



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief August 2019

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 was operating under the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) since January 2018 and the new Country's Strategic Plan (CSP) was approved in July 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**

In Numbers

3,139 people assisted
in August 2019



5.519 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2,431 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP assisted 3,139 people through nutrition and resilience activities in Tajikistan. The low number is mainly due to breaking school feeding activities during the summer vacations (June – August).
- On 10 August, WFP in partnership with UNICEF, WHO and Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, held a joint event to sensitize and raise awareness on breastfeeding for mothers in Dusti District in Khatlon Region. Around 300 women received information on the benefits of breastfeeding for children. In addition, around 3,000 booklets were distributed among local health care centres and maternity hospitals. The event was conducted within the framework of the National Breastfeeding Decade, declared from 1 to 10 August 2019.
- On 30 August, at the Multi-Sectorial Coordination Council for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), WFP presented the findings of its formative research on Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) on nutrition, with partners from the government and international organisations. The findings will be further discussed with the Ministry of Health and the results will be used to develop a strategy for SBCC to prevent acute malnutrition, as well as contribute to other nutrition sensitive activities.
- WFP and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection conducted a joint monitoring of the SCOPE CODA (Conditional-On-Demand-Assistance) application implementation. Monitoring covered 20 health care centres in Jaloliddini Balkhi District to assess the progress of the activities since last monitoring back in May 2019. After the monitoring, the working group established by the

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Photo Caption: Breastfeeding awareness raising event in Dusti District. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
82 m	6.8 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Oct 2019 – Mar 2020)
18.3 m*	6.3 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: Food-insecure vulnerable people, including primary schoolchildren, in targeted districts meet their basic food requirements by 2024..

Focus area: Root causes of food insecurity

Activities:

- Provide nutritionally balanced school meals to targeted schoolchildren

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups, especially children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls - in districts where the national Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol is being rolled out have reduced levels of malnutrition by 2024.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Treat moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and implement malnutrition prevention activities using social and behaviour change communication with vulnerable groups while building the Government's capacity to manage nutrition programmes.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted food-insecure communities in areas vulnerable to climate change have increased their resilience to shocks by 2024.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Carry out climate adaptation, asset creation, and livelihood activities aimed at fostering resilience to shocks and stressors, and conduct early response activities in the event of a small scale disaster

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions at the central and decentralized level have strengthened capacities to target, design and implement effective food security and nutrition strategies by 2024.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to public institutions and private sector stakeholders involved in advocating for and implementing food security and nutrition programmes, including emergency preparedness.
- Strengthen the capacity of government institutions and schools to implement social protection programmes

ministry recommended to expand SCOPE CODA- electronic registration of moderately malnourished children in other pilot districts, namely Dusti, Shahrituz, Kulob and Ayni.

Monitoring

- During August 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 137 project sites out of the 141 planned.
- The number of monitoring decreased for school feeding sites as implementation is suspended for the duration of the summer break (June – August).
- With the launch of cash assistance modality in new districts, WFP closely monitors the cash distribution and beneficiaries' access to the banking service. No beneficiary feedback was received for the month of August for any activity site.

Challenges

- Since 2012, WFP has been forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Feeding Programme (SFP) due to funding constraints. WFP has continued the distribution of 61 percent of the planned food entitlements 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

- WFP needs US\$6.3 million to ensure operations can continue throughout March 2019. Resources are urgently required to preposition food for the resumption of the SFP in October. Considering food lead time (85 days), WFP requires urgent allocation of resources to start food procurement.



Breastfeeding counselling at maternity hospital in Dusti District supported by WFP. ©WFP

Donors

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