



Joint Programme Document and Fund Transfer Request

Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance

Eligibility Check

Does the proposal address one or more of the following sectors affected by the global crisis? Select all relevant sectors.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Finance
What are the areas of intervention that will be implemented by this proposal? Select all relevant intervention areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data collection/analytics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis and forecasting <input type="checkbox"/> Help devise a comprehensive preventative package of response measures <input type="checkbox"/> Testing / catalysing new integrated policies, financing solutions, programmes
Is the proposal developed under the RC leadership to mobilize the UNCT to effectively and efficiently respond to the crisis?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the proposal contribute to results in the UNSDCFs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the proposal building on and topping up an existing joint programme supported by the Joint SDG Fund?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Cover-page

MPTFO Project Reference Number	
Country	Tajikistan
Region	Central Asia
Joint programme title:	Improved food security in Tajikistan

Outcomes(s):	Outcome 1. Inclusive human development: By 2026, health, food security and nutrition, education and social protection systems and services are more effective, inclusive, gender-sensitive, and adequately financed
Duration:	6 months
Anticipated start and end dates:	July 1, 2022- Dec 31, 2022
Short description	Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia. A close economic relationship with Russia has exposed it to secondary effects of sanctions imposed on Russia. Besides relying heavily on Russian imports including more than 90 percent of its fuel and petroleum, Tajikistan is also a major importer of grain. Many households depend on remittances sent by Tajik migrants working in Russia. As Russian economy starts to contract, it is expected that remittances will fall by 40 percent in 2022 thereby increasing household vulnerability including food insecurity. Close to 800,000 people are likely to become severely food insecure. UN Tajikistan has formulated a short-term global crisis response framework which aims to support national efforts to minimize the cascading impact of rising food and oil prices and the narrowing fiscal space. As part of this framework, the UN Agencies propose to strengthen a national vulnerability monitoring system that can rapidly assess the state of food security at the sub-national level. Such a system will enable the government and development partners to provide targeted cash and in-kind assistance to the most vulnerable segments of the population.
Resident Coordinator	Sezin Sinanoglu sezin.sinanoglu@un.org
UN Joint Program RCO focal point	Owais Parray, Economist, RCO owais.parray@un.org
PUNO Lead agency JP Focal point	Abesh KC, WFP Tajikistan, abesh.kc@wfp.org
Other PUNOs JP focal point	Ibrohim Ahmadov, FAO Tajikistan Ibrohim.Ahmadov@fao.org
Total budget:	
Source of funds:	
• UN Joint SDG Fund	\$248,668
• WFP	\$170,344
• FAO	\$78,324

SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme	<p>2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.</p> <p>2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.</p>
<u>Gender Marker</u>	<p>Select only one from the options below</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GEN3: Have gender equality/women empowerment as the primary or principal objective.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GEN2: Make a significant contribution to gender equality/women empowerment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GEN1: Make a limited contribution to gender equality/women empowerment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GEN0: Make no contribution to gender equality/women empowerment</p>

JOINT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Situation Analysis With a per capita GDP of USD 859 and more than 26 percent of the people below the national poverty line, Tajikistan is the poorest country in Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Limited economic diversification, a narrow fiscal space, and dependence on food and oil imports makes Tajikistan vulnerable to internal and external shocks. The spill-over effect of the Ukraine conflict is yet another test for Tajikistan’s fragile economy and its government to ensure that development gains are not further eroded. Tajikistan has close political and economic ties with Russia. Almost 30 percent of total imports are from Russia. Russia also accounts for more than 90 percent of Tajik labour migrants. Personal remittances from Russia are equivalent to almost 27 percent of GDP. As expected, the secondary effects of economic sanctions on Russia were immediately felt in Tajikistan with greater volatility in the financial sector, disruptions in international transfer payments, and a surge in food and oil prices.

Vulnerability in Tajikistan is a result of a confluence of factors ranging from food insecurity to economic underdevelopment and environmental degradation. A food security assessment in 2021 showed that 20 percent of the households were food insecure while a further 47 percent were only marginally food secure.¹ To meet their daily food needs, around 63 percent of the households resorted to livelihood-eroding coping strategies making them highly susceptible to future shocks. Though the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age in Tajikistan has declined, at 18 percent, it still remains very high.² Due to its geology, hydrology, and topography, Tajikistan is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards which often result in economic losses and internal displacement.

