



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief



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) to be approved by mid-2019.



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**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP archive
Caption: A drawing by WFP beneficiary in Garm district demonstrating the harvest collection in the school garden.

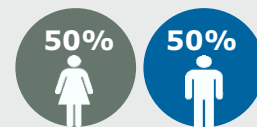
In Numbers

74 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 10,719 cash based transfers made

USD 7.3 m six months (July – December 2018) net funding requirements

269,439 people assisted in June 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP presented the results of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) members on June 1. The Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis, carried out by a team of experts from WFP, explored the context-specific barriers to adequate nutrient intake among specific target groups. The main findings included recommendations on policy options to address the high level of micronutrient deficiencies, to enhance infant and young child feeding practices, and to increase the availability and affordability of nutritious food.
- WFP carried out a technical mission in support of food fortification. The Food Technologist from the WFP Regional Bureau visited the country to meet with key stakeholders and identify possible areas where WFP could bring a contribution to food fortification in Tajikistan.
- WFP conducted a Gender Equality awareness session for a total of 28 local staff members (20 men and 8 women) ensuring that WFP integrates Gender Equality and Women Empowerment into all its activities. This will enable WFP to make sure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are met.
- WFP, with the support of the Social and Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI), is carrying out a pilot project in 47 schools to improve the menus and the nutritional values of the school meals served, as well as to introduce an innovative kitchen equipment. WFP provided construction materials for over twenty schools (out of 47) in ten districts. The pilot schools will take over the renovation of their canteens and kitchens. It is anticipated that all 47 pilot schools will receive kitchen equipment during September – October 2018.

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WFP Country Strategy – TJ01

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (1 January 2018 – 30 June 2019)		
28.3 m	7.8 m	7.3 m

*July-Dec 2018. The six-months shortfall includes: net funding requirement and outstanding advance.

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.

Monitoring

- During June 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 88 project sites out of total 105 planned visits. Some monitoring visits had to be cancelled due to road closures.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of June. 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

- WFP Tajikistan urgently requires an additional USD 7.3 million to implement its planned activities from July to December 2018. The main priority for funding remains School Meals programme (Activity 1), the largest WFP activity in the country. Resources are required to ensure the continuation of the assistance to 395,000 beneficiaries without interruption and with full ration entitlements. The other priority is Food for Assets (FFA)-Resilience programmes in the areas with high level of food insecurity. For the FFA Resilience programme, WFP requires USD 0.9 million during the next six months. WFP also looks forward to expanding the cash-based transfers in the framework of FFA.
- Due to funding constraints 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 schoolchildren. WFP planned to assist around 20,000 beneficiaries annually through Tuberculosis 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. Given the warnings of the recent natural disasters that occurred in the country WFP urgently requires more funding to better prepare for a potentially larger emergency response.

Donors

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