



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief December 2018

## In Numbers

953 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 29,341 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 m six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements

417,451 people assisted  
in December 2018



## Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, low-income and food-deficit country. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just 7 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 per day and 17 percent subsisting on less than USD 0.85 per 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 has been operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) since January 2018, 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **127 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

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

## Operational Updates

- The Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Meals in Tajikistan conducted its regular session in mid-December, the agenda of which covered the following topics: (i) various models of sustainable development of school meals in the country, (ii) the progress of the draft Procedure of arranging school feeding at education institutions with further submission to the Government of Tajikistan; and (iii) implementation status of the School Meals Strategy 2027 during the reporting year.
- In December, WFP expanded Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects in two districts of Rasht valley and one district of Khatlon region to rehabilitate irrigation facilities. The projects will be implemented during the first half of 2019 and it is expected that some 18,000 people will benefit as a result of improved productivity of agricultural land.
- In the framework of UN joint programming "Cross-border cooperation for sustainable peace and development" funded by the Peace Building Fund (PBF), WFP initiated the process to prepare a Food Assistance for Training (FFT) project to support women agricultural business initiatives in two districts of Sughd region. The project aims to promote economic ties between Tajikistan-Kyrgyz cross-border communities, contributing to the peacebuilding efforts in the cross-border areas.
- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, conducted a four-day Children's Growth Monitoring training for 41 representatives (26 female and 15 male) of the Khatlon regional and district public health centres and WFP's focal points in Dusti district. The training was conducted to enhance the capacity of the regional and district health specialists on Prevention and Treatment of Malnutrition Project. Similar trainings were also conducted in Sughd region.

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

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (February – July 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>28.3 m</b>	<b>18.6 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

### 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:** *Root causes of food insecurity*

**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:** *Root causes in the context of long-term undernutrition*

**Activities:**

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

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

## Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan requires an additional USD 2 million to implement activities through food and cash modalities for the next six months, specifically to implement school meals and assets creation and livelihood activities. Resources are required to ensure the continuation of the assistance to 410,000 people, including children, without interruption and with full ration entitlements.
- Since 2012, WFP has been forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the school feeding programme due to funding constraints. For the 2018/19 school year WFP has continued the distribution of the reduced ration. WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure. This amount 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.

## Events of the month

- WFP Tajikistan participated in the End-Year Charity Action call of the government through providing support to the Boarding School of Temurmali district, Khatlon Region.

## Donors

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

## Monitoring

- During December 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 191 project sites. Eleven planned visits had to be cancelled due to the changes in weekly plans of WFP sub-office.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of December in any project areas. WFP has provided the