



World Food Programme

SAVING  
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LIVES



## WFP Tajikistan Country Brief May 2019

## In Numbers

**419,975 people assisted**  
in May 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

- Five Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects were completed in various areas where WFP implements resilience activities (Devashtich, Kuhistoni Mastchoh, Asht, Zafarobod, Rudaki districts, and in Sughd Region). WFP Participants received cash, benefitting a total of 1,200 vulnerable households. The projects contributed to the rehabilitation of 9,400 metres of irrigation canals, the installation of around 30,000 metres of irrigation pipelines and 40 water outlet gates, and the construction of 30 bio-digest ponds. In addition, 6,200 fruit trees and 24,000 flood protecting trees were planted in Sughd Region.
- WFP in close collaboration with local authorities in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) launched a new Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) project through Cash Based Transfer (CBT) modality in Ishkashim District. The project aims to rehabilitate 2,100 meters of canals, resulting in the additional 66 hectares of land having access to irrigation water.
- To support the Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) efforts in the country, WFP carried out an inception mission to set the stage for a research on SBCC, to be undertaken in collaboration with the Government. The mission met with representatives of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and other stakeholders to discuss methodologies. The results of the research will contribute to developing the SBCC strategy to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition in the country and developing awareness raising materials.
- WFP donated IT equipment (laptops, computers, a printer and a projector) to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population to support the work of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council for School Meals Programme in Tajikistan.
- Representatives from WFP and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited Jaliliddini Balkhi District in Khatlon Region. During the visit, the WFP and JICA representatives visited and learned about the implementation school feeding, nutrition and FFA projects.

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**Photo Caption:** FAO greenhouses compliment WFP School Meals Programme. Joint visit of WFP, FAO and WHO representatives to Vakhsh District in Khatlon Region /Photo by: WFP

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>28.3 m</b>	<b>19.8 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2019)
<b>18.3 m*</b>	<b>1.4**</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 almost 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.

**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 May 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 311 project sites out of the 318 planned. WFP sub-office in Rasht District cancelled monitoring visits to SMP and FFA projects in Shangvor District due to heavy rains and difficulties to access schools of the area.
- With the launch of CBT modality in new districts, WFP closely monitors the cash distribution and beneficiaries' access to banking services. No beneficiary feedback was received during the month of May from any activity sites.
- Representatives from WFP, FAO and WHO visited Jaloliddini Balkhi and Vakhsh districts in Khatlon Region to monitor the implementation of joint projects.

**Challenges**

- Since 2012, WFP has been forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Feeding Programme due to funding constraints, with only 61 percent of the entitlements were distributed 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 almost fully funded, WFP Tajikistan urgently requires USD 2.5 million to preposition food for the implementation of its School Feeding for the start of the school year.



School-children in Tajikistan's distant Murgab District benefit enjoying their WFP- provided meals / ©WFP

**Donors**

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