoolchildren. In view of the continued forecasted shortfall, WFP has planned to continue to distribute the reduced ration at the beginning of the 2018/19 school year.
- WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which is sufficient to support 1,500 people over a period of two months. WFP urgently requires more funding to better prepare for a potentially larger emergency response.

Resourcing

- WFP Tajikistan requires an additional USD 4 million to implement its planned activities until February 2019. Specifically, USD 1.3 million is urgently required for 2018, to cover needs until end of the year, when the new Russian contribution allocated for 2019 will be available for utilization. The main priority for funding remains the School Meals Programme, the largest WFP activity in the country. Resources are required to ensure the continuation of the assistance to 395,000 people including children without interruption and with full ration entitlements. The other priority is the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) Resilience programmes implemented in areas with high level of food insecurity.

Donors

Russian Federation, Private Donors (the Earth Group, Japan Association for WFP); USA; UN Peacebuilding Fund, Green Climate Fund

Photo: WFP staff is posing a "Z" for Zero Hunger/@WFP Tajikistan/September 2018