



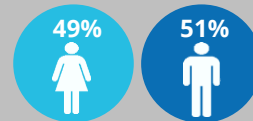
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief January 2019

In Numbers



416,615 people assisted
in January 2019

699 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$25,630 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1.2 six months (February - July 2019) net funding requirements

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 29.5 percent of the population living in poverty and 14 percent living in extreme poverty (TajStat, 2017).

Malnutrition rates remain the highest in Central Asia, and the number of undernourished people has remained stagnant. Tajikistan faces different environmental challenges, and is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which has further exacerbated food security and livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

The Government has identified food security and access to quality nutrition as one of its development priorities.

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 0-59 months**

Operational Updates

- Members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Meals representing WFP, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan visited remote schools in the Rasht Valley to oversee the implementation of the programme. In addition, WFP continued to support the establishment of inter-sectoral working groups at district level to bring the policy dialogue on the sustainability of the school feeding programme close to the operational decision-making centres.
- Kitchen utensils were provided to a school affected by a fire in the northern part of the country in November 2018. WFP timely response to this incident ensured that 300 children received their school meals without disruptions.
- In January, WFP launched a tree planting project in school yards under the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) framework in five districts of Sughd Region to benefit 11,530 schoolchildren. Another FFA project to rehabilitate irrigation facilities in Ishkoshim district of GBAO Region was approved to be launched in February 2019. The projects are expected to be completed by June 2019.
- Piloting of the corporate SCOPE (WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system) Conditional-On-Demand-Assistance (CODA) application within the treatment of acute malnutrition programme is continuing in collaboration with the government-assigned institution, the Republic Clinical Centre of Paediatrics and Child Surgery. Twenty (20) health facilities in the Balkhi district have been covered so far and frontline PHC staff involved are improving the quality of their work through digitalization.
- Additionally, identification and enrolment of children aged 6 months to 5 years into the Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) program, and sensitization of parents and caretakers on infants and young children feeding practices are ongoing in 4 operational districts of Khatlon and Sughd regions.

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Photo Caption: The Members of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Meals are monitoring School Feeding Programme in Rasht Valley /Photo by: Murodali Nurov

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2018 – June 2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
28.3 m	22.1 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February -June)**
18.4 m	0 m ***

*Includes requirements for 2019 under TJ01 and TJ02

** Though the TICSP ends in June 2019, the net funding requirements includes estimated needs for July as well.

*** The overall Net Funding Requirements shows the TICSP as fully funded. However, the funding is mainly allocated to school feeding. Additional resources are needed to fully implement tuberculosis patient support and livelihood activities.

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: Root Causes

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: Resilience Building

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.

- During January 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 179 project sites out of 209 planned. WFP sub-offices in Rasht and GBAO cancelled 30 visits to schools due to heavy snow and difficult road conditions in remote districts.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of January in any project areas. WFP has provided the relevant WFP office phone numbers to its beneficiaries as part of the feedback mechanism.

Challenges

- Since 2012, WFP has been forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Feeding Programme due to funding constraints. For the 2018/19 school year WFP has continued the distribution of the 61% of the planned 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 larger emergency response.

Resourcing

- Despite the overall net funding requirement for the next six months showing that the TICSP is currently fully funded, the Country Office still requires USD 1.2 million to implement asset creation and livelihood activities, as well as the tuberculosis support programme, as the received funds were only directed at Activity 1. The School Feeding Programme has sufficient funds for next six months, but an allocation of USD 2 million is urgently required to continue its implementation after August 2019, considering that the food procurement process can require up to 90 days.

Key meetings of the month

- Mr. Alberto Correia Mendes, newly arrived WFP Representative/Country Director, officially entered on duty in January. Meetings were already held with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Committee of Emergency Situation and UN Resident Coordinator. Meetings will continue in February with other Government and development partners, UN agencies and donors.

Donors

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

Monitoring