

# TAJIKISTAN Fact Sheet

## FEED THE FUTURE AT A GLANCE

Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, encompasses a \$3.5 billion commitment to support country-driven approaches to address the root causes of poverty, hunger, and undernutrition. A whole-of-government initiative led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Future leverages the strengths of multilateral institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Globally, we aim to increase the incomes of 18 million vulnerable women, children, and family members. Together, we will increase agricultural productivity, decrease poverty, drive economic growth, and reduce undernutrition to improve millions of lives.

## COUNTRY CONTEXT

In Tajikistan, a recent post-conflict, post-Soviet country with significant food security needs, almost half the population lives below the poverty line and many of the women and children are undernourished. There is tremendous opportunity for agriculture and nutrition gains through the government's leadership and partnership with development partners, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

### Tajikistan Quick Facts

- Tajikistan has a population of 7.6 million
- 73% of the population lives in rural areas
- Agriculture contributes to 23% of GDP and employs 75% of the labor force
- 46% of Tajiks live below the poverty line
- 40-60% of the population lacks access to safe drinking water
- Chronic undernutrition, or stunting, affects about one in three children under age five

The population of Tajikistan is 73% rural, a majority of whom are engaged in agriculture. Agriculture accounts for 75% of total employment and 23% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, only about 7% of Tajikistan's land surface is arable due to its mountainous topography, water shortages, and a poor irrigation system. With few options at home, an estimated one million Tajik citizens migrate abroad to work, and their remittances are the highest in the world as a percentage of GDP.

These challenges contribute to widespread undernutrition in Tajikistan. Diets are poorly balanced with little agricultural diversity, and limited access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities compounds the effects of poor nutrition.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Recognizing these many urgent needs, the Government of Tajikistan (GOTJ) is committed to implementing a progressive set of agricultural reforms to address food security and nutrition. The GOTJ's food security strategy is reflected in the Agrarian Policy Concept and Food Security, the Agriculture Investment Plan, and other documents and laws. Building on this work, the GOTJ, with donor support, is developing a focused land, water, and agrarian reform program.

In partnership with the international community, the GOTJ is advancing reforms that will ensure that farmers have secure and marketable land-use rights, allow farmers to make market-driven decisions, increase the role for community-based water users' associations, and increase household utilization of nutritious food. The Government is also eager to diversify the agricultural sector by encouraging the proliferation of profitable food crops in conjunction with expanded agricultural extension opportunities. In June 2011, Tajikistan was awarded a \$27.9 million grant from the World Bank-managed Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to rehabilitate irrigation and drainage infrastructure and improve water resource management policies in Khatlon Province.

Feed the Future aligns with the country's investment priorities and planning and will coordinate with the efforts of other donors, the GAFSP award, and other stakeholders to advance our shared food security objectives.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

- Expand markets and strengthen value chains
- Increase productivity on smallholder farms
- Implement successful agrarian reform in Khatlon Province
- Reform national agriculture and nutrition policies
- Improve nutrition

## TARGET REGIONS

The Feed the Future strategy in Tajikistan is focused on Khatlon Province in the Southwest region along the border with Afghanistan. Khatlon is a major agriculture producing region with the highest rates of undernutrition and the largest number of people living below the poverty line. Khatlon's irrigated watersheds and cotton-dominated agricultural production are promising places to demonstrate the effect of water and land reforms.



## FEED THE FUTURE: IMPACT IN TAJIKISTAN

Over the next five years:

- An estimated 201,000 vulnerable Tajik women, children, and family members – mostly smallholder farmers – will receive targeted assistance to escape hunger and poverty.
- Significant numbers of additional rural populations will achieve improved income and nutritional status from strategic policy engagement and institutional investments.

### CORE INVESTMENTS

Feed the Future in Tajikistan will focus on three pillars:

- Assisting household and small commercial farms to increase income and food production for home consumption and improve nutrition and health outcomes.
- Developing capacity of local institutions and community-based organizations.
- Completing effective agrarian reforms in selected districts in Khatlon Province.

