

## 5.1 IMPROVING TAJIKISTAN'S FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

### A. Problem description

- The internationally-accepted definition of food security builds on four pillars – a) physical **availability** of food, b) economic and physical **access** to food, c) food **utilization**, and d) **stability** over time. According to this definition, Tajikistan is considered as **chronically food insecure**. Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies remain significant, despite progress in recent years. Studies have shown that almost every third child is chronically malnourished, more than half of children are iodine deficient, and almost a third of women of reproductive age are anemic.
- **GoT food security policy** is currently limited to promotion of **physical availability**<sup>1</sup> of food and, partly, **stability**<sup>2</sup>. **Household farms** are the **principal suppliers of food products** and **income for market purchases of food** for about 80 percent of the rural population. Despite the importance attributed to household farms, implementation of policies to promote their development under the national Agrarian Reform Program has lagged.

### B. Proposed Food Security Initiative (four pillars)

- **Availability:** to enhance physical availability of food, the initiative will aim to facilitate the implementation of agrarian reform policies through a) land distribution and tenure; b) private farms legislation; c) institutional reform of ministries of agriculture and water resources; d) efficient and equitable water management.
- **Access:** to enhance economic and physical access to food, the initiative will aim to promote increased household production for sale and home consumption, school meals and other programs, with an overarching focus on women.
- **Utilization:** to improve the nutritional status of individuals, the initiative will aim to scale-up interventions in prevention and treatment of malnutrition through: a) salt iodization, flour fortification, food safety; b) micro-nutrient supplementation; c) household nutrition education and practices; and d) Tajikistan's participation in the UN Secretary-General's "Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)" movement.
- **Stability:** The initiative will aim to monitor food security and nutrition information, market and farm price data for effective policymaking.

### C. Expected Impacts or Outcomes:

Outcome 1: By 2015, food availability and accessibility for households are improved;

Outcome 2: By 2015, malnutrition among children and burden of nutrition-related diseases among the population at large are reduced;

Outcome 3: By 2015, food security and nutrition information is available and used for effective policymaking and interventions.

### D. Development partners: DFID, EU, FAO, GIZ, SCO, UNICEF, USAID, WB, WFP, WHO

**E. Government Champions:** Messrs Murodali Alimardon, Deputy Prime Minister; Jalil Piriev, Head, Agriculture and Land Use Unit, Executive Office of the President; Nusratullo Salimov, Minister, Ministry of Health and Social Protection; Kosym Kosymov, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture; Sulton Rahimov, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources; Homidjon Hasanov, Director, Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of RT; Jahon Azonov, State Scientific and Research Institute on Nutrition .

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<sup>1</sup> GOT promotes availability through increasing output of agriculture and food products.

<sup>2</sup> GOT promotes stability over time through price control and sales from state reserves

