

5.1 IMPROVING TAJIKISTAN'S FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

1. *What progress has been achieved against the DCC initiative outcomes (please provide just a few bullet-point indicating progress achieved);*

- Advisory service has been provided to farming production groups that has led to yield increases, ranging from 15 to 45% in vegetables and potatoes (mostly Khatlon and Sughd areas);
- Separation of functions in the Water Sector with the creation of a Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (policy guidance and development, regulatory role) and an Agency for Irrigation and Melioration taking over operational and maintenance tasks in major irrigation and drainage assets;
- Further preparatory work to transfer irrigation and drainage asset management through the creation of 27 new Water Users Associations (WUAs), covering 54,000 Ha of command area put under improved water management;
- 70 water control structures were repaired and support was provided to WUAs in the cleaning of about 140 km of irrigation and drainage canals;
- About 65,000 new Land Certificates were issued with direct project support;
- Tajikistan joined the SUN Movement in September 2013; UNICEF and USAID were appointed as development partner co-conveners of the movement.
- 10,000 children under five were enrolled in targeted and blanket nutrition programmes aimed at preventing and addressing moderate acute malnutrition;
- Approximately 350,000 children in rural primary schools were served a hot lunch every school day in 2013 aimed at providing a food security safety net for children and their families and at improving school attendance/retention rates;
- 6,500 training sessions were provided on complementary feeding improved diets for pregnant women, the importance of exclusive breast feeding, the management of acute malnutrition and promotion of adequate and timely complementary feeding;
- Two National Guidelines on “Outpatient Management of Acute Malnutrition” and “Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and consultation” has been developed based on WHO recommendations, translated and presented to MoH;
- Technical support provided to Inter-sectoral working group in development and review of National nutrition and Physical Activity Strategy and action plan for 2014-2020 (submitted to all sectors for approval);
- Comprehensive salt situation analysis was conducted, which identified bottlenecks in universal salt iodization legislation and regulations salt processing-related challenges, iodized salt availability and consumer and distributor awareness.
- Approximately 80,000 highly food insecure people participated in asset creation and safety net programmes aimed at improving resilience to food insecurity;
- Trainings in Food Security Analysis and Monitoring were provided to over 120 specialists from various regional and district departments and from the newly-established food security units of the MoA and MEDT.
- Nationwide food prices and food security indicators were collected, analysed and published, using the integrated food security phase classification (IPC) and other methodologies.

2. *What were the key implementation challenges?*

- Access to quality seeds and inputs, as well as market links remain challenging due to the weaknesses of supply chains, low economies of scale, low productivity, poor access to credit and entry barriers;

- Lack of common interpretation of tax regime for farmers in different districts;
- Irrigation water tariff and taxation remain major challenge for financial sustainability of WUAs and government dedicated services supporting the development and improvement of the irrigation sub-sector;
- Noticeable slow-down of the land reform due to the fact that restructuring has already taken place in a large portion of the territory, leaving now only the most difficult collecting farms to restructure. The lack of a National property registration system is part of the emerging needs;

3. *How can GoT facilitate the implementation process? Please indicate specific agencies.*

- Strengthen GoT's commitment in supporting the Food Security Council under the PM, and utilizing its Secretariat and TWG in view of the integration of a comprehensive FS component in the next NDS (2016-2030).
- Formal appointment of the SUN governmental focal point, establishment of a multi-sectoral platform to support SUN movement, and development of an action plan ready for implementation;
- Facilitate and speed up implementation of agricultural reform, as a general GoT initiative rather than a responsibility of one agency (MoA);
- Continue working with Development Partners on the institutional reform of the MoA;
- Any measures to improve agricultural products' commercialization should be amongst key GoT priorities;
- Further planning and organization by the Land Committee of the institutional development of the property registration system to eliminate technical barriers in land and property registration.
- Decrease pressure on SMEs, in particular those dealing with agricultural value chains, by certain state agents (tax inspections, etc.)
- Approval and implementation of the water sector reform strategy, including the establishment of river-basin organizations under the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources;
- Further development of the legislative package with a focus on the Water Code and WUA Law, as well as all changes required to related laws and regulations in the aftermath;
- Increase the efforts to enhance the resilience of food insecure households through the provision of safety nets to the most vulnerable farmers;
- GoT/MoE is expected to provide support to an extensive review of the national School Feeding programme and to provide inputs and feedback to a new National School Feeding Strategy;