### Value Chain Prioritization

Feed the Future will focus on developing fruit and vegetable value chains in Tajikistan, which have the greatest potential for enabling rural households to increase incomes, afford more adequate and nutritious food, and produce more nutritious food for direct household consumption. Feed the Future will work to provide rural populations access to the resources they need to create a more productive and profitable agricultural sector by diversifying markets and reducing risk.

### Nutrition

Undernutrition among women and children in Tajikistan is a serious public health problem contributing to maternal and child mortality and perpetuating the cycle of poverty and hunger. Feed the Future will invest in a combination of food-based inputs and high-impact nutrition interventions, targeted health services, and social and behavior change communication, as well as activities to improve access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene. For example, the Department of Defense is funding a nationwide de-worming program to help reduce the high rates of anemia.

### Policy Reform

Effective agrarian reform at the local and national level is a critical element of Feed the Future's investments in Tajikistan. Agrarian reform includes changes in land and water relations and rights, institutions, policies, and incentives. This includes tax and regulatory reform, local government reform, business climate reform, land market development, and improving agricultural financing systems. These reforms will help attract future investment and will make agriculture a profitable enterprise. Feed the Future will support the GOTJ's agrarian reform efforts in coordination with other donors, focusing initially on Khatlon Province. Successful policy reforms in this region will demonstrate concrete benefits and lessons to apply to national-level reforms.

### Capacity Development

Feed the Future is committed to developing the capacity of local institutions and community-based organizations. The strategy in Tajikistan will support agricultural extension systems to advise farm households on production techniques, natural resource

conservation, nutrition, and the formation of producer groups to facilitate access to inputs and markets. Feed the Future will also support village organizations, particularly women's groups, by providing advisory services that help empower rural residents to tackle local development challenges themselves. Feed the Future will support both private sector value chain actors and public sector initiatives to ensure the sustainability of investments and reforms.

### Strategic Coordination

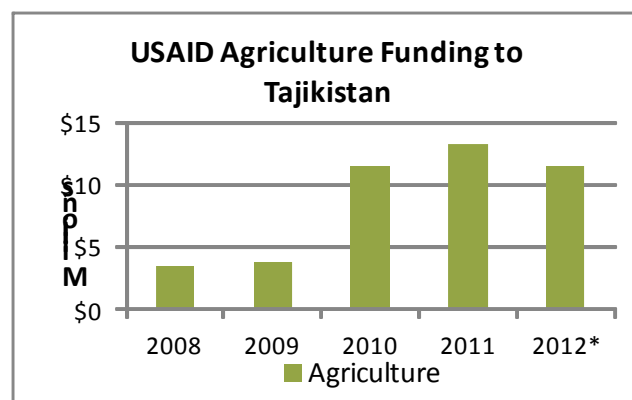
Many development partners are already active in Khatlon Province, including the European Union, Germany, Japan, the World Bank, United Nations institutions, and others. Additionally, many international NGOs are active in villages and districts in Khatlon. This development partner community is organized in a Development Coordination Council that works collaboratively with the GOTJ to jointly define development priorities and track progress. Feed the Future will coordinate closely with these partners to support and build on existing activities to maximize impact.

### GENDER EQUALITY

In Tajikistan, women play a major role in home subsistence farming but lack control over resources in the household and within society. Feed the Future programs will address gender issues to support broad-based growth inclusive of both men and women. Strengthening the fruit and vegetable value chains where women predominate will build capacity among women to not only improve subsistence farming, but also to generate income from their labor and increase control of their assets. Nutritional behavior change activities will be targeted toward women and men to ensure improved household nutrition and health. Gender roles will also be considered in service delivery, for example through identifying and training women facilitators to act as local organizers. All efforts to advance agrarian reform will ensure that women are fully represented and receive and control their share of land and water resources.

### WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH

Feed the Future increases coordination across the U.S. Government so that our investments, resources, and programs are harmonized for greater collective impact. This interagency engagement, led by USAID, includes collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Department of Commerce. For example, in Tajikistan, Feed the Future will collaborate with USDA and the Commerce Department on data monitoring and analysis and will coordinate with the Department of Defense to strengthen at-risk communities through agriculture, irrigation, and other community infrastructure projects.



\*2012 is included in the President's budget request to Congress