



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Tajikistan Country Brief September 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

425,228 people assisted
in September 2019



493.845 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$11,331 distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$7.1 million six months net funding requirements (November 2019–April 2020)

Operational Updates

- On 12 September, WFP in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan and the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) launched the second edition of the School Meals Recipe Book in Dushanbe. The latest Recipe Book contains a collection of 116 mostly traditional Tajik recipes aiming to provide a varied and healthy diet. The selected dishes showcase local cooking traditions while using simple and affordable ingredients. The first edition of the book was published in 2016 and was selected "Best in the World" at the prestigious Gourmand World Cookbook Awards, held in Yantai, China.
- On 13 September, WFP, the Government of Tajikistan and SIFI unveiled a model school kitchen initiative in the eastern Tajik town of Roghun. A joint WFP and SIFI pilot programme funded by the Russian Federation upgraded school meal facilities at 50 schools in Khatlon Region and the districts of Rasht Valley. The facilities were renovated and stocked with new cooking equipment while staff received training on its use and learned how to prepare a more diversified menu drawn from the new recipe book.
- On 26 September, during a ceremony in Dushanbe, WFP provided IT equipment to the Tajik Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES) to strengthen the country's emergency preparedness capacity. The equipment includes brand-new GPS navigators, cameras, laptops, tablets and printers. These will be used by Tajikistan's Information Management and Analytical Centre (IMAC) of Sughd Region to conduct risk assessments, collect, analyse and disseminate data on disasters.
- WFP conducted training for health care staff in Jaloliddini Balkhi District to expand SCOPE CODA (Conditional-On-Demand-Assistance) application in other health care facilities of this district.

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
82 m	7.3 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2019 – April 2020)
18.3 m*	7.1 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

Monitoring

- During September 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 165 project sites out of the 171 planned.
- 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 September 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. Further, the number of feeding days has been reduced from 5 to 4 per week, for the period Sep-November 2019, and no feeding is planned for December 2019.
- 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

- Funding requirements for the period of November '19-April '20 amount to US 7.1 million. Resources are urgently required to preposition food for the School Feeding Programme in December 2019. Considering food procurement lead time, which is 85 days, WFP requires urgent allocation of resources to start food procurement in order to avoid food pipeline break in January 2020.



Contest for preparing healthy diet during Recipe Book Presentation in Dushanbe. ©WFP

Donors

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