



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Tajikistan, Republic of (TJ)

Supporting Access to Education for Vulnerable Children

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200120
Project Category	Development Project
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	727,500
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	370,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	371,542

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	June 09, 2010
Planned Start Date	August 01, 2010
Actual Start Date	August 01, 2010
Project End Date	March 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	46,276,766
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,663,852
Direct Support Costs	7,743,848
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	3,897,913
Total	59,582,380

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	12,454
Actual Commodities 2015	7,961
Total Approved Commodities	70,704

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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Tajikistan is a landlocked country with a population of 8.2 million, ranking 129 out of 188 countries in the 2014 Human Development Index. Despite decreasing levels of poverty since 2009 and achieving lower-middle income status in 2015, Tajikistan remains the poorest country in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. It is highly vulnerable to both external and internal shocks, and economic forecasts undermine short and medium term development and poverty reduction prospects. Income received from remittances of migrant labourers, mainly men working mostly in the Russian Federation, has been valued by the World Bank to account for almost 50 percent of Tajikistan's gross domestic product (GDP). This significant source of income is currently at risk due to the recent regional economic downturn and subsequent devaluation of the Russian rouble. Tajikistan is a food-deficit country and, according to the Tajikistan Wheat Flour Fortification Assessment conducted by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in 2014, it imports half of the wheat consumed, which constitutes 70 percent of the average daily calorie intake. This results in the poorest being disproportionately affected by food price fluctuations. Tajikistan is classified as the country most vulnerable to climatic change in the ECA, and is prone to various natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, mudflows and floods.

According to the latest Demographic Health Survey conducted in 2012, Tajikistan has the worst nutrition indicators in Central Asia with 26 percent of children under 5 stunted (chronic malnutrition) and 10 percent wasted (acute malnutrition). One major contributor is poor infant and young child feeding practices with only 20 percent of children receiving proper feeding, including breastfeeding, in terms of food diversity and frequency. Acutely malnourished children are mostly coming from poor households, and disparities between rural and urban areas are significant.

WHO 2014 Tuberculosis (TB) Profile estimated that Tajikistan has the sixth highest incidence of TB in the ECA region. The TB-related burden of illness is especially high in food insecure, rural areas of Tajikistan. Patients are often returnee migrants. The impact is twofold: loss of main income source, and increased health risk of spreading the disease to other family members.

Tajikistan is ranked 69 out of 155 countries on the 2014 Gender Inequality Index. While the law guarantees equality of men and women in all spheres including land relations, women face difficulties in exercising their rights and in accessing the labour market. As a result they are disproportionately affected by poverty as they are overrepresented in the lower paid informal agriculture sector.

A final evaluation of the country's results against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has not yet been conducted, however, progress seems uneven. Following the 2016-2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) document, which was developed in the second half of 2015 and has the latest available overview on the MDGs, Tajikistan appears to be on track to meet its poverty, education, environmental sustainability and global partnership MDGs, while health and gender goals are unlikely to be met. Infant, child and maternal mortality have been reducing, but more slowly than required. Primary school enrolment is almost universal, however, attendance is not regular, particularly in winter when infrastructural problems related to transport, electricity and heating in schools make this difficult. Tajikistan has not only not achieved its target toward MDG 1, of halving the proportion of people suffering from undernourishment, but has in fact reversed progress with recorded results for the percentage of the population undernourished increasing from 28 (1990-1992) to 33 percent (2014-2015).

Summary Of WFP Assistance

In 2015, WFP implemented four different operations extending its support to over 550,000 beneficiaries through relief, recovery and development assistance.

WFP implemented two development projects to support the country's social protection system. The school feeding programme (DEV 200120) aimed to increase access to education and social protection of children living in rural food insecure areas; while DEV 200173 provided a social safety net to TB patients and their families, who often come from the poorest and most vulnerable households in Tajikistan.

A protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200122) which was launched in the aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2008, focused on restoring and improving livelihoods for the most food insecure and vulnerable rural populations. The PRRO included an emergency response and preparedness component; food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, which aimed to increase the access of targeted communities to productive assets; and assistance to malnourished children under five years of age. Emergency preparedness was also supported by a separate trust fund focusing on capacity building for WFP and both central and local counterparts, including NGOs and government authorities and agencies, on emergency logistics, telecommunication and programme design and management.

In August, WFP launched a three-month immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP 200897) to provide food assistance to people who were affected by devastating mudflows in Gorno-Badakhshan and in the Rasht Valley.

