Fighting Hunger Worldwide

The World Food Programme in Tajikistan

The World Food Program is the largest humanitarian agency in Tajikistan, serving over 550,000 people through its four field offices and a Country Office in Dushanbe. WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993, when it launched an Emergency Operation to give life-saving assistance during the Civil War. Since then, WFP has been working in emergencies, helping victims of the country's frequent natural disasters; in recovery, giving people food assistance in activities promoting self-sufficiency; and in development, providing nutritious meals to schoolchildren in rural areas. The overall goal of the WFP intervention in Tajikistan is to help vulnerable people recover from shocks, improve household food security and nutrition, preserve/rehabilitate assets, increase food production and promote investment in human capital.

Emergency Response

Every year, WFP responds to the needs of people struck by the frequent natural disasters in Tajikistan – floods, mudslides, droughts and earthquakes. In 2012, WFP provided food assistance to people who lost their food stocks in spring flooding, giving around 1,106 people a ration of fortified wheat flour, beans, enriched vegetable oil and iodized salt.

School Meals

WFP provides a nourishing bowl of hot soup and bread to 360,000 primary school children, their teachers and support staff every day they are in school. Beginning in 1999 as a pilot project of 5,000 children, the programme today covers nearly 2,000 schools and some 60% of all rural primary school children in the country. Through the delivery of fortified wheat four, enriched vegetable oil, pulses and iodized salt, WFP supports access to education, especially for children from the poorest and most vulnerable families. The food gives the children both better nutrition and the ability to concentrate on learning. Through 12 years of strong and productive partnerships with Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and local authorities, WFP school feeding is a success story for the whole country.

Food for Assets (FFA)

Under this activity, WFP provides food assistance as an incentive for communities to undertake small projects to build or rehabilitate family and community assets. WFP food support has allowed communities to build drainage canals, repair bridges, rehabilitate schools, and rebuild homes damaged during natural disasters. In 2012, WFP, working closely with

The World Food Programme in Tajikistan

the Hukumats, Jamoats and local NGOs, contributed to the construction/rehabilitation of communities assets, with 36,765 people benefitting from the FFA activities.

Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)

VGF gives a two-month ration of fortified wheat flour, enriched vegetable oil, iodized salt and pulses to keep the most food-insecure families from going hungry at the most difficult times of year -- the pre-winter period of November/ December and the pre-harvest "lean season" of April/May. In 2012, WFP provided this food to 100,838 people in each VGF cycle. WFP uses an analytical tool, the Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS), to identify who needs our assistance the most. The FSMS, jointly with partners from Government institutions and international agencies, uses village-level household surveys of income and assets to determine the levels of food security in the country.

A Pilot Cash Transfer Project

WFP has implemented a pilot cash transfer to around 7,000 of the most vulnerable people in Ayni district of Sughd region in January 2013. In partnership with the district authorities, WFP provided cash assistance to over 1,400 households with the lowest income, who own only small patches of land and possess few animals or other assets. These families were previously receiving WFP food rations but under the pilot they received cash assistance equivalent to TJS 500 (US$ 105) per household.

Providing families with cash gives them the opportunity to choose the food items they wish to buy and to buy different kinds of food, including fresh produce, to make their diets more diverse

Health and Nutrition – Supplementary Feeding

Working with the Tajik Ministry of Health and UNICEF, WFP provides a ration of wheat flour and pulses to malnourished children and their mothers. In 2012, more than 5,600 children regained a normal nutritional status through this programme.

Health and Nutrition – Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Patients

WFP gives fortified monthly rations of wheat flour, enriched vegetable oil, iodized salt and pulses to patients undergoing treatment under the DOTS programme. The patients' families also get a ration to get them through this period of lower income. In 2012, WFP assisted 25,500 patients and their family members. The programme is implemented with the National Tuberculosis Center, Project Hope and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan. Good nutrition has been proven to enhance patients' immune system.