



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

May 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 currently 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 2018, 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**

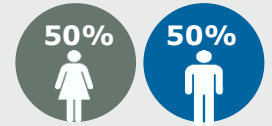
## In Numbers

**1,025 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 39,741** cash based transfers made

**USD 6.44 m** Net funding requirements until December 2018

**396,694 people** assisted in May 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP shared the first draft of the Country Strategic Review (CSR) with national and international development partners for feedback. In order to sustain the whole CSP process and enhance national ownership, WFP is supporting the formation of the Secretariat of CSP at the Ministry of Economics and Development of Trade (MEDT). Additionally, WFP is funding a staff member at MEDT to facilitate the process. WFP plans to present the final CSR together with the outcomes of studies on vulnerability, Fill the Nutrient Gap, and 'Cost of Diet' on 3 July 2018.
- WFP (jointly with its technical partner-the Social Industrial and Food Institute and the Inter-ministerial working group) conducted two round-tables in Khatlon region and Rasht valley to present the new 50 pilot schools as well as to introduce the Government's School Meals Strategy 2017-2027. WFP is working towards the formation of an Inter-sectoral working group on the School Meals programme at the local level which will promote the agenda of the School Meals Strategy 2017-2027 at the regional and district levels.
- From May 28-June 1, WFP held a mission from the WFP HQ and Regional Bureau Cairo to finalise the "Fill the Nutrient Gap" (FNG) analysis. The analysis aims at identifying context-specific barriers to adequate nutrient intake among specific target groups. The mission conducted a technical working group meeting to validate the results of the FNG with the representatives of governmental agencies. On June 1, WFP plans to present the results to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) members.
- WFP in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) conducted a series of trainings on the recently approved protocol on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) in Dusti and Ayni districts of Khatlon and Sughd regions. The trainings aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of 103 staff members of the Primary Health Centres in Dusti and Ayni districts. The trainings were led by the specialists of the MoHSP. WFP initiated the project implementation in both districts for the first time.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP archive  
Caption: The first Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection is opening the SUN meeting.

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## WFP Country Strategy – TJ01

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

28.3 m	10.6 m	6.44 m
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## 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)

- WFP Tajikistan is working with the WFP Innovation Centre of Munich, Germany, to develop and roll out a customised version of SCOPE/Conditional on Demand Assistance (CODA), an application to register and manage the assistance for children affected by acute malnutrition. A mission with SCOPE/CODA experts from WFP Munich visited Tajikistan on 3-8 May to assess the situation and compile necessary information for initiating the implementation of the software in the pilot districts.
- On May 1, WFP provided cash assistance to the beneficiaries of J. Rasulov district in Sughd region. WFP together with the local Financial Service Provider expanded the Food Assistance for Assets project implemented through a cash-based transfer modality to eight districts of Sughd region. The activities include fruit tree planting integrating assets for communities into schools to improve people's livelihoods and contribute to the quality of schoolchildren's meals.

## Monitoring

- During May 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 266 project sites out of total 277 planned visits. Some monitoring visits had to be cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions that blocked access to most remote locations.
- Food assistance shortage experienced in April was resolved with the arrival of new commodities, which are being regularly distributed. No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of May. 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 6.2 million to implement its planned activities in country from June to November 2018. The main priority for funding remains School Meals programme (Activity 1) as the largest WFP activity in the country. Resources are required to ensure continuation of the assistance to 395,000 children without break and with full ration entitlements. The other priority is the Food for Assets (FFA) programmes in the areas with high levels of food insecurity. WFP also looks forward to expanding the cash-based transfers in the framework of FFA.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP was forced to further reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Meals Programme since 2012. 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 lower macro- and micro-nutrient intake provided to schoolchildren. In addition, WFP planned to assist around 20,000 beneficiaries annually through TB activities, but the project 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. WFP urgently requires a minimum of USD 100,000 as a preparedness measure to support up to an additional 1,000 people in the event of a natural disaster.

## Donors

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