WFP's biannual Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) household survey was conducted this year in collaboration with UNICEF, investigating child health and schooling practices along with household food security. WFP continued to lead the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in coordination with FAO, strengthening local government and partners' capacity to analyse food insecurity and plan responses.

WFP's activities contributed to the food security, social protection and resilience goals of the UNDAF (2010-2015); supported MDG 1, eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, MDG 2, achieve universal primary education, and MDG 3, promote gender equality and empower women; and the objectives of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	4,713	4,606	9,319
Children (5-18 years)	183,605	175,601	359,206
Adults (18 years plus)	30,965	37,258	68,223
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	219,283	217,465	436,748

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	8,050	448	699	0	186	9,383
Single Country IR-EMOP	230	8	24	0	3	265
Single Country PRRO	619	27	58	36	9	749
Total Food Distributed in 2015	8,899	482	781	36	198	10,397

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Although Tajikistan has achieved significant improvement in attendance and enrolment rates in primary schools over the last decade, the educational sector remains vastly underfunded. Many parents struggle financially to keep their children in school as they are obliged to cover additional costs such as textbooks, school maintenance fees, supplies and, in some cases, salaries for technical staff.

The school feeding project addressed WFP Strategic Objective 4, to reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger, by aiming to increase equitable access to education through the provision of school meals to children from food insecure areas. The project has been crucial in retaining high enrolment and attendance rates, as school meals provide an important reason for parents to continue to send their children to school.

DEV 200120 sought to strengthen the government's capacity to take over school feeding through close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and Science and other line ministries through the Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee on School Feeding and local authorities. The programme was aligned with the National Strategy for Education Development 2012-2020.

The National School Feeding Strategy Concept was endorsed by government decree in February to produce a sustainable country owned school feeding programme. WFP implemented a wide range of capacity building activities within the concept's framework throughout the year, including the provision of training and technical support and activities to improve infrastructure, supporting the management of school feeding on different levels of project implementation.

DEV 200120 has played a key role in the formulation of the education pillar under UNDAF 2016-2020 and the National Development Strategy of Tajikistan 2016-2030 to be approved in 2016.

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

WFP successfully reached the target number of beneficiaries under school feeding activities. The slight increase was in line with the number of students attending the primary schools covered by the programme.

WFP school feeding targeted school children in primary grades 1 to 4 in the most food insecure rural areas of the country. The targeted districts were selected on the basis of the vulnerability assessment conducted in cooperation with the government at the starting phase of the programme in 1999. Since then, the programme expanded to include additional schools in the vulnerable areas identified through the FSMS and resulting in assistance being provided to more than half of all the rural schools of Tajikistan in 2015.

The modality of the food assistance provided was onsite meals offered on daily basis. School teachers and technical staff supported the delivery of the meals, for which they received identical food assistance with the children. The caloric value of the food provided by WFP was 516 kcal and accounted for 24.5 percent of the daily calorie intake recommendation of 2,100 kcal for children aged 7 to 11, according to the National Nutrition Recommendations by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

WFP's food basket included fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, iodised salt and pulses. The local authorities and parents provided complementary food commodities and condiments for preparing hot meals. The support went beyond providing additional food, including support to salaries of technical staff, kitchen maintenance, secondary transport of the food and bread baking.

The discrepancy between the slightly higher than planned beneficiary coverage versus the lower than planned actual food distribution was related to resource availability: to enable adequate coverage of beneficiaries, WFP provided a reduced entitlement.

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Beneficiaries	185,000	185,000	370,000	186,514	185,028	371,542	100.8%	100.0%	100.4%
By Age-group:									
Children (5-18 years)	169,090	168,350	337,440	175,739	167,937	343,676	103.9%	99.8%	101.8%
Adults (18 years plus)	15,910	16,650	32,560	10,775	17,091	27,866	67.7%	102.6%	85.6%
By Residence status:									
Residents	185,000	185,000	370,000	186,514	185,028	371,542	100.8%	100.0%	100.4%

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality									
Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
School Feeding (on-site)	370,000	-	370,000	371,542	-	371,542	100.4%	-	100.4%

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	169,138	168,462	337,600	175,626	168,065	343,691	103.8%	99.8%	101.8%
Activity supporters	15,876	16,524	32,400	10,806	17,045	27,851	68.1%	103.2%	86.0%
Total participants	185,014	184,986	370,000	186,432	185,110	371,542	100.8%	100.1%	100.4%
Total beneficiaries	185,014	184,986	370,000	186,432	185,110	371,542	100.8%	100.1%	100.4%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Iodised Salt	189	171	90.5%
Split Peas	1,887	575	30.5%
Vegetable Oil	944	401	42.5%
Wheat Flour	9,435	6,814	72.2%
Total	12,454	7,961	63.9%

Story Worth Telling

During the last two years, WFP worked actively towards enhancing the variety and nutritional value of the food provided within school feeding. WFP provided a food basket consisting of basic commodities: fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, peas and iodised salt. Thanks to the parents' generous contribution of additional vegetables, the schools were able to provide hot soup daily to the children.