The current global crisis triggered by the conflict in Ukraine has further exacerbated the vulnerabilities of Tajikistan. Personal remittances which are one of the primary sources of income for rural households are expected to fall by 40 percent in 2022.³ Rising food prices are

¹ conducted by WFP and FAO

² <https://www.dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr341-dhs-final-reports.cfm>

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/overview#1>

already making a significant dent in people's ability to buy adequate amount of food. With an expected fall in remittances and a continued spike in food and oil prices, the prevalence of food insecurity at the household level is expected to increase from 20 percent to as high as 36 percent. It is estimated that around 800,000 individuals will become severely food insecure.⁴ Urgent actions driven by evidence are thus required to mitigate the cascading impact on household welfare which had already seen reversals as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Programme
Strategy**

Anticipating that the current crisis in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia would have a significant impact in Tajikistan, the UNCT has developed the UN Joint Response Framework to the Global Crisis (UNJRF) which articulates the UN's collective strategy to address emerging needs. UNJRF draws from the two key outcomes of the UNSDCF that is currently being finalized. UNJRF is closely aligned to the Anti-Crisis Plan of the Government of Tajikistan. Besides providing direct assistance to households, one of the critical areas identified in the UNJRF was technical support to the national government to ensure macroeconomic stability, identify pockets of vulnerability, and ensure that humanitarian and development assistance is human-centric and leaves no one behind. In Tajikistan, there is a dearth of reliable data on vulnerability including consumption which is a critical indicator of household welfare. While some data are available at the national level, there is limited sub-national level data which, in the present situation, greatly affects the designing of effective and targeted policies and programmes to address rising levels of food insecurity. The most recent available data on the nutritional status is based on the Demographic and Health Survey which was conducted in 2016. With vulnerable households spread across the country and limited resources, it is critically important that the most food insecure households are identified for direct assistance. The current crisis has further underlined the need to set up a robust food security monitoring system that can provide reliable and regular data at sub-regional levels to guide policymakers and national programmes.

To address the food security informational gaps, the approach needs to follow an internationally accepted standard allowing geographic and temporal comparison at regular intervals. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)⁵ is such an approach. It is a set of tools that can be customized and thus providing a "common currency" for classifying the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. This evidence-based approach uses international standards which allow comparability of situations across areas and over time. It is based on consensus-building processes to provide decision makers with a rigorous analysis of food insecurity along with clear objectives for response in both emergency and development contexts. The IPC is a global multi-agency initiative to strengthen the food and nutrition security monitoring system.⁶ It helps to measure the impact of shocks to provide strategically relevant information to decision makers so that interventions grounded in evidence can be implemented to prevent, mitigate or reduce food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods. The deliverables of the IPC have a direct impact on SDG target 2.1 and 2.2⁷ whereby clear action plans and mitigation measures for crisis response can be developed to ensure access to food for the poor and vulnerable population.

Specific outputs include the following:

⁴ <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000139165/download/>

⁵ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>

⁶ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/en/>

⁷ <https://sdg.humanrights.dk/en/goals-and-targets>

-Generation of differentiated food insecurity and acute malnutrition phases at sub-regional levels in which each phase has important and distinct implications for where and how best to intervene, and therefore influences priority response objectives;

- A nationwide map of the current severity of acute food insecurity and malnutrition situation as well as a projection of future conditions, disaggregated at sub-regional levels with a specific focus on the vulnerable population.

The rollout of the IPC will involve a wide array of stakeholders including the Government of Tajikistan, local government institutions, think-tanks, development partners, and civil society groups. Collaboration between UNCT members is key for ensuring that data and information on food security and nutrition in the country are made available, there is consensus on types of interventions, that adequate financing and technical resources are deployed in a coordinated manner to build synergies and avoid duplication.

