



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

494 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 132,891 cash assistance provided

US\$ 5.8 m six months (January-June 2020)
net funding requirements

440,803 people assisted
in November 2019



WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

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). The Government has identified food security and access to quality nutrition as one of its development priorities.

Despite significant improvements in recent years, malnutrition rates remain high in Tajikistan. WFP is contributing to the Government's progress on SDG 2, by providing access to appropriate nutritional support and health care, promoting school feeding, resilience activities to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensuring preparedness for recurring natural disasters.

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993. WFP currently operates under the Country's Strategic Plan (CSP) that was launched in July 2019.



Population: **8.8 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

Operational Updates

- The first meeting of the Coordination Council for the Sustainable Development of School Feeding Strategy was conducted in the town of Khorogh, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province (GBAO). The meeting was attended by representatives from WFP, the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan and the local authorities of GBAO. The meeting participants discussed the implementation of the School Feeding Strategy and the possibilities of conducting meetings with coordination councils in other districts of the region.
- WFP conducted a workshop for mothers and health care representatives in Dusti District of Khatlon Region. During the workshop, messages to prevent malnutrition and communications channels for delivering prevention and treatment messages were discussed. The proposals received during the workshop will be used for the development of a Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy by WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan.
- In November, WFP Tajikistan launched two new resilience projects in Sughd Region and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). The objective of the project in Sughd Region is to build eight greenhouses to compliment School Feeding Programme and to enhance the nutritional outcomes for schoolchildren. The project in GBAO will focus on rehabilitating irrigation canals and drinking water supply system in three districts. Overall, WFP implements 21 resilience projects in the country.
- In November, WFP Tajikistan in close collaboration with local authorities inaugurated five school canteens in Rasht District. The school canteens were renovated with the support of WFP and Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI). In total, the renovation of 50 school canteens in the country were implemented thanks to the financial support of the Russian Federation.

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Photo Caption: WFP Tajikistan staff support orange campaign.
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Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
82 m	8.1 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$) *	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2020)
18.3 m*	5.8 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: 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

- During November 2019, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 249 project sites out of 260 planned visits. The number of monitoring visits were decreased due to bad weather and road conditions in remote districts.
- Following the launch of the cash assistance modality in new districts, WFP closely monitored the cash distribution and beneficiaries' access to the banking service. WFP registered nine cases regarding bank card distribution and loss of cards. All issues addressed and solved in a timely manner.

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 2019/2020 school year. Further, the number of feeding days was reduced from five to four per week, for the period September – November 2019, and no feeding is planned for December 2019. WFP has been working with the government to mobilize additional resources to fill the critical gap.
- 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

- Overall net funding requirements for the period of January – June 2020 amount to US\$5.8 million. Resources are immediately required to preposition food for School Feeding Programme for the winter period. Considering food procurement lead time of 85 days, WFP Tajikistan requires urgent allocation of resources to start the procurement of food, otherwise will face negative impacts on the food pipeline.



Baking bread in newly renovated school kitchen in Rasht District in November. ©WFP