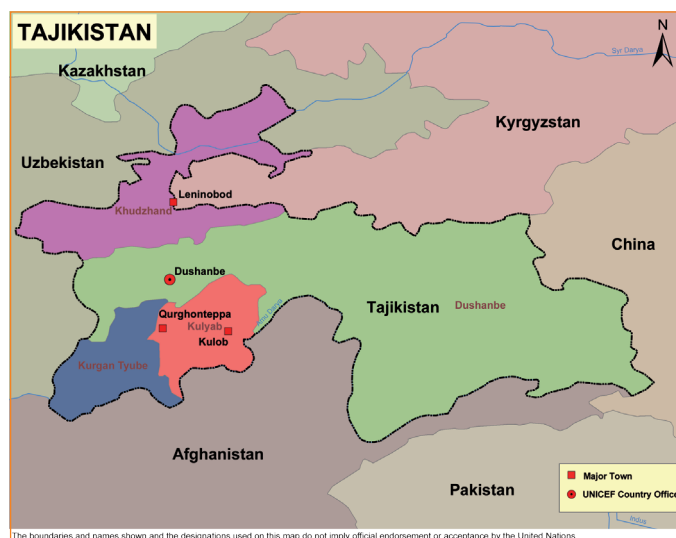


UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION TAJIKISTAN IN 2009



Core Country Data	
Population under 18 (thousands)	3,081
U5 mortality rate	67
Infant mortality rate	57
Maternal mortality ratio (2000–2007, reported)	97
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000–2007, net, male/female)	99/95
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	86
% population using improved drinking-water sources	67
HIV/AIDS prevalence among IDUs*	27.3
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight/stunting	17/27

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2009*, *Tajikistan, UNGASS Report, 2007, p. 6, Sentinel HIV surveillance data, Ministry of Health, Republic of Tajikistan, 2007.

Among the Central Asian countries, it is in Tajikistan where the changing nature and growing complexity of humanitarian crises has been more evident today than ever before. The interlocking and concurrent shocks combined with longer-term drivers have exposed populations in situations of acute vulnerability. The UNICEF-assisted programme, which covers responses in health and nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene, seeks to reach out to about 1 million children under age five, particularly vulnerable groups of children and their families from rural areas. The Country Programme will also cover about 80,000 pregnant women in remote and hard-to-reach areas of Khatlon oblast.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	800,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	500,000
Education	500,000
Child Protection	200,000
Total**	2,000,000

* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

** The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

A landlocked country, Tajikistan is the poorest of the former Soviet republics and one of the poorest countries in the world. Mostly mountainous, only about 10 per cent of its land is suitable for cultivation making access to basic services difficult. Aside from the ravages of the civil war, the country has experienced a number of major disasters over the last 10 years, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts and, more recently, a severe winter emergency. The average annual frequency of disasters routinely reaches over 100 and sometimes 200 per year in the country.¹ Seventy per cent of the population live in rural areas, many of which are very remote. This has a significant impact on the delivery of basic services.

In late 2007/early 2008, Tajikistan was hard hit by severe cold winter with heavy snowfall when night temperature dropped as low as -25°C. The situation worsened due to the acute shortage of power seriously disrupting the functioning of the essential public services. For instance, many water supply systems were broken, school attendance rates were very low and some schools were unofficially closed, and hospitals were left without essential supply of water, heating and lighting.

Losses of crops and seeds as well as livestock have negatively impacted the livelihood of marginal populations, especially those heavily reliant on agriculture and farm products. Unusual dry spells during the rainy season (March–May) and locust invasion in April have also adversely affected the traditional agriculture on which most people rely. Results from the Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in April–May 2008 indicated that some 1.68 million people are food insecure who would require food assistance.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

By promptly using the in-country stock of emergency supplies, UNICEF was among the first agencies to respond immediately to the humanitarian needs of the affected population. It mainly focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection.

With support from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Government of Italy, UNICEF helped in preventing newborn and child deaths by timely provision of baby warmers, incubators, hygiene materials and over 1,100 primary health-care kits to the affected areas. UNICEF used the CERF to accelerate the prevention of acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases (ARI/DD) and supported the Ministry of Health integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) centre and primary health-care workers. The IMCI centre was supported in establishing mobile teams and in conducting orientation workshops at regional and district levels. Basic manuals on management of ARI/DD with the new protocols of the World Health Organization (WHO) were also provided to primary health-care workers. The Government of Estonia's contribution helped in building capacities of parents and communities in priority districts to provide early intervention and psychosocial stimulation to infants and young children during emergencies.