| Food Security indicators  |  | Baseline value 2013   |            | Means of verification (2013)   | Targeted value 2015  | Means of verification (2015)   | Development Partners                                 |
|---|--|---|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Outcome 1: By 2015, food availability and accessibility for households are improved   |  |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1 Production and productivity of selected crop and livestock products   |  |   |            | GOTJ statistics  |  | GoTJ statistics  | DFID, EU, FAO, GIZ, USAID, WB                        |
|   |  |   |            |  |  |  |  |
|   | Vegetables   | 124,200 mt  | 21.6 mt/ha |  | 23.2 mt/ha   |  |  |
|   | Potatoes   | 871,000 mt  | 23 mt/ha   |  | 24 mt/ha   |  |  |
| 1.2 Area of irrigated agricultural land serviced by Water Users Associations based on hydraulic/hydrologic boundaries                         |  | 120,000 Ha  |            | SCO, EU, USAID records   | 220,000 Ha   | SCO, USAID, World Bank and GOTJ records                                      | EU,SCO, USAID, WB                                    |
|   |  |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3 Household food consumption score  |  | 15 % of HHs with < 2250 KKAL consumption rate                             |            | FAO, UNICEF, USAID, WFP, WHO records   | 10 % of HHs with < 2250 KKAL consumption rate                                      | GOTJ statistics  | FAO, UNICEF, USAID, WFP, WHO                         |
| 1.4 Number of user right certificates issued, disaggregated by farm type  | Dehqon farms (collective, family based and individual) | 104,544   |            | Land Agency statistics   | 140,000  | Land Agency statistics   | USAID, WB  |
|   |  |   |            |  |  |  |  |
|   | Households' building and garden plots                  | 473,997   |            |  | 525,000  |  |  |
| Outcome 2: By 2015, malnutrition among children and burden of nutrition-related diseases among the population at large are reduced            |  |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1 Prevalence of anemia among women and children   |  | 24.2% of women of reproductive age and 28.8% of children aged 6-59 months |            | MNSS 2009  | Reduced by 30% (for women <17%, and for children < 20% )                           | TBD  | Russian Federation, UNICEF, USAID, WHO, WB, WFP      |
| 2.2 Wasting prevalence (proportion of children under age 5 who fall below -2 standard deviations from the median of weight-for-height)        |  | 9.9%  |            | DHS 2012   | <5%  | TBD  | FAO, Russian Federation, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, WB, WFP |
| 2.3 Proportion of households using adequately iodized salt  |  | 62%   |            | MNSS 2009  | >95%   | TBD  | GAIN, UNICEF, USAID, WFP, WHO                        |
| 2.4 Tajikistan officially joining the SUN Movement and an Action Plan is developed and adopted  |  | Tajikistan has not joined the SUN Movement                                |            |  | Tajikistan joined the SUN Movement and an Action Plan is ready for implementation  | Letter of commitment sent; key principles applied; support from SUN received | FAO, UNICEF, USAID, WFP, WHO                         |
| Outcome 3: By 2015, food security and nutrition information is available and used for effective policymaking and interventions.               |  |   |            |  |  |  |  |
| 3.1 A comprehensive food security strategy component included in the next poverty reduction strategy, based on the four food security pillars |  | No strategy   |            |  | Food security component included in next National development strategy (2016-2030) |  | All members of DCC                                   |
| 3.2 Proportion of Jamoats with proper access to market price information  |  | 0   |            | Crops assessment<br>Livestock survey<br>Market data  | 25   | TajStat, MoEDT   | EU, FAO  |
| 3.3. Proportion of Jamoats with advanced system for collection of FS related information  |  | 5   |            | AS   | 30   | TajStat  | EU, FAO  |
| 3.4. Integration of IPC-based and household level food security assessments in national food security monitoring systems                      |  | No integration  |            | Tajstat Food Security and Poverty Bulletin; monthly Monitoring and Early Warning report; Capacity of FSU in MOA to conduct FS analysis | Tajsat, MoEDT and FSU/MOA conduct FS analysis reflected in relevant publications   | Same as in 2013  | EU, FAO, WFP   |

## Source notes

1.1 Baseline values for vegetables and potatoes are a three-year average of Tajstat data for 2010-2012. Baseline values for meat and milk are 2012 TajStat data.

Meat production in carcass (slaughter) weight.

2015 targets are for a 3% increase in yield.

1.2 In 2012, agricultural enterprises and dehqon farms held 592,000 hectares of irrigated agricultural land (*sel'khozugodiia*). *Sel'skoe khoziastvo Respubliki Tadjikistan: Statisticheskii sbornik, 2013* (Dushanbe: Presidential Agency on Statistics, 2013), p. 61. According to data from the EU, SCO and USAID, donor-supported WUAs known to be presently active and based on hydrologic boundaries operated on an area of 207,396 hectares. (Data from various dates in 2013.)

1.3 State Customs Committee, "*Svedenie o postuplenie mineral'nykh udobrenii do 1 ianvaria 2013 goda.*"

## List of abbreviations

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>DFID</b>    | Department for International Development (United Kingdom)       |
| <b>DHS</b>     | Demographic and Health Survey                                   |
| <b>EU</b>      | European Union  |
| <b>FAO</b>     | Food and Agriculture Organization                               |
| <b>FSIS</b>    | Food Security Information System                                |
| <b>FSMS</b>    | Food Safety Management System                                   |
| <b>GAIN</b>    | Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition                          |
| <b>GIZ</b>     | Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit                  |
| <b>IPC</b>     | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification                   |
| <b>MNSS</b>    | Micronutrient Status Survey                                     |
| <b>mt</b>      | Metric ton  |
| <b>SCO</b>     | Swiss Cooperation Office  |
| <b>SUN</b>     | Scaling up Nutrition  |
| <b>TajStat</b> | Presidential Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan |
| <b>UN</b>      | United Nations  |
| <b>UNICEF</b>  | United Nations Children's Fund                                  |
| <b>USAID</b>   | United States Agency for International Development              |
| <b>WB</b>      | World Bank  |
| <b>WFP</b>     | World Food Programme  |
| <b>WHO</b>     | World Health Organization                                       |