WFP and social protection in Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan

Annual Eurasian Food Security Conference: Catalyzing an Agriculture-Led Transformation for Food Security and Wealth Creation in Eurasia

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By: Paolo Mattei, WFP Country Director
CONTENT:

- School Meals Programme;
- Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition;
- Study on Social Protection;
- Basic Facts on Food Security and Nutrition in Tajikistan;
- Food for Thought.
Thanks to the generous contribution of the Russian Federation, in Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan WFP is supporting more than 520,000 primary school children with daily hot meals;

Supporting Governments in developing and strengthening national school meals policies and strategies.
School Meals Programme: - Benefits -

- Improve nutritional status
- Increase enrolment and attendance
- Reduce drop-out
- Increase learning and performance
- Promotes gender equality
- Support local agriculture production
- Entry point into the community boosting local economy
School Meals Programme: - Approach -

Value transfer, creating revenue-generating opportunities mostly for women

- Linking school meals to local agricultural production
- Designing nutritious & balanced meals
- Supporting nutrition education in schools
- Strengthening programme governance
- Promoting community participation and ownership of the programme
School Meals Programme: - Links to local production -

Home Grown School Meals

- School Children
  - Access to Education and Better Nutrition
- Households
  - Value Transfer for Families and Better Employment Opportunities
- Local farmers and retailers
  - Increased Income for Local Farmers due to school demand, Access to Markets and Boosted Economy
School Meals Programme:
- Cost/benefit analysis -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Return On Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan 2010</td>
<td>1: 6.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armenia 2017</td>
<td>1: 9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition

- **Stunting rates:**
  - ARM – 9.4%
  - KYR – 12.9%
  - TAJ – 26.8%

- **Wasting rates:**
  - ARM – 4.2%
  - KYR – 2.8%
  - TAJ – 9.9%
Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition in Tajikistan

Malnutrition rates in Tajikistan are the highest in Central Asia

- 294,880 children (Stunting)
- 108,930 children (Wasting)

WFP nutrition intervention in five model districts thanks to USAID contribution.

- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition of more than 24,000 children below-5;
- Capacity building on healthy behaviours, appropriate nutrition and hygiene practices;
- Support to Ministry of Health on guidelines, supply chain, local production and M&E.
Treatment and Prevention of Malnutrition in Tajikistan

Model districts:
- USAID Feed the Future
- WFP school meals
- Nutrition Intervention
- WFP livelihood activities

Partnership
- MoHSPP
- USAID
- Feed the Future Partners
- UNICEF
- WHO
- World Bank
- WFP

In Tajikistan more than 30% of the women in reproductive age suffer from anaemia
Main findings:

- Low coverage with substantial exclusion errors among the poorest;

- While social assistance transfers are high enough to contribute to poverty reduction and ensure a minimum food intake in Armenia, 
  
  adequacy remains very low in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan;

- For social protection to fulfill its purpose several gaps have been identified and among others:
  
  - Missing nutrition objectives in national social protection;
  - Inadequate consideration for gender and population groups’ specific vulnerabilities to food insecurity and malnutrition.
WFP study on social protection & safety nets in ARM, KYR & TAJ

Main findings:

- The estimated costs of closing the Social Protection Floor gap range between 1.7% of GDP in the Kyrgyz Republic, 3% in Armenia and 5.1% of GDP in Tajikistan;

- A further financial challenge is associated with labor migration;

- Decent living standards and the right to consume a healthy, adequate diet are basic human rights. Social protection is a key component in securing these rights.
Basic facts: Impact of Undernutrition in Tajikistan

Undernutrition costs Tajikistan US$41 million annually

About US$15 million could be saved annually with key nutrition interventions

UNICEF-WORLD BANK: 2012 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
## Basic facts on Tajikistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate % - (2003-2015)</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI per capita (USD)</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$1,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stunting rate (%)</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasting rate (%)</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undernourishment rate (%)</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of undernourished people (mln)</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Is poverty reduction the (only) solution to malnutrition?

2. Considering the trend of undernourishment over the last 25 years and the failure in achieving MDG1, what should be done differently to achieve SDG2 by 2030?

3. What steps should be taken in order to create a sustainable school feeding system in the three CIS countries?
“There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.”

John F. Kennedy