



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

November 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 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 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**

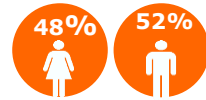
In Numbers

405 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4,414 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1 m six months (December 2018 – May 2019) net funding requirements

305,810 people assisted in November 2018



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

- The Concept Note of the five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024 was endorsed by the Executive Board in mid-November. WFP will submit the full document to the June 2019 Executive Board session.
- WFP initiated the roll out of the electronic registration of beneficiaries through the WFP corporate SCOPE Conditional-On-Demand-Assistance (CODA) application, WFP's beneficiary and food transfer management platform, which is designed to track, monitor and report the MAM treatment process. A six-month pilot has started to test the application within 20 health facilities in one of the targeted districts. This pilot will enable the digitalisation of the data collection on programme and beneficiaries, providing almost real-time information about the programme implementation to WFP and cooperating partners.
- WFP conducted a four-day Children's Growth Monitoring training for 54 representatives (30 female and 24 male) of the Sughd regional and district public health centres and WFP's focal points in Ayni 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 Khatlon region.
- WFP hosted a three-day mission from the Regional Bureau Cairo's School Feeding Unit in Dushanbe city, Roghun and Yovon districts. The aim of the mission was to review and provide recommendations to develop capacity strengthening activities in the framework of the School Feeding Programme.
- In November, WFP expanded the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects in a district of Khatlon region and three districts of Sughd region to cover the rehabilitation of drainage canals, pipelines and feeder roads. Nearly 80,000 people will benefit in these districts in the long run through the improved agricultural productivity of their land plots thanks to the projects.

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	1 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 November 2018, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 137 project sites. Eleven planned visits had to be cancelled due to the changes in weekly plans of Rasht sub-office.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of November in any 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 1 million to implement activities through food and cash modalities for the next six months, and in particular to implement school feeding 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 Meals Programme due to funding constraints. For the 2018/19 school year WFP continued to distribute a reduced ration (59 percent of the planned), providing only 460 Kcal out of 781.
- WFP currently has 40 mt of food commodities - sufficient to support 1,500 people over a period of two months - allocated as a preparedness measure for emergency response. More funding is required to better prepare for eventual climate or disaster-related emergencies to which Tajikistan is historically prone, especially during the winter season.

Events of the month

- In continuation of the World Food Day (WFD) celebration, WFP conducted an awareness-raising event in B. Gafurov district. The main component of the campaign was the food contest attended by the schoolchildren. The event emphasized the importance of nutrition, and the ways to prepare easy and nutritious foods from the locally available products. All the participants were presented with WFP branded items.
- In line with the Orange campaign-16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence WFP organized a theatrical performance "Your rights are in Your hands" for the higher-grade school children and WFP? staff members in Bokhtar city. The performance highlighted women's empowerment, gender equality, and girls' rights for education; and their positive impact at household and community level.

Donors

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