In Numbers

442,739 people assisted in December 2020

993,049 mt of food assistance distributed in December 2020

US$ 131,377 cash-based transfers made in December 2020

US$ 2.04 m six months (February – July 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.

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP held a ceremony to hand over to the Government of Tajikistan over 180 tons of vegetable oil purchased with funds from the Russian Federation. This was the first batch of a total of 300 tons of vegetable oil to cover the needs of its National School Feeding Programme in the country. The handover ceremony was attended by representatives from WFP, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan, the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan and other partners.

- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan, conducted a half-day workshop in Dushanbe to discuss the key findings and recommendations from the external review of the WFP project “Prevention and Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition” supported by USAID, with the participation of representatives from development partners. The review was conducted by a local organization skilled in conducting evaluations and findings will be instrumental in developing the way forward for WFP nutrition programmes in Tajikistan.

- In order to strengthen the GIS (Geographic Information System) data collection and visualization capacity of the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan (MoES), WFP conducted GPS (Global Positioning System) data collection training for WFP School Feeding monitoring focal points in Khatlon and GBAO regions as well as the Districts of the Republican Subordination (DRS). The training covered 40 participants from local education departments of each district and will enable the collecting of each school's geolocation information during the first quarter of 2021. The data will be fed by WFP into the School Feeding Programme online platform, which will provide coverage information on WFP-supported schools and help track the availability of food stock at these sites. This information will be shared with MoES and can be easily accessed through an interactive dashboard.

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Photo caption: Handover ceremony of vegetable oil to Tajikistan government in Dushanbe. ©WFP
Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 m</td>
<td>34 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (February - July 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 m</td>
<td>2.04 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 3: 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 4: 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

- Until December, through its cash-for-work projects to respond to the socio-economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP transferred US$422,822 to 4,600 project participants, including individuals with labour-constraints. The cash-for-work intervention is being implemented in GBAO and the districts of Rasht Valley. In Rasht Valley, within these projects, over 100 km of irrigation canals for over 4,000 ha of agricultural fields were rehabilitated. The implementation of 47 projects out of 85 have been completed in both regions.

- WFP, in partnership with the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), completed the renovation of bakeries in Spitamen, Jabbor Rasulov and Bobojon Gafurov districts and Isfara town in Sughd Region. The installation of bakery equipment is expected in January 2021. Bakery renovation activities are carried out within WFP School Feeding Programme in the framework of a public-private partnership to provide schoolchildren with fresh bread on a daily basis.

**Challenges**

- Due to continued delays in procurement, pulses were not provided in 2020 for the School Feeding Programme. The shortfall and mitigation measures were 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.

**Monitoring**

- During the reporting period, 99 sites were physically monitored.

**Resourcing**

- Including COVID-19 response related needs, the total net funding requirement for the period February – July 2021 stands at US$ 2.04 M.

**Donors**

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