4. *What are the key next steps for 2014*

- Preparation, launch and implementation of agricultural support projects (ECTAP, GREAT, WB Ag Commercialization project, USAID *etc.*) to improve the performance of selected value chains and provide financial capacity building, machinery and marketing services to farming communities, with a focus on small-holder farmers;
- Preparatory phase to the launch of the pilot projects in support of water-sector reforms in *Kafernighan* and *Syrdarya* river-basins;
- Continuous support of existing WUAs and creation of about 50 new WUAs covering approximately 100,000 Ha;
- Increase in the total number of certificates issued to farmers by about 80,000;
- Officially starting SUN Movement in Tajikistan, upon formal appointment of the Government focal point;
- Continuous support in the areas of promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices, universal salt iodisation, and micronutrient supplementation for children and pregnant women,

strengthening nutritional surveillance and capacity building on Child Growth Standards' implementation and monitoring, management of malnutrition, adoption of nutritional guidelines and strategies using recent evidence-based policies and recommendations.

- Proposal and discussion of a new National School Feeding Policy for Tajikistan.

5. *What was Development Partners' estimated new financial commitment in 2013 to support the initiative (please provide rough estimate, if available)*

In addition to expenses under ongoing projects over 2013, Development Partners estimated that commitment was around **US\$ 171.5 million** in 2013 to support the FS initiative. This includes new contributions from the following organisations:

- DFID – US\$ 24.5 million for the rural economy/livelihoods and agriculture Project (2013-2015);
- EU – US\$ 21.5 million for the Enhanced Competitiveness of Tajik Agribusiness Project (ECTAP) (2014-2018);
- SCO – US\$ 41 million for the Rural and Urban Drinking Water and Water Management Project in Syrdarya River Basin (2014-2018);
- UNICEF – US\$ 2 million for the maternal and child nutrition project (2013-2016);
- USAID – approx. US\$18 million for nutrition and agriculture activities (2014-2015);
- WB – US\$ 45.9 million for the PAMP II Project (2013-2018);
- WFP – US\$ 17.1 million for the School Meals Programme (for 2013-2015) and 1.5 million for the Nutrition, Safety Net and Food Security Monitoring Programmes (for 2013).

6. *Please list key ongoing Development Partners' projects/programmes that support this initiative?*

- DFID/GIZ: Framework and Finance for Private Sector Development/Growth in the Rural Economy and Agriculture in Tajikistan (FFPSD/GREAT project); DFID: Women's Wealth and Influence Project (WWI);
- EU: a) Enhanced Competitiveness of Tajik Agribusiness Project (ECTAP), with EBRD and KFW; b) Food Security Information System Project, with and implemented through FAO; c) WUAs support project in Penjikent, implemented through WHH; d) TA in support of Water Sector Reforms; e) Technical Assistance in Support of Health Care Reform in Tajikistan (nutritional component), with and implemented by WHO;
- SCO: a) Rural Drinking Water projects (through Oxfam GB, ISW and AKF); b) Urban Drinking Water projects in Khujand (EBRD/SECO); c) Water Sector Reform Project in Sirdarya River Basin;
- UNICEF/WFP/WHO: Management of Acute Malnutrition (UNICEF - provision of therapeutic foods for severe cases; WFP - provision of supplementary foods for moderate cases; WHO – capacity building and development of guidelines on prevention and treatment of malnutrition);
- UNICEF: Nutrition (promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices, including exclusive breastfeeding; micronutrient supplementation; salt iodisation, management of severe acute malnutrition);
- USAID: Within the United States Government's Feed the Future Initiative, USAID implements the following projects: a) Family Farming Programme; b) Farmer Advisory Services Tajikistan Project; c) Farmer-to-Farmer Project; d) Land Reform and Farm Restructuring Project; e) Productive Agriculture Project; f) Maternal and Child Health Project; Micronutrient Supplementation for children under two and pregnant women and Universal Salt Iodization Project (with and implemented through UNICEF);

- WB: a) Second Public Employment and Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resources Management Project (PAMP II); b) Ferghana Valley Water Resources Management Project (to be completed in May 2014); c) Land Registration and Cadaster System Project; d) Agriculture Commercialization Project (to come).
- WFP: a) School Meals Programme (2010-2015); b) Nutrition programmes targeting children (moderate acute malnutrition) and pregnant and lactating women (2010-2014); c) Food Safety Nets Programme (2010-2014); d) Food Security Monitoring and Analysis Programme (2010-2015).