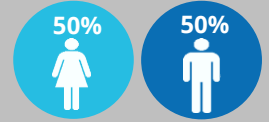




WFP Tajikistan Country Brief October 2020

In Numbers

404,261 people assisted
in October 2020



500,213 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 56,700 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 8 m six month (Nov 2020 – Apr 2021) net funding requirements

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 11.8 percent living in extreme poverty (Tajikistan Agency of Statistics).

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: **9.1 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

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

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP carried out its cash-for-work programme to support vulnerable households in four districts of GBAO (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region) to cope with the socio-economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily due to increasing food costs and decreasing remittances from labour migrants. Participating households carry out public works and the initiative is expected to assist 15,000 beneficiaries. In October, more than 2,000 recipients benefited from cash-based transfers.
- With the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), WFP has also launched cash-for-work projects in the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS) to respond to COVID-19. This initiative will support an additional 19,000 vulnerable people. WFP will be working with five partners in various locations throughout DRS to implement these projects.
- In October, school feeding was resumed in all regions of the country after receiving fortified wheat flour. Parent-teacher associations and local authorities provided complementary food commodities during feeding days.
- WFP facilitated an intersectoral coordination mission to Khatlon Region, during which, different models of school feeding arrangements were explored. The models are based on feasibility in the regional context. This review will support the implementation of the 2017-2027 School Feeding Strategy in Tajikistan.
- In October, WFP started the implementation of Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) trials on oil consumption. WFP aims to reduce the amount of cooking oil used and prevent obesity and non-communicable diseases in Jaloliddini Balkhi District of Khatlon Region. Currently, a mix of interventions are being developed and delivered, such as the distribution of promotional materials, conducting community cooking demonstrations, distribution of cooking oil spray devices and measuring spoons. The results of the nimble trials will be used to determine improvements in oil consumption behaviour.

Photo caption: Through cash-for-work projects WFP supports the construction of a drinking water supply system in Sughnon District. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)		
Total Requirements (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
84.9 m		31.9 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Nov 2020 – Apr 2021)
16.8 m	17.3 m	8 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 the reporting period, 120 sites were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits increased by 50 percent in comparison to September 2020.
- WFP in August 2020 tasked M-Vector, a local consulting agency, to collect data on food security to better understand the overall situation of COVID-19 in the country. In October, 400 households across the country were interviewed remotely to provide general food security updates and monitoring visits were conducted to 20 food for asset project sites. Results from the household surveys have indicated a generally stable food security situation while the project site monitoring data is being analysed.

Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan continues to face a critical pipeline break under its school feeding programme, which supports some 430,000 schoolchildren. Due to delays in procurement processes caused by COVID-19, WFP has managed to provide only fortified wheat flour to schools. Vegetable oil is expected to arrive in November 2020, and pulses will not be provided in 2020. The shortfall and mitigation measures have been communicated to the Ministry of Education and Science and discussed at the School Feeding Intersectoral Coordination Council.
- WFP has 87 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which will support 3,600 people over a period of two months. WFP requires more funding to increase and diversify its preparedness efforts.

Resourcing

- Also considering COVID-19 related needs, the total net funding requirements of the country office for the period November 2020 – April 2021 stand at US\$ 8 m .



Photo caption: WFP supports schools in Rasht District to develop beekeeping to diversify the school feeding menu. ©WFP

Donors

Russian Federation, USA, Private Donors (Japan Association for WFP), Green Climate Fund and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.