As a part of the efforts to enhance the nutrition given through the school meals, WFP organised trainings developed for food technologists and professional cooks in two districts. WFP involved cooks and health and nutrition professionals to develop a recipe book made specifically for school feeding. The recipes ensured sufficient nutritional content to meet the needs of school children and were based on nationally available produce. Although the ingredient basket is limited, the recipes are varied and celebrate culturally acceptable dishes from the region: *plovs* (rice with vegetables and meat), vegetable soups and savory pies. The book offers nutritional information on the ingredients used in the recipes like pumpkin, aubergine, quince, cottage cheese and nuts; information charts with nutrition requirements for school children as set by the health officials; and practical tips to encourage healthy cooking and eating habits.

Nabi Kuzeboev, a school cook in Sughd, one of the 2,000 rural schools supported by the programme, explains, “I have been a cook for 35 years, but this is the first time I have made pasta salad, a delicious idea from this recipe book. Usually we make pasta or salad separately. This is an excellent combination, less effort, much healthier and the children love it. It is not easy to decide what to make for dinner for your family every day. Imagine having to cook lunch for 200 children.”

He recalled that previously the vegetables available limited him to cooking *ugro* (traditional soup made from vegetables, peas and home-made pasta), but now using the recipe book, he can find many recipes to make different meals from the same ingredients.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Women have been adversely affected by the lack of economic security and declining political participation following the post-independence and civil war period. The transition has severely affected industries like manufacturing and agriculture causing many to lose their jobs, while other sectors where women predominate such as health and education, have witnessed drops in wages. The collapse of the social safety nets has rendered an increased number of women and families living in poverty, while the loss of quotas guaranteeing equal representation in political and governmental bodies has increasingly kept them out of decision-making positions. Furthermore, women and girls are increasingly facing discrimination in accessing education.

Parents and teacher's associations (PTA) members take an active part in managing school feeding at the local level. Half of all PTA members who were active in the programme were women. This can in part be attributed to WFP's advocacy, awareness raising and promotion of gender parity during PTA board meetings and election events, which included the development of a quota system for female PTA members and lobbying for daytime scheduling in order to facilitate women's participation in board meetings.

Training was provided to the newly elected members of the committees, with slightly less involvement of female participants than expected, which is attributed to persistent traditional gender behavioural patterns in some communities.

Enrolment rates for girls and boys remained stable. This is related to the proportion of girls and boys of school age among the general population, which is similar to the previous year.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=50.00	50.00		55.00
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12	=70.00	10.00		65.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Field monitors and cooperating partners (CPs) did not observe any security incidents involving beneficiaries during school feeding activities, and the PTAs did not express concerns about the safety of school children. The results of

the reports were cross-checked with other involved stakeholders, including CPs and local authorities, and are believed to be credible.

Some schools lacked facilities, such as toilets or special classrooms for certain subjects, and children were forced to walk great distances through hazardous terrain to other schools. Through WFP's FFA activities under PRRO 200122, classrooms and toilets were renovated to minimise the possibility of hazards for children's health and well-being.

WFP staff and school focal points informed PTA members about WFP's school feeding programme through monthly information meetings and PTA gatherings, the results of which were reported back to WFP by school feeding focal points.

The members of PTAs were included in the development of the menus and daily organisation of the meals. This encouraged them to show more initiative in supporting school feeding by providing firewood for cooking and complementary ingredients for the meals. Feedback from school staff was received through the local school feeding focal point from the district's education department, who visited each school three times a year and subsequently reported back to WFP field monitors.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	90.00		
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	90.00		
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	90.00		
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		

Outputs

Within the framework of capacity building activities under the school feeding programme, WFP conducted training for the regional school feeding focal points involved in the implementation of the programme on monitoring, reporting, management, organisation of school feeding, and hygiene and sanitation issues. While training female staff was a priority for WFP, the number of male staff trained was higher than planned in line with the actual number of male and female staff in the municipalities.

