



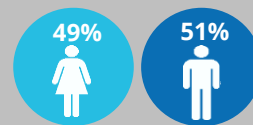
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief February 2020

In Numbers



95,121 people assisted
in February 2020

172,227 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 5,579 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 27.4 percent of the population living in poverty and 8.6 percent living in extreme poverty (World Bank and UNDP).

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

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. 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

- On 19 February, the first regional multi-sectoral workshop was conducted in the town of Khorog, the centre of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). The participation included representatives from education, health, finance and food security departments of the region. The purpose was to further sensitize the School Feeding Programme and advocate for the implementation of the National School Feeding Strategy for 2017-2027. In addition, the event was designed to increase awareness-raising and discussion of the challenges and opportunities of school feeding in the region, the institutionalization and boosting of political ownership over the School Feeding Programme. The participants also discussed the sustainability of School Feeding Programme in the region.
- In February, WFP in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan started nimble trials for the implementation of Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Plan in pilot districts in Khatlon Region. Nimble trials will quickly evaluate the impact of the proposed SBCC activities in Tajikistan, which includes baseline data collection, implementation of interventions, follow-up data collection and analysis of trial evaluation data. All the interventions developed were based on the key findings from the formative research conducted by WFP International Consultant jointly with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population last year. They were then pre-tested with the target audiences in December 2019 and refined further based on their feedbacks.
- In February, WFP's call for Expressions of Interests from cooperating partners for the roster of Resilience Programme was closed. A total of 14 national and international NGOs out of 50 applied, and were included in the roster. An induction session on WFP's programmatic approach and priorities was conducted for these national and international NGOs.

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Photo Caption: House renovation process to improve energy efficiency in Fayzobod District. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
82 m	8 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April-September 2020)
16.7 m	5 m

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

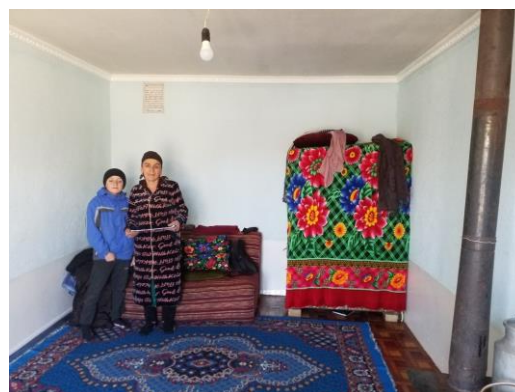
- During February, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 215 project sites out of the 232 planned. Mainly weather conditions during the month decreased the number of monitoring visits to mountainous areas.
- With the launch of cash assistance modality in new districts, WFP closely monitors the cash distribution and beneficiaries' access to the banking service. During the reporting period, no beneficiary complaints were received 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. To cope with the situation, the daily ration has been reduced to 61 percent. Further, since the 2018-2019 school year, the number of feeding days has been reduced from 5 to 4 per week, with one day a week to be covered by local contributions like parents, schools, communities and local government. School feeding interruption continues since December 2019, where out of total 422,000 beneficiaries only 87,000 (20 percent) are receiving hot meals.
- 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 funding constraints for period of Marh 2020 – August 2020 makes up USD 3.7 million. Considering food procurement lead time, which is 100 days, WFP operation in Tajikistan requires urgent allocation of resources to start food procurement, otherwise food pipeline will break.



WFP assists women in renovating their houses to improve energy efficiency in Fayzobod District. ©WFP

Donors

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