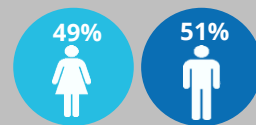




SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief June 2019

In Numbers



40,715 people assisted
in June 2019

28.65 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 49,457 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

- The WFP Executive Board approved Tajikistan's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2024 on 11 June, which will start being implemented from July 2019.
- Through its Food Assistance for Assets programme, WFP completed several projects to help people build and strengthen their resilience over time. In partnership with local authorities, nine resilience projects were completed in Khatlon Region, Rasht Valley and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBO), where 20,000 fruit and non-fruit trees were planted. At the same time 709 participants and their families received cash assistance to ensure their immediate food needs are met. In Asht and Sangvor districts, school kitchens, canteens and warehouses were rehabilitated in 12 schools, benefitting 161 families.
- In partnership with the Russian NGO Social and Industrial Food Service Institute (SIFI), WFP completed the renovation and installation of kitchen equipment in 50 pilot schools across the country.
- Under the School Feeding Programme (SFP), WFP is working to finalise the design of an innovative micro-grant project to strengthen the capacity of nine schools to provide nutritious and diversified meals to schoolchildren in Khatlon Region and Rasht Valley. The two-year project is expected to start in July 2019 and will include the construction of green houses and the introduction of beekeeping and rabbit keeping activities.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, WFP is undertaking a formative research on the implementation of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy on Nutrition. In June, a training was conducted for WFP and the Ministry's staff involved in the research. Data collection in Khatlon and Sughd regions started in June and is expected to be completed by July. The results will be used to develop a strategy for SBCC to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition and develop awareness raising materials.

Photo Caption: Residents of Rasht District construct irrigation canals as part of the FFA programme, Tajikistan. ©WFP

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
28.3 m	19.8 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July –December 2019)
18.3 m*	3.8 m

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

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.

- In partnership with the National Paediatric Center, WFP started to apply a new interface of the Conditional On Demand Assistance application in the piloting primary health care centres (PHC) as part of WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform (SCOPE CODA). The new upgraded interface is more user-friendly with higher speed and reduces data transfer time for PHC staff.

Monitoring

- In June, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 141 project sites out of the 148 planned. WFP sub-office in Rasht District cancelled monitoring visits to SFP and FFA due to heavy rains and difficulties to access schools in the area.
- The number of monitoring in SMP sites decreased as the end of the school year and summer holidays are approaching.
- With the launch of cash assistance in new districts, WFP started to closely monitor cash distribution and beneficiaries' access to the banking service. No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of June.

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 to distribute 61 percent of the planned entitlement 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.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs USD 3.8 million to continue implementing its programmes in Tajikistan throughout December. Resources are urgently required to preposition food for a timely implementation of the School Feeding Programme in October 2019. Considering food lead times (85 days), WFP requires urgent allocation of resources to start purchasing the food needed to avoid a pipeline break in October.



Around 140 vulnerable families in the districts of Rasht Valley benefited from cash assistance provided by WFP Photo by: WFP

Donors

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