Together with the Ministry of Education, WFP advocated for the cooks to receive formal training and official cook positions in schools to be financed through the districts' education budgets. As a result, 20 cooks received formal training in 2015; meanwhile WFP will work further to promote expansion of this activity.

PTAs continued to be key drivers of successful implementation of school feeding. Training was provided to PTAs on supervision of food preparation, food service, bread baking, delivery from bakeries and food storage management. PTAs were responsible for coordinating deliveries of complementary food provided by parents and community members to the school meals programme. In schools which had gardens, PTAs were involved in the production and use of harvested produce for the school meals.

In the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region in the east of Tajikistan, WFP continued delivery of energy efficient stoves to schools to facilitate the preparation of hot meals during winter. These stoves reduced the workload of school assistants, who were mostly women, decreasing the time required to gather firewood and tend to the fire.

In the framework of development activities, with the support of the Russian NGO, Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), the results of the national survey focusing on different aspects of school management, organisation and infrastructure affecting school feeding were summarised. An evaluation of the existing legislation and regulations of different aspects of school feeding was carried out, the findings of which will inform and guide the development process of the programme.

A System Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) exercise was implemented to evaluate school feeding frameworks in Tajikistan. Led by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, chairing the Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee for school feeding, the exercise involved programme stakeholders from national and local government, schools, private sector, PTAs and CPs. A programme roadmap was developed as a result of the exercise to guide the work within policy making and management of the programme.

As a part of infrastructure development and improved efficiency of school feeding, eight pilot schools were chosen in two districts: Norek and Ayni. The canteens in these schools were renovated, refurbished and supplied with modern equipment, such as stoves, ovens, refrigerators, sinks, dough machines, water tanks and boilers. The schools were part of a pilot introducing new low cost, nutritiously balanced menus based on widely available local products. The management and the technical staff of the schools received relevant trainings and regular follow-up from the district education departments' nutrition specialists.

To test out different models of efficient school meals operations, WFP started school-based bakeries in two schools that will provide bread and buns to 45 other schools in their respective districts. The concept for starting school gardens as a fundraising project was developed to be tested in six schools across the country starting in 2016.

WFP supported the specialist development of the Healthy Lifestyle educational package that focused on primary school children; the package included theoretical material and interactive exercises for classroom use. A game on health and nutrition was developed and produced to communicate important information to the school aged children in a fun way. Currently, the package is undergoing clearance by the Ministry of Education in order to be introduced at schools.

The discrepancy between planned energy content of the food provided by WFP versus actual distribution is related to limited resource availability: to reach adequate coverage of beneficiaries, WFP provided a reduced entitlement of food. The energy value of the additional commodities provided by the PTAs was about 200 kcal, in accordance with the estimations based on the school menus.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO4: Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of female government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	20	20	100.0
Number of male government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	70	72	102.9
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	8	8	100.0
SO4: School Feeding (on-site)				

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Energy content of food distributed (kcal/person/day)	individual	760	516	67.9
Number of children that received deworming treatment in government deworming campaign with the assistance of WFP	individual	343,322	341,167	99.4
Number of feeding days	instance	170	170	100.0
Number of schools assisted by WFP	school	1,991	1,991	100.0

Outcomes

WFP's school feeding programme continued being a powerful factor in increasing primary school enrolment and attendance rates, which remained stable at almost maximal attainable levels in recent years. Moreover, the hot meals helped the children to focus on their lessons, thus increasing their learning capacity. These achievements are also attributed to the government's education policy offering free primary schooling. Nonetheless, the overall quality of education in Tajikistan remains low, and schools are not sufficiently funded to cope with the rapidly growing population. Many schools have overcrowded classrooms and lack basic infrastructure; through FFA activities conducted under PRRO 200122, classrooms and toilets were renovated to minimise the possibility of hazards for children's health and well-being.

Despite funding shortfalls, WFP was able to absorb the growing number of children in the assisted schools providing hot meals five days a week.

The National School Feeding Policy concept document, drafted by WFP and the government, was signed into law and provides the basis for a National School Feeding Programme Strategy, to guide the programme towards full national ownership.

WFP, together with the governmental Coordination Committee, lobbied for the inclusion of school feeding related indicators on infrastructure, technical capacity of the canteens, staffing and food quality in the National Education Database. This will not only ensure regularly updated data related to school feeding to inform the programme, but also represents an essential step to better lobby for more funds for school feeding itself.