A range of tools will be used to increase the informational base. A household survey will be designed to capture key food security indicators at the sub-regional level. Regional working group meetings will be organized with representation from all the districts of Tajikistan. A total of five regional workshops will be organized followed by a national level workshop to validate the results. In case there is a major inflow of returning migrants or there is a significant fall in remittances, PUNOs will consider undertaking a displacement tracking survey in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This will help to better understand and respond to the needs of migrants and their families. The results of the surveys, technical assessments, and consultations will feed into the Vulnerability Atlas which is a spatially interactive platform for mapping vulnerabilities developed by the UNCT in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan and jointly launched in 2019. However, owing to lack of recent data, the system has not been updated since its launch.

The continued unrest in the region of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) may present challenges in organizing technical and consultative workshops. GBAO is considered to be the most food insecure region in the country with a stunting rate as high as 32 percent compared to the overall national average of 18 percent⁸. Hence, it is important that this region is included in the analysis. The UNCT will ensure that the government agencies are kept informed and seek their engagement from an early stage as a collective endeavour.

Besides disseminating reports and sub-regional food security classification maps, policy discussions will be organized under the auspices of the Development Coordination Council (DCC) which serves as the interface between the Government and the international partners. A key strategy of the joint programme is to provide the tools, knowledge, and build national capacities to deliver humanitarian and development aid that is equitable and anchored in evidence. A stronger analytical base will not only help the PUNOs and other members of the UNCT to improve their programming and results, it will enable the UNCT to mobilize additional resources to meet the short- and medium-term needs of the population. Through their ongoing programmes, both WFP and FAO are already providing a range of goods and services such as school feeding, cash for assets, agricultural inputs, and training to food producers. However, there are still major unmet needs. The UNJRF estimates that around USD 65 million is required for scaling up programmes. Less than USD 4 million have been mobilized, but donors have indicated interest to fund a part of the budget. The work planned under the proposed joint project will, therefore, be vital to make a compelling case and will enable the UNCT to increase resources for direct assistance for people whose livelihoods and food security is threatened by the crisis.

⁸ <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/ATR18/ATR18.pdf>

<p>Governance and implementation arrangements</p>	<p>Conducting a successful IPC/vulnerability assessment requires strong coordination and leadership so that the country adopts an evidence-based approach and responds effectively to address food insecurity in the country among partners and active leadership. The UNRCO is best placed to lead the process not only to ensure effective coordination among the participating UN organizations (PUNOs), but also with a range of government agencies, non-state institutions, as well as international development and humanitarian partners. Furthermore, the UNRCO will provide quality assurance including technical oversight in the design of data collection instruments, analysis, policy development and advocacy.</p> <p>WFP and FAO will be the two PUNOs jointly responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the project activities. However, they will be working closely with other UN Agencies to leverage their work on nutrition, migration, and livelihoods. FAO and WFP will jointly deploy technical experts who will be responsible for training the IPC working group members, developing overall methodology for area classification, selection of indicators and conducting regional working group meetings, and policy dialogue at the national level.</p> <p>WFP has extensive experience conducting food security and vulnerability analyses in Tajikistan. It regularly conducts surveys and market research to assess the price and availability of food stocks in the country. The systems and procedures that currently exist in WFP will be used to support data collection exercises. FAO brings a lot of on the ground experience working with rural households providing them with agriculture assistance. FAO's close partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Agency of Statistics will be leveraged to ensure active and meaningful government engagement in the process. The aforementioned government agencies are also responsible for generating key statistics related to food security and agriculture and have representation at district levels which makes their engagement all the more important.</p>
<p>Legal context</p>	<p>Agency name: World Food Programme Agreement title: Basic Agreement between the Government of Tajikistan and WFP Agreement date: July 14, 2003</p> <p>Agency name: Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement title: The Agreement for the establishment of an FAO Representation in the Republic of Tajikistan, Agreement date: May 1, 2016</p>