In the area of child protection and with assistance from the Governments of Netherlands and Italy, close to 10,000 children based in residential care institutions were provided immediate lifesaving emergency items. The aid included the delivery of high protein biscuits, kerosene stoves, jerrycans, biscuits, bars of soap, and generators. In education, schools and child institutions were supported in procuring heating materials, including generators and coal.

In the WASH sector, the UNICEF-assisted campaign to warn 1 million urban residents about the risks of poor water quality prevented a potential disease outbreak. While the UN Development Programme (UNDP) was responsible for increasing the supply of water through a combination of system repairs and water trucking, UNICEF distributed water purification tablets, water containers and other water-related supplies. With support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the Government of Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), UNICEF also facilitated small- and medium-scale rehabilitation of rural water supply systems for 70,000 people (approximately 45,000 women and children) from seven communities in the affected areas.

¹ United Nations, UN Development Assistance Framework, Moving Mountains, UNDAF, 2004–2009.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

Coordination and Partnership

The humanitarian community in Tajikistan is organized under the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT), which includes UN agencies, NGOs and Government. REACT is divided into five sectoral groups as follows: food security; non-food items and shelter; health; water and sanitation; and education.

Linkages of HAR with the Regular Programme

The Programme of Cooperation focuses on lifesaving interventions and improving the quality and access to basic services. Through upstream policy work, the cooperation works jointly with other donors and government partners in addressing systemic issues that will likely affect children and women in emergencies.

The planned humanitarian action for 2009 seeks to reach about 100,000 children under age five, particularly vulnerable groups of children and their families from rural areas in Khatlon and Rayon Republican Subordination regions as well as 80,000 pregnant women in remote and hard-to-reach areas of Khatlon oblast. It intends to implement lifesaving interventions to be carried out immediately and essential activities that may be added once an initial response is established.

Health and Nutrition (US\$ 800,000)

For 2009, the goal is to minimize the impact of combined extreme weather conditions, energy shortage and the current national food insecurity on the health and nutritional status of women and children, especially children under age five. UNICEF will undertake the following key activities:

- Supply 600 health kits to primary health-care centres in the affected areas, especially targeting those centres that are unable to cope with the increased number of emergency patients due to available drugs and medical supplies, benefiting about 1.8 million residents in Khatlon and Rayon Republican Subordination regions;
- Promote exclusive breastfeeding practices and complementary feeding, including counselling of mothers on early childcare and stimulation, benefiting 90,000 pregnant/lactating women;
- Distribute lifesaving and critical relief supplies, such as baby warmers, baby blankets and primary health kits, to about 85,000 newborn babies;
- Distribute the new formula of oral rehydration salts (ORS) to almost 1 million children under age five;
- Ensure that women and girls have access to health services.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 500,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to ensure that children and women have access to safe water and sanitation facilities through the implementation of the following key activities:

- Lead the WASH sector group for a coordinated emergency response;
- Maintain the steady and quality supply of water and storage for 10,000 households in urban and rural areas, with special attention to hospitals, schools and mass care facilities;
- Distribute water containers, water purification tablets, chlorine lime and soap to 10,000 households;
- Where possible, rehabilitate existing water supply and sanitation facilities;
- Organize a communication campaign for hygiene promotion and reach out to about 500,000 people;
- Provide hygiene materials, including soap, buckets and educational materials containing hygiene messages in local languages.

Education (US\$ 500,000)

As potential extreme weather condition emergency may affect the ability of children to attend school, UNICEF plans to implement the following key interventions:

- Lead the education sector coordination together with Save the Children Alliance;
- Support insulation of doors and windows and provide heating stoves to about 50 affected schools;

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- Advocate for the temporary suspension of classes during severe winter days and support catch-up programmes;
 - With the health and nutrition team and partners, support activities related to early childhood development (ECD) in emergencies.

Child Protection (US\$ 200,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to address the increased vulnerability of children, especially those with special protection needs, in the event of an emergency, through the following key activities:

- Identify and provide assistance to children and women in need of special protection (monitoring shall be carried out by UNICEF and the National Commission on Child Rights on the appropriate distribution and use of supplies);
- Provide psychosocial support to about 500 children in closed type institutions;
- Support 9,341 children without family or institutional care in receiving basic survival/developmental assistance, with attention to the most vulnerable.