



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

October 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, lower-middle 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 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 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: **Lower middle**

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

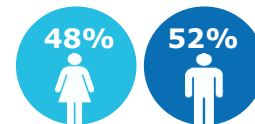
In Numbers

1,054 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3,640 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.4 m six months (December 2018 – May 2019) net funding requirements

414,859 people assisted in October 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP presented the five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024 to key counterparts at a second high-level consultation meeting on 9 October. The draft CSP Concept Note will be presented to the Executive Board in early November.
- WFP supported the establishment of the Regional Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) in the Gorno-Badakhshon Autonomous Region (GBAO). REACT's regional setup is functional in all the four regions of Tajikistan. The main mandate of REACT is to assist the Government of Tajikistan in managing an effective response to all types of disasters affecting Tajikistan.
- In October, WFP launched an additional two new food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) projects on tree planting, and construction and rehabilitation of the irrigation water supply systems in Balkhi and Devashtich districts, which are to be completed by June 2019. The project will benefit a total of 745 direct participants (440 males and 305 females) and a further 3,001 beneficiaries (1,540 males and 1461 females) through cash assistance. The projects will bring positive impacts on respective communities through created and rehabilitated assets.
- WFP marked the International Day for Disaster Reduction (DR) with the children's drawing competition and DR contest for the best news article, video and radio show that encourages the building of more disaster resilient communities. Over 100 children aged between 8 and 16, as well as 23 mass media representatives, demonstrated their knowledge skills to promote safety and disaster reduction by participating in both contests. On 30 October, WFP hosted a USAID donor visit to Balkhi district. The visitors had a chance to observe the joint IntraHealth and WFP activities that prevent and treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) as well as to interact the programmes' beneficiaries.

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

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (December 2018 – May 2019) (in USD)
28.3 m	18.6 m	0.4 m

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.

Monitoring

- During October 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 184 project sites. Twelve planned visits had to be cancelled due to the seasonal rain and snow in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region and Rasht valley.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of October. In all project areas, WFP has provided the relevant

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

Challenges

WFP Tajikistan requires an additional USD 7.8 million to implement activities through food and cash modalities until October 2019. The main priority area for funding remains the School Meals Programme (total needs: USD 5 million), the largest WFP activity in the country. 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 Meals 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, which 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.

Success Stories

- WFP, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization, celebrated World Food Day on 16 October at a joint event. The event – Our actions are our future - *#ZeroHunger world by 2030 is possible* – featured TV and puppet shows, an open talk with students, interactive games and master classes around the World Food Day theme. Government counterparts, ambassadors, donors, NGO partners and media representatives attended the event, along with university students and schoolchildren.

Donors

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

Photo: Schoolchildren dance at the WFD event on October 16, 2018. WFP