Workplan Template														
Outcome 1		A strengthened food and nutrition security monitoring system for Tajikistan to measure the impact of shocks that provides strategically relevant information to decision-makers for crisis response												
Output	Target/s	List of activities	Time frame						PLANNED BUDGET			PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved	
			Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)			Total Cost (USD)
Output 1.1	Sub-regional level household food security indicators are calculated for IPC	Household surveys conducted	x	x					The sample size for the household survey is 3600 households (face to face). If needed a second wave of surveys will be conducted to track the situation	186,501	0	186,501	WFP & FAO	MEDT, AoS, local government
		Data analysis and reporting			x									
		Update the Vulnerability Atlas				x	x	x						
Output 1.2	Sub-regional level food and nutrition security working groups are established to support IPC	Consultation with stakeholders	x						The budget includes 3 days of IPC training for district-level representatives for each district of Tajikistan followed by 2 days of IPC analysis. This also includes the cost of 1 international consultant for 2 months	62,167	0	62,167	WFP & FAO	MEDT, AoS, local government
		IPC training conducted for sub-regional level stakeholders		x										
		Analysis conducted at the sub-regional level		x	x									
		Report disseminated, policy discussions, and scaling up food security programmes				x	x	x						

MEDT: Ministry of Economic Development & Trade, AoS; Agency of Statistics

Monitoring, accountability, financial management, and public disclosure

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. **The Convening/Lead Agent will develop a simple final narrative report and submit it to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the programme activities.**

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost-sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in-kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting.

PUNOs at the Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

The Project will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent. The programmatic UN entity of the Facility shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Project in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. The entity shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent. Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through project support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs. Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund. PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which include information on donor visibility requirements.

Risk Management

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact, as per instructions)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					
Occurrence of natural hazards such as flooding makes it difficult to reach the population in some locations	9	3	3	The sequencing of the activities will be adjusted as per local weather forecasts	WFP & FAO
Programmatic risks					
Rolling out food security surveys and organizing dialogue in GBAO region	12	3	4	Improve communication and close collaboration with the government and local institutions	RCO, WFP and FAO
Institutional risks					
Weak institutional capacities to conduct the survey in a timely manner	9	3	3	Additional training will be organized for enumerators to improve their skills	WFP & FAO
Fiduciary risks					
There are insignificant fiduciary risks	1	1	1	Both WFP and FAO already have systems in place to ensure value for money and proper financial management	WFP & FAO with quality assurance provided by the UNRC

Budget per UNSDG Categories

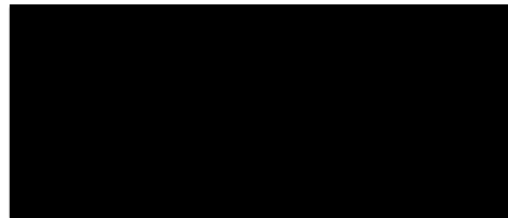
UNSDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	WFP	FAO		
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)
1. Staff and other personnel	12,000		12,000	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	0		0	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	0		0	
4. Contractual services	135,000		46,000	
5. Travel	2,200		5,200	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0		0	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	10,000		10,000	
Total Direct Costs	159,200		73,200	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	11,144	5,124		
TOTAL Costs	170,344	0	78,324	0

Signature of Joint Programme document and Fund Transfer Request as per UNSDG budget categories.

I hereby confirm that the funds requested are in accordance with the approved Work Plan & Joint Programme Document. * I also certify that the copy transmitted to the MPTF Office is a true copy of the original which is secured by the RC Office. I have received documentation from Participating Organizations demonstrating Committed amounts where applicable. I also confirm that the PUNOs' indirect cost does not exceed 7%.

**RESIDENT COORDINATOR
SIGNATURE**

Name: Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu



8 June 2022

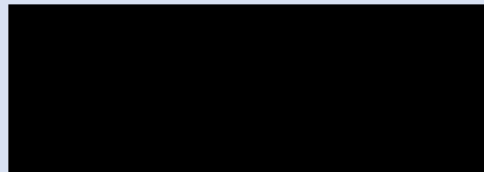
**PUNO Representative
SIGNATURE**

**Name, Title: Mr. Adham Musallam Representative/Country Director,
WFP Tajikistan**

Date and Signature

**PUNO Representative
SIGNATURE**

Name, Title: Mr. Oleg Guchgeldiyev, FAO Representative, Tajikistan



Date and Signature

