



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

Cover Page

UNCT/MCO: Tajikistan

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Improved food security in Tajikistan

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;

PUNOS: WFP, FAO

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations; Humanitarian actors;

Gender Marker: Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

Resident Coordinator Name: Kavilmadam, Parvathy

Resident Coordinator Email: parvathy.ramaswami@un.org

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

Overall Progress

Together with FAO, WFP engaged with the Government, in particular, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Agency of Statistics for their leadership in the IPC process. In addition, local government institutions, think-tanks, development partners, and civil society groups were consulted. The data collection for the IPC analysis was done by conducting a food security and nutrition (FSN) Assessment of 6,900 households across all 65 districts and cities of Tajikistan. A partnership was built with the Red Cross Society of Tajikistan (RCST) to launch the country-wide data collection. The Red Cross Society of Tajikistan was well placed to conduct the survey, having extensive outreach in all districts of the country. Two comprehensive training sessions were organized for the enumerators of RCST to get them familiar with the indicators, questionnaire, and techniques for household interviews. The assessment itself was a two-stage stratified design with villages chosen as the primary sampling units and fixed number of households selected within each village. All the updated information required for designing the survey was provided by the RCST after extensive fieldwork. The assessment took around two months to complete, and there were around 60 enumerators employed for data collection. The checklist included household and child questionnaire aimed at getting a deeper understanding in household-level food consumption, coping strategies, livelihoods, health and nutrition.

After completing the data collection, WFP together with FAO held a two-week-long IPC Analysis Workshop from 3 to 14 January 2023 in Dushanbe. The participants included representatives from government and non-government stakeholders. Although the FSN Assessment provided much of the information for IPC, other secondary data sources related to natural disasters, prices, agricultural production, etc. were also used for analysis. This resulted in generating differentiated food insecurity phases at the district level in which each phase has important and distinct implications for where and how best to intervene, and therefore influences priority responses. The following approach was used to make a joint decision on the level of food security in each district. The collected data was introduced to the IPC National Technical Working Group (TWG), and the platform was opened during the

workshop for discussions, analyses and to come to a consensus on the results. The participants considered the study results, context-based information, and statistical data provided by the districts, regions and national-level technical working group, and arrived at the following results:

PHASE 1 - Minimal: 54% of households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income

PHASE 2 - Stressed: 37% of households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies

PHASE 3 - Crisis: 13% of households either have food consumption gaps reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; OR are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.

PHASE 4 where 16,560 people were identified as facing an emergency in Isfara and Shahrison districts were not accepted by the government participants. The consensus by participants was that 5 percent of people as a total may fall into this category, however not specifically for the mentioned districts. The consensus was justified by the participants, as in their views, other districts may have more vulnerabilities such as lack of agriculture production, lack of access to land and water etc. in comparison to Isfara and Shahrison districts.

SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets

IPC is a global multi-agency initiative to strengthen the food and nutrition security monitoring system. 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 programme deliverables thus have a direct impact on SDG target 2.1 and 2.2, whereby clear action plans and mitigation measures for crisis response can be developed to ensure access to food for the poor and vulnerable population.

The close interaction and partnership with the Government of Tajikistan also contributed to SDG 17: Partnership for Goals, assuring a closer and stronger relationship for the PUNOs with the Government. For the Government of Tajikistan, the IPC analysis serves as an important capacity development exercise and a platform for regular data analysis, which can inform policies that can contribute to the realization of SDG 2. IPC results, especially the IPC phase classification map, are excellent for advocacy and reaching a consensus on the prevalence of food insecurity in the country. It provides the evidence needed for the Government to develop and revise their food security policies and programmes and also reach out to donors for financing for future programmes.

Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

Conducting a large household survey targeting 6,900 households was not without challenges. A key focus had to be on strengthening the capacity of RCST enumerators and staff. This included training them on the selected indicators, development of the questionnaire, and method for administering the survey. PUNOs worked closely with RCST officials to ensure that data collection tools were carefully translated into the local languages to maintain the authenticity of the modules on different technical indicators such as Food Consumption Score, Dietary Diversity, Food Insecurity Expenditure Scale, and Coping Strategies. WFP also held two rounds of comprehensive training on indicators and data collection for the enumerators in the local languages to ensure their clear understanding. In addition, the PUNOs were required to coordinate closely with a range of government agencies and ministries to reach a consensus on the rollout of the IPC in the country. Several weeks were also needed to gather secondary data from multiple sources to enhance the IPC analysis. This took more time than was originally anticipated. IPC was undertaken after almost a decade in Tajikistan. Undertaking this exercise required putting in place appropriate coordination mechanisms, including the formation of the Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group. Lastly, the programme implementation was also affected initially because it took longer than expected to get approval from the counterpart. As a result, PUNOs requested a two-month no-cost extension.

Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]

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 international partners. A key strategy of the joint programme is to provide the tools, and 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, but it will also enable the UNCT to mobilize additional resources to meet the short- and medium-term needs of the population. Through their ongoing programmes, 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 to meet as many unmet needs as possible.

UN Agencies aim to mobilize resources to ensure that IPCs are institutionalized through multi-year plans for food security and nutrition data collection, as well as capacity building for national counterparts in the country. Below, a set of activities will be carried out provided adequate financial resources are secured.

Capacity building:

- Two Level 1 training per year (one for AFI and one for AMN) starting from Q3 2023 (if new data are available for analysis). Level 1 certifying training are organized just before the IPC analysis. The training lasts for at least four days and is conducted in person.
- Two refresher training (one for AFI, one for AMN) per year starting from Q4 2024 – just before the IPC update of the lean season. The refresher training lasts for 1-2 days maximum.
- AFI and AMN analyses workshops (1 per year for AMN, 2 per year for AFI). The main analysis should happen in person. The mid-year analysis/update can happen remotely if this is a preferred option. In that case, support to ensure that analysts have access to a good internet connection is critical.
- Awareness raising: one workshop in spring 2023 can be organized with high-level decision makers.
- Capacity building of 5-6 key analysts (one for each main institution and UN agency/iNGOs) through missions and participation in IPC analyses in other IPC countries, better if similar to Tajikistan.
- Participation of 2-3 selected analysts from Tajikistan in the Level 2 training scheduled in 2023 (dates TBD). The training is likely to take place in Beirut (Lebanon).

Data collection:

- One Food Security survey per year (ideally in April-May) covering all the FS indicators in the reference table (FCS, HDDS, HHS, FIES, rCSI, LCS), plus key contributing factors on agriculture, livestock productions, precipitation, shocks, income sources, expenditures. This survey should represent the district level.
- One mid-year Food Security survey dedicated to the most vulnerable districts – as per the previous IPC – with the main indicators (ideally in September).
- Monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly monitoring of risk factors (remittances, inflation, precipitation, shocks, Etc.) to inform if/when an IPC update is required.
- One nutrition survey per year (SMART) covering the 64 districts (ideally aligned with the FS survey), covering GAM (WHZ and MUAC), Stunting, Infant and Young Children’s Feeding practices (IYCF), morbidity to diseases, and parental care. The SMART could be merged to the FS survey, or separate. The details and timeline should be fine-tuned by nutrition experts (MoH, UNICEF, Nutrition centre) in Tajikistan.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

• Ministry of Agriculture – lead of the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group (TWG), and hosted the IPC Secretariat. • Food Security Committee – member of the TWG, participant in the IPC analysis. • Agency of Statistics – member of the TWG, participant in the IPC analysis. • Ministry of Industry and Technology – member of the TWG, participant in the IPC analysis. • Ministry of Health and Social Protection – member of the TWG, participant in the IPC analysis. • Red Cross Society of Tajikistan (RCST) – member of the TWG, participant in the IPC analysis, data collector of the household food security assessment • FAO, Tajikistan – Member of TWG and IPC Secretariat, coordinator of government agencies in the IPC process • WFP Tajikistan - Member of TWG and IPC Secretariat, convenor of the household food security assessment, training, data analysis of IPC • UNICEF – Member of TWG and IPC Secretariat, coordinator of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan on the household food security assessment • Caritas - Member of TWG, participant in the IPC analysis. • WHH, MSDSP, Helvetas, GIZ and SUN Secretariat- participated in capacity building activities.

Key meetings and events organized

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors	Kick-off meeting event
---	-------------------------------	---------------------------

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

The systems and procedures that currently exist in the PUNOs were used to support data collection exercises. With technical assistance from UNICEF, the nutritional status of children will be analyzed using the indicators for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Minimum Acceptable Diet (Diet). The FSN assessment will also contribute to SDG data, as the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which is SDG food security indicator, was also collected. The data can be used for the 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) which the Government of Tajikistan will be presenting in 2023. Through its comprehensive coverage, the IPC exercise ensured that all rural and urban households are represented from all districts and cities which thus provides a better overview of vulnerability.

Gender disaggregation analysis was a key focus of the questionnaire used for the data collection. In the sampled households, men and women-headed households were both included. Both men and women equally benefited from the project in terms of capacity building and knowledge sharing. The analysis generated is likely to have a major impact on policy responses concerning food security in Tajikistan. Gender issues play a key role in livelihoods and socioeconomic status. Thus, equal access to services for both men and women were given due consideration in the joint programme.

Women were involved and their representation observed in all technical consultations and meetings, as well as relevant training sessions that were carried out throughout the project duration. During the project implementation, the active involvement of female stakeholders was particularly encouraged because of their central role in agriculture production and provision of food security in the households.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services);

JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	No	No	No

Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No	Yes	No	No	No

How and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

The joint programme created an evidence-base that is essential for policymaking and effective use of limited resources in a low-income country.