WFP, with its technical partner SIFI and Ministry of Health and Social Protection, developed and published a recipe book for school feeding. The book aims at promoting healthy and varied diets for schoolchildren, based on locally available products. This handbook for cooks focuses on school children and provides nutrition facts and dietary requirements for respective age groups. The book was published and will be made available to rural schools and public libraries in 2016.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children				
Average number of schooldays per month on which multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2014.03 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	>17.00	18.70	-	18.88
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2010.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	>0.20	0.01	0.30	0.20
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2010.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=0.02	0.01	0.20	0.10
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2010.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=0.02	0.01	0.40	0.20
Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2010.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=99.00	98.40	98.60	98.45
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 Monthly SF report , Base value: 2010.12 WFP programme monitoring Monthly SF report , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=98.40	98.40	98.50	98.42
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 Monthly SF report , Base value: 2010.12 WFP programme monitoring Monthly SF report , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=98.40	98.20	98.60	98.47
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
COUNTRYWIDE , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Base value: 2015.04 Secondary data	=1.60	1.40	-	-

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP worked continuously towards increasing the sustainability of the school feeding programme, by testing out various resource effective models of organising school meals, enhancing the capacity of the local authorities and school feeding managers, and initiating a comprehensive planning of the programme handover to the government. WFP's technical partner SIFI conducted a country-wide analysis of the existing policies and legal frameworks for school feeding, and on the basis of this analysis, expert recommendations and guidelines were developed for future programme implementation.

Together with line ministries such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economy, WFP participated in the Coordination Committee for school feeding led by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection. The committee was active in drafting the National School Feeding Policy Concept document and lobbying for its endorsement by the President. The committee provided continuous support to the regular implementation of the programme and was actively involved in development of the first draft of the national

programme.

WFP advocated rigorously to ensure inclusion of the school feeding priorities into the National Educational and the Social Protection Strategies 2016-2020, and the new National Development Strategy 2016-2030. School feeding activities were planned under the forthcoming WFP Country Programme 2016-2020 and integrated with other United Nations agencies' actions under the UNDAF 2016-2020.

Within the framework of the SABER exercise, WFP prepared an assessment of the existing institutional capacity of school feeding and its frameworks, and together with the school feeding partners and stakeholders outlined a roadmap for developing a nationally owned sustainable programme with specific time frames and actions.

WFP strengthened local production by contracting local producers to increase their production of iodized salt to supply the local market.

Inputs

Resource Inputs

The multi-year donation from the Russian Federation was valuable for the programme not only in terms of possibility of long-term perspective planning, but also facilitating better planning of common goals between the government and the donor. Multi-year support enabled WFP to start the process of capacity building within the programme in close partnership with the government and make more realistic plans for the forthcoming transition to national ownership.

WFP had to prolong the provision of reduced entitlements throughout the school year due to continued funding shortfalls. Complementary contributions from the Government of Tajikistan increased in 2015. Despite the economic downturn in the country, PTAs were able to continue supplying complementary firewood, fruit, vegetables and condiments at previous levels. Specifically, as a part of the school-based bakery pilot, two schools were fully financed by their respective local governments to undergo a capital renovation, including construction of pipelines and sewage systems to ensure appropriate hygiene standards.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	0	750	0
Russian Federation	0	6,155	270
Total	0	6,905	270

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

As during the previous years of programme implementation, iodised salt was the only commodity procured from local producers. In accordance with the agreement, local producers increased the production to ensure minimal price fluctuation in local markets. In consequence of this agreement and the volume of the purchase being very small, the price of iodised salt was not affected in local markets. All the remaining commodities were purchased regionally.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Iodised Salt	270	0	0	0
Split Peas	0	389	232	0
Vegetable Oil	0	0	326	0

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Wheat Flour	0	0	7,265	0
Total	270	389	7,823	0

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Food purchased outside the country arrived in Tajikistan by train and was delivered to one of the two main WFP warehouses in Dushanbe or Khujand. WFP was responsible for handling and transporting all food from the warehouses to the extended delivery points. These points had been agreed upon by WFP and its CPs under the respective programmes. The CPs were responsible for reception, storage and handling at the delivery points. The focal points of regional education departments notified the schools of the delivery dates, and coordinated the receipt of the food at the extended delivery points.

