



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Tajikistan Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200813 (Apr. 2016 – Dec.2020)	79.4 m	19.7 m (25%)	2.7 m (40%)

\*May- October 2017

**GENDER MARKER 2A** CP 200813

**School Meals:** WFP’s school meals programme is an essential component of the Government of Tajikistan’s social safety net. It provides daily school meals to 370,000 students in 2,000 schools (over 54 percent of the total schools) in rural areas. The programme aims to assist vulnerable food insecure communities in rural areas. Since October 2013, WFP is working to ensure full hand over of the programme activities to the Government by 2020. WFP started undertaking activities in the framework of the recently concluded FLA with Russian NGO Social Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI), in addition to assisting Government in drafting a national school meals strategy. WFP Tajikistan in cooperation with WHH provided 100 stoves to 100 local schools in Khatlon region (South). The Programme has already started to develop criteria for choosing pilot schools for school meals provision.

**Food Assistance for Assets:** Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes help meet immediate food needs of food insecure people while building community assets. Communities contribute to sustainable livelihoods by working on assets, using food, vouchers or cash transfers as incentive. This helps to reduce impact of shocks, strengthen resilience to natural disasters, while ensuring environmental benefits. In Khatlon and Rasht regions, WFP has ongoing projects in partnership with UNDP. WFP completed the tender on conducting cash-based transfer as assistance modality and selected a provider in the North region. FFA plans to expand the initiative throughout the whole country and continues to find partners for the implementation. The project is being implemented in the new selected districts throughout all the four regions of the country.

**Emergency Preparedness:** WFP supports Tajikistan’s emergency preparedness and response system, working with the government’s Committee for Emergency Situations and other relevant agencies. Based on its solid experience in this sector, WFP is an active member of the

# Highlights

- A WFP mission from HQ and RBC held high-level meetings with government counterparts and UN agencies to illustrate the scope of the new WFP strategic plan and introduce the Integrated Road Map, which aims at supporting the government.
- WFP CO took part at a “Fortify Our Future” summit on 3-4 April 2017 in Almaty, Kazakhstan to improve structures, regulations, and monitoring of wheat flour fortification with iron and folic acid. The initiative will advocate for policy makers to take the next steps toward establishing and/or enforcing mandatory wheat flour fortification in their countries and throughout the region.
- WFP CO conducted Staffing and Structure Review with the support of the RB.
- WFP signed a Field Level Agreement (FLA) with German Agro Action (WHH) on the provision of energy efficient customised ovens for 100 selected pilot schools.

national Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team and contributes to achieving objectives of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

WFP responds to natural disasters and emergencies through emergency food assistance and relief interventions. It strongly cooperates with the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense and prepares to sign MoU for collaboration in the area of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

**Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition:** [Tajikistan has the worst nutrition indicators in Central Asia](#). Every year more than 5,000 children are enrolled in a WFP-supported supplementary feeding programme treating moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in selected Primary Health Care Centres. WFP undertook the process of developing Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines and is working to scale up the prevention of chronic and acute malnutrition, contingent upon resources and funding. WFP co-chairs the Food Security and Nutrition Development Coordination Council, and advocates for nutritional goals throughout the framework of the Scale UP Nutrition (SUN) movement in country.

**Support to Patients living with Tuberculosis (TB):** Following the approval of the 2016-2020 Country Programme, WFP approached the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) to strategically review its programme and the relevance of food assistance to TB patients’ family members.

## In Numbers

**715,000** people in need of food assistance

(Estimated number of the vulnerable rural population classified as in Crisis Phase according to IPC in 2016)

**373,742**  
People Assisted  
April 2017



**Main Credit:** WFP/Dodokhon Mahmudov  
**Photo Caption:** School Meals Event in Rudaki District (2017).



April 2017

## Operational Updates

- WFP - in collaboration with Caritas Switzerland - is exploring opportunities for local purchases of food with the small farmers association.
- Several initial project proposals have been submitted by the field offices and the most relevant ones have been pre-selected for final project development.
- Data for the last round of the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) was collected in April-May, 2017, with the facilitation of UNICEF. FSMS Round 19 bulletin is expected to be published in June 2017. During the round, WFP Tajikistan improved the FSMS questionnaire to incorporate a more comprehensive gender perspective, following a consultation with VAM regional expert.

## Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan urgently requires USD 2.7 million to implement activities under the Country Programme, in order to provide assistance over the next six months, May - October 2017.
- WFP requires USD 6.2 million to support national School Meals programme for the next 12 months.
- WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response, which allows to support only 1,500 people over a period of two months. Given the warning of possible severe mudflows in the following months, WFP requires more funding to allocate to emergency response.
- The total project funding need is USD 59.2 million. With USD 19.7 million received, so far 25% of the project needs are funded.
- Due to funding limitations, school meals and FFA activities are operational with reduction in entitlements and coverage while the TB activity is put on hold. With the available resources, WFP was forced to reduce daily ration to children under the school meals programme, resulting in a lower macro- and micro-nutrient intake provided to children. Furthermore, without additional funding, WFP will not be able to provide timely assistance to moderate acute malnourished children under 5 as of July 2017.

## Country Background & Strategy



Tajikistan is a landlocked, lower-middle income, food deficit country with a population of approximately eight million, three quarters of whom live in rural areas. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous challenges to food security during the winter period.

The latest round of Food Security Monitoring System (December 2016) showed that Food Security in Tajikistan follows seasonal variation with higher percentage of food secure households in December and lower percentage in April/May. The prevalence of food insecure group (moderately and severely insecure households) remains relatively stable. In December 2016, 3 percent of the surveyed households were severely food insecure, while 19 percent were moderately food insecure. This is an improvement compared with May 2016, while it is about the same level as December 2015. The food insecurity prevalence was 33 percent for households headed by a woman, while it was 20 percent for household headed by a man. The results of the next FSMS report will be available in June 2017.

The country is the poorest in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with 47 percent of the population living on less than USD 1.33 a day and 17 percent subsisting on less than USD 0.85 a day.

The majority of the population spends between 70-80 percent of their income on food, despite this, around one fifth of the population is affected by food insecurity. According to findings of the 2016 Global Hunger Index (GHI) and FAO, Tajikistan tops malnutrition among the former Soviet republics. GHI indicates the stunting rate to be 26.8 percent and wasting rate to be 9.9 percent in Tajikistan (source: DHS, 2012).

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993.

Population: **8.35 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **129 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors:

The Russian Federation, [Japan Association](#) for WFP and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.

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