



World Food Programme

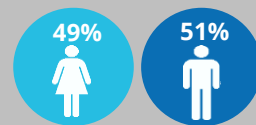
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief April 2019

## In Numbers

419,975 people assisted  
in April 2019



1,065 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$41,795 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 and the First Microfinance Bank of Tajikistan signed an agreement to facilitate Cash Based Transfers (CBT) to beneficiaries to meet their immediate nutrition needs. This initiative was planned within the framework of a Food-Assistance For-Assets (FFA) programme to be implemented in 16 districts of Sughd, Khatlon, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous (GBO) regions and Direct Ruled Districts (DRD).
- The Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Meals Programme met to discuss the implementation of the National School Meals Strategy for 2017-2027, including the 50 pilot schools in which the renovation of school canteens is almost completed.
- As part of the WFP-Russian Social and Industrial Food Service Institute (SIFI) pilot initiatives, a three-day training for cooks from six schools was conducted, with SIFI experts from Moscow providing technical support.
- WFP and the Tajikistani Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population paid a joint visit to Jaloliddini Balkhi District to monitor the implementation of the electronic registration of children with moderate acute malnutrition through "SCOPE CODA", implemented over the last six months. The results of monitoring and recommendations will be shared and discussed during a round-table meeting on SCOPE CODA scheduled for May 2019.
- WFP provided a four-day training on using geographic information systems technology for 13 staff members of the Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan. The purpose was to improve skills in building and organizing geospatial data to support the upcoming national census in 2020.



Ceremony of signing agreement between WFP and First Microfinance Bank on cash-based transfer.

Photo Caption: Joint Monitoring Visit of WFP and Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population to Jaloliddini Balkhi health facilities /Photo by: Shamsiya Miralibekova

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>28.3 m</b>	<b>21.3 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2019)
<b>18.3 m*</b>	<b>0**</b>

\* Includes 2019 requirements for both the TISCSP (January 2018 – June 2019) and the new CSP (July 2019 – June 2024).

\*\* The overall Net Funding Requirements, which also include requirements for the new CSP, shows the activities as fully funded. However, contributions were mainly directed to the Capacity Strengthening and Resilience component. Additional resources are urgently needed to implement the School Feeding Programme beyond October 2019, taking into account the long lead time.

### 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.

## Monitoring

- During April 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 273 project sites out of the 306 planned. WFP sub-offices in Sughd, Khatlon and Rasht cancelled 33 visits to schools and FFA project sites, mainly due to changes in programme priority activities and logistical issues.
- WFP has provided the relevant WFP office phone numbers to its beneficiaries as part of the feedback mechanism. No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of March for any activity site.

## 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 increase its preparedness efforts.

## Resourcing

- Despite the overall net funding requirements for the next six months of the TICSP and CSP being shown as currently fully funded, WFP Tajikistan still requires USD 2 million to preposition food for the School Feeding Activity in August and beyond October 2019. The allocation of USD 2 million is urgently required to continue the School Feeding Programme's implementation after August 2019, considering that the food procurement process can take up to 90 days.

## Key meetings of the month

- On April 30, WFP participated in the last meeting of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Platform organized by the State Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. During the meeting, cooperation between the National Platform and the Rapid Emergency Assessment & Coordination Team (REACT) was discussed. The National Platform presented a draft new proposal for emergency response.

## Donors

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