Post-Delivery Losses

Minimal post-delivery losses occurred under the programme implementation. This success can mainly be attributed to the efficient monitoring by the focal points of the regional education departments and WFP field monitors who conducted monitoring visits to every school three times a year. These visits imposed strict quality controls on both storage conditions and the handling of commodities.

Management

Partnerships

WFP closely cooperated with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture to coordinate efforts to improve the transition of the programme to national ownership. WFP cooperated with the Ministry of Education and Science through district education departments for field level implementation of the programme.

Both national and local level government authorities provided administration and information support. Local government contributed financially, paying the cooks' salaries, maintenance and utilities and secondary transportation costs, in addition to partial payment of local private bakeries that have an agreement to bake bread for the school meals with WFP commodities. District-level school feeding focal points monitored the implementation and visited all the assisted schools a minimum of three times per school year. The focal points collected data from the schools, including attendance rates, gender-disaggregated data and community contributions for regular monthly reports.

Hired by WFP for its technical expertise in improving public food services, SIFI continued to support the activities to improve the school feeding programme and the process of handover to the government. The partnership with SIFI was extended until the end of the project and included technical support, research assistance and testing of innovative approaches in the organisation of the school meals through pilot projects, with an overall aim of delivering an efficient school feeding programme aligned with international nutrition standards, national policies and development plans. Together with UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, WFP advocated for school meals to be included in the social protection and education pillar of the UNDAF 2016-2020 and in the National Social Protection Strategy for 2016-2020. Through the project, WFP managed to facilitate closer and more frequent communication between the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Education and Science at both the technical and Deputy Minister levels, which further consolidated relationships between the Ministries and WFP.

The calculation of the complementary funds provided by national and local governments is based on a more comprehensive contribution analysis conducted for the school feeding programme. The analysis has given accurate information on figures, sources and modalities of contribution made within the programme. The latest figure currently includes the contribution the local government makes to the salaries of the technical staff involved in school feeding, in addition to the running costs traditionally considered in the target estimate.

WFP worked actively toward establishing contact and discussing possible collaboration and joint action with UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ - German Agency for International Cooperation) and the NGO *Welthungerhilfe* in Tajikistan with the objective of promoting use of local produce for school feeding, thus supporting the market and creating links between schools and the agricultural sector to encourage local farming. It is expected that such collaborations will materialise during the implementation of the forthcoming Country Programme 2016-2020.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total		2		2

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=2,000,000.00	3,492,495.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=2.00	2.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>TAJIKISTAN, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

Lessons Learned

Working in active partnership with the government was not only a powerful tool for involving different levels of national and local authorities into the programme implementation, but was also a strong motivating factor for the schools to enhance their delivery of the programme. For example, the partnership proved effective in improving the quality of the meals and by showing initiative and coming up with new ideas on how to organise the work.

A popular comedian was featured in a cooking show to launch the recipe book for school feeding. Furthermore, different ministers attended the launch event highlighting the importance of nutrition education in schools. Involving famous and high-level local figures in programme implementation in this way was an effective way of communicating nutrition related messages to the general public and promote the initiatives among the local population. Likewise, advocacy of the programme through traditional and modern marketing techniques (social media events, television advertisements and televised news reports) contributed to increased understanding of the importance of school feeding.

The schools in Tajikistan are geographically spread out and differ very much in size, capacities and conditions. For this reason there is no common recipe for establishing an improved or more effective school feeding. Analysing differences, determining possibilities and testing them out will be the most pragmatic way forward towards a sustainable nation-wide school feeding programme. For this purpose, WFP and CPs have planned to test different models of organisation and modalities of meals during the next 5 year period of the programme.

Funding shortfalls were a significant challenge to programme implementation. WFP has been working to increase contributions provided by the current donor, and to diversify the donor base through organising potential donor visits, advocating for the programme in different development fora, and submitting formal proposals. WFP plans to enhance these fundraising efforts in 2016 through joint action with the national government.

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
School Feeding (on-site)	370,000	-	370,000	371,542	-	371,542	100.4%	-	100.4%

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas	0	390	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Wheat Flour	0	360	0
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00035-04	Iodised Salt	0	140	270
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00035-04	Wheat Flour	0	72	0
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00035-06	Wheat Flour	0	265	0
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00047-01	Vegetable Oil	0	56	0
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00047-01	Wheat Flour	0	3,496	0
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00049-03	Vegetable Oil	0	168	0
Russian Federation	RUS-C-00049-03	Wheat Flour	0	1,958	0
Total			0	6,905	270