



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

WFP Assistance

| Supporting Access to Education for Vulnerable Children DEV 200120 August 2010 – March 2016 | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | 59.6 m | 49.3 m (83%) | - |

*April – September 2016

WFP's school feeding programme complements government-owned social safety nets by providing daily school meals to over 370,000 school students in more than 2,000 schools (over 60 percent of the total schools) in rural areas. Since October 2015, WFP has supported activities to build the government's capacity; specifically, the financing and managing of the nationally-owned school feeding programme which aims to assist vulnerable food insecure communities in rural areas. This is achieved through WFP trainings to government officials, policy advice and technical support in developing relevant legislations, along with developing and piloting various cost effective models for providing school meals, such as school based fundraising activities and mechanisms to promote local production.

| Restoring Sustainable Livelihoods for Food-Insecure People PRRO 200122 October 2010 – March 2016 | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | 28.8 m | 12.4 m (43%) | - |

*April – September 2016

WFP launched this Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) to improve food access for food insecure people affected by natural disasters, high food prices and the global financial crisis. This is done through relief assistance, and recovery activities that focus on restoring and improving sustainable livelihoods. Food assistance for assets (FFA) projects improved livelihoods of communities by rehabilitating irrigation facilities that provided improved production for household consumption and for cash crops. Construction of bridges provided improved access to pastures, orchards, health services, markets and schools. By the end of 2015, FFA projects resulted in 33,500 m3 of check dams to protect arable land, the

Highlights

- In March, WFP assisted 375,445 people with food distributions which included wheat flour, oil, pluses and salt.
- The nutrition feeding programme was suspended in March due to shortages in Super Cereal Plus reserves. Approximately 1,000 people will not be reached due to a commodity pipeline break (to be resumed mid-July contingent on resources).
- Support for Tuberculosis (TB) patients has been put on hold due to funding shortfalls.
- Activities will be consolidated under the new Country Programme, which comes into effect in April 2016.

rehabilitation of 530 classrooms, reparation and constructions of 29 bridges and 265 water supply systems. Over 270,000 seedlings were also planted. A Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) has been established which provides a seasonal trend of food insecurity in rural Tajikistan by analysing data from 1,300 rural households across 13 livelihood zones. Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition is done through a nutritional support - Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme.

| Support for Tuberculosis Patients and their Families DEV 200173 January 2011 – March 2016 | Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | 6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)* |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | 12.6 m | 7.1 m (56%) | - |

*April – September 2016

WFP's TB project has been providing life-saving food assistance to TB patients and their family members since 2003. It initially started providing assistance to 1,000 TB patients in partnership with the NGO Project Hope. In 2014, Tajikistan reported to have the sixth highest rate of TB in Europe and Central Asia, with 12,000 infected persons according to the National TB Centre (NTBC) at the Ministry of Health. In 2015, WFP provided assistance to 13,310 male and 12,095 female individuals. The NTBC took over from WFP assistance to in-patients in January 2015 and will provide financial assistance to out-patients and their families by 2021. WFP finalised a study on the impact of food assistance on treatment adherence in March. The study found that food assistance to TB patients not only improves outpatient treatment, but also reduces side effects of TB drugs, improves nutritional status and potentially contributes to TB resistance.

In Numbers

660,000 people in need of food assistance

People Assisted
March 2016



March 2016

Main Photo

Caption: Women receive food in Rudaki district.
Credit: ©WFP/AnneMarie van den Berg

Operational Updates

Due to funding constraints, WFP's school feeding implementation will continue with reduced entitlements. Students currently receive 576 kcal per day instead of the planned 758 kcal for their school meal. This measure has prevented WFP from reaching the objectives under partnership agreements, though local partners are providing complementary food items. This reduction has also negatively affected WFP's relationship with the government.

In March, the treatment of moderate and acute malnutrition programme was not conducted due to a pipeline break. Similarly, the TB project has been suspended due to limited resources. The Global Fund has signed an agreement with the government to address TB prevalence. The principle recipient of the fund is NGO Project Hope, and WFP is negotiating with Project Hope on future collaboration. All scheduled FFA projects reached their planned outcomes.

Challenges

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts Tajikistan's [economic growth](#) to continue to be slow reaching 3.8 percent in 2016, as recession continues in the Russian Federation and demand remains weak from other main trade partners including China, Kazakhstan and Turkey. Approximately 135,000 Tajik migrant workers returned home as a result of strict immigration control in the Russian Federation, becoming most vulnerable to economic and food insecurity.
- Remittances, mostly from migrants working in the Russian Federation, account for approximately 43 percent of the Tajikistan Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the National Bank, remittances dropped by 32 percent in the first six months of 2015 and poverty rate reached 36 percent in rural areas. Being one of the most remittance dependent countries combined with depreciation of the Russian Ruble, the crisis decreased the volume and frequency of remittances, 80 percent of which are used by Tajik households to purchase food.

Partnerships

WFP Tajikistan is one of the recipient organizations for the UN's Peacebuilding and Support Office's Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development. The project aims to increase cooperation and trust between communities in pilot Tajik-Kyrgyz village clusters to mitigate cross-border tensions and violence. WFP cooperates with the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education. WFP partners with international NGOs including NGO Social Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI), community based organizations, local government and UN agencies.

Country Background & Strategy



Tajikistan is a landlocked, food deficit country. Three quarters of the population lives in rural areas. The mountainous landscape confines the arable area to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous challenges to food security during the winter period. According to the latest Tajikistan National Health Survey of 2012, 10 percent of children under five years are affected by acute malnutrition (wasting) and 26 percent from chronic malnutrition (stunting). The latest round of FSMS showed that despite improving food security in recent years, only 24 percent of Tajikistan's rural population is food secure, with the remaining 76 percent: marginally food secure (50 percent), moderately (22 percent) or severely (5 percent) food insecure. 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 yet around one fifth of the population is affected by food insecurity. According to findings of the 2015 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and FAO, Tajikistan has the highest rate of malnutrition among the former Soviet republics, with 33.2 percent of the population suffering from undernourishment.

Population: **8.4 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, multilateral donors, Japan, European Commission, Canada, and UN Common Funds and Agencies (excluding CERF).