



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Tajikistan Country Brief March 2019

## In Numbers

415,053 people assisted  
in March 2019



622 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$18,126 cash-based transfers made

### Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, low-income and 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 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 negatively affected 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 as well as 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

- In March, WFP in cooperation with NGO Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), the Ministry of Health and National Nutrition Institute presented a new balanced School Feeding menu for 35 school directors from Khatlon region at the School Feeding Centre of Competence. To deliver the message to a wider audience, the event was broadcasted through national TV channels.
- The second week of March was marked as a "Week of Healthy Feeding". WFP and partners organized events in schools involving children, teachers and cooks. The experienced cooks invited gave a master class on preparing healthy meals from five different countries, namely Russia, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Brazil and Tajikistan.
- Thanks to Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) allocation of USD 600,000 for the resilience activity, WFP has the capacity to respond to the increased requests of communities to build and improve community assets. Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities were expanded and currently projects are implemented in all five regions of the country.
- WFP partnered with the Republican Scientific Clinical Centre on Paediatrics and Child Surgery on implementing the piloting of SCOPE (WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system) CODA (Conditional-On-Demand-Assistance) in 20 Primary Health Centres in Khatlon region. To assure a smooth implementation of SCOPE CODA, a joint Field Monitoring visit to project sites was conducted by WFP and the Partner. The visit helped to identify challenges, and solutions to improve the quality of the programme.
- WFP provided a one-week training on Advanced GIS (Geographical Information System) for the Information Management and Analytical Centre (IMAC) staff of Tajikistan's Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES). The training covered advanced features of leading mapping and spatial analytics software, including the use of GPS devices for conducting hazard assessments, and developing data and hazard maps based on the collected data.

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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

## Monitoring

- During March 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 224 project sites out of the 264 planned. WFP sub-offices in Sughd, Khatlon and Rasht cancelled 40 visits to schools and FFA project sites, mainly due to change in programme priority activities as well as heavy rain in Rasht Valley.
- No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of March for any activity site. 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. WFP has continued the distribution of 61 percent of the planned ration for the 2018/19 school year.
- 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 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, WFP Tajikistan still requires USD 2.0 million to preposition food in August 2019 for the School Feeding Activity. The allocation of USD 2 million is urgently required to continue the School Feeding implementation after August 2019, considering that the food procurement process can require up to 90 days.

## Key meetings of the month

- Following the UNDAF mid-term review carried out in 2018, WFP participated in reviewing of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Result Framework with other UN Country Team (UNCT) members in March 2019. The updated framework was validated during a general meeting involving UN agencies and representatives from the Government of Tajikistan.

## Donors

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

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>28.3 m</b>	<b>19.3 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April-September)
<b>18.3 m</b>	<b>0.3 m**</b>

\* Includes requirements for 2019 under TJ01 and TJ02

\*\* The overall six-month net funding requirements show the activities as nearly fully funded. However, the funding is mainly allocated to the capacity-strengthening component of the school feeding activity. Additional resources are needed to preposition food for the school feeding activity by August 2019.

#### 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.