



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

April 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 challenges to food security 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 process of preparation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) to be approved by mid-2019.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **8.8 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **27% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**409 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 23.005** cash based transfers made

**USD 5.5 m** six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements

**396,461 people** assisted in April 2018



## Operational Updates

- On 04 April, WFP Tajikistan launched an event for the "Fill the Nutrient Gap" (FNG) analysis, supported by WFP HQ and Regional Bureau Cairo mission team. The analysis aims at identifying context-specific barriers to adequate nutrient intake among specific target groups. The preliminary findings of the 'Cost of Diet (CotD)' tool were presented to representatives of Government and non-government organizations.
- On 10-12 April, the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES), with support of WFP and other international agencies, conducted a field simulation exercise on "Response to an Emergency Situation Related to Massive Influx of Refugees from Afghanistan". The exercise aimed at testing the level of preparedness of the Government and humanitarian partners to deal with a similar emergency in line with International Humanitarian Law.
- WFP Tajikistan has piloted a digital data collection source and analysis tool in the framework of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) project in Shahritus district where the cash-based transfer modality is being implemented.
- FFA activities supported through the cash-based transfer modality were successfully completed in Shahritus district of Khatlon region. The main project activities included cleaning of the drainage canal, restoring and rehabilitating the feeder roads. As a result, 4.8 km of drainage canals were cleared and 4.8 km of feeder roads rehabilitated/restored. The total participants reached 165 in FFA projects (103 men and 62 women) from food insecure households. Activities lasted for nearly 5.5 months and participants received TJS 270,019 (approximately USD 30,684).
- WFP signed a partnership agreement with Columbia University for the Integrated Road Map process. Specifically, the university is expected to provide an independent technical review for the Zero Hunger Strategic Review, as well as an

### Main Photo

Credit: WFP archive  
Caption: WFP organised a cash distribution event in the framework of FFA project implemented through CBT modality in Sughd region.

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## WFP Country Strategy – TJ01

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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### Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (1 January 2018 – 30 June 2019)

28.3 m	10.8 m	7.4 m
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\*May-October 2018

## WFP Country Activities

- SO 1**
  - 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.
- SO 2**
  - 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
- SO 3**
  - 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.

## Operational Updates (continued)

overall guidance and advice on the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) design. This review is conducted in addition to the National Innovation Development Centre's review of policies and decrees related to food security and nutrition which is to be finalised by 03 July 2018.

- The food delivery was delayed for one to two weeks thus interrupting the school meals programme implementation throughout the whole country.

## Monitoring

- During April 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 184 project sites out of total 233 planned visits. Some monitoring visits had to be cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions that blocked access to most remote locations. The monitoring of some of School Meals Project sites in Khatlon region was postponed due to the preparations for the inter-agency simulation exercise on "Response to an Emergency Situation Related to Massive Influx of Refugees from Afghanistan".
- During the reporting period, the school meals programme was interrupted across the country for one to two weeks, due to the late delivery of food commodities to Tajikistan. Few feedbacks from beneficiaries were received directly by WFP staff during the monitoring visits, mainly concerning timing or frequency of food distributions in schools. In all project areas, WFP has provided the relevant WFP office phone numbers as part of the beneficiary feedback mechanism.

## Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan urgently requires an additional USD 7.4 million to implement its planned activities in country from May to October 2018. The main priority for funding remains School Meal programme (Activity 1) as the largest WFP activity in country. Resources required to ensure continuation of the assistance to 398,000 beneficiaries, without break and with full entitlements. The other priority is FFA programmes in the areas with high level of food insecurity. WFP also looks forward to expanding the cash-based transfers in the framework of FFA.
- Due to funding constrains since 2012, WFP was forced to further reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Meals Programme. Every child receives only 61% of the planned entitlement, which is 120 gr/day of mixed commodities instead of 198 gr/day. This has resulted in a low macro- and micro-nutrient intake provided to school children. WFP planned to assist around 20,000 beneficiaries annually through Tuberculosis activity, but the activity has been halted due to a lack of resources, since April 2016.
- WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which allows to support 1,500 people over a period of two months. Given the warnings of the recent natural disasters that occurred in the country and possible severe mudflows in coming months, WFP urgently requires more funding to better prepare for a potentially larger emergency response.