



- Through the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative, USAID has helped improve irrigation and water management practices on over half the farmland in the target area.
- In an area home to 750,000 people, USAID trained clinicians and government officials on new technology that diagnoses multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in hours instead of weeks.
- USAID developed a teacher training curriculum for grades 1 through 4 that the Tajik government is implementing nationwide to increase reading outcomes for over 400,000 students.

Photo credit: USAID

Country Profile

With its 800-mile border with Afghanistan, Tajikistan is a linchpin for both regional stability and security in Central Asia. It also plays an essential role in developing trade and energy linkages between South and Central Asia. The United States partners with Tajikistan to ensure the country remains a productive partner, able to contribute to regional prosperity, connectivity, stability and security.

USAID works to promote economic growth, democracy, food security, health and nutrition to benefit Tajikistan, as well as the broader region. As part of the USAID Mission to Central Asia, USAID in Tajikistan participates in a range of regional programming, including the U.S. Government's New Silk Road initiative, which increases regional connections between the economies and peoples of South and Central Asia — including Afghanistan — to foster greater stability and prosperity across the region.

OUR WORK

Tajikistan faces many challenges, including widespread poverty, food insecurity, declining literacy rates, low productivity and high unemployment. With a highly mobile population of 8 million, Tajikistan also grapples with crippling diseases such as multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) and HIV/AIDS. As the most remittance-dependent economy in the world, the country receives remittances equal to as much as 52 percent of the gross domestic product. These conditions, coupled with winter power shortages and chronic undernutrition, leave Tajikistan vulnerable to economic and social shocks.

USAID partners with the people of Tajikistan to overcome these development challenges. The U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative addresses food insecurity by improving agricultural production and profitability as well as improving nutrition for mothers and children. USAID strengthens civil society and local governance and supports implementation of national education and health strategies. To promote economic growth and regional connectivity, USAID supports reforms

within the energy, trade and water sectors, and in line with the U.S. Government's New Silk Road initiative, supports the development of a network of economic and transit connections across and between Central Asia, South Asia and beyond.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Almost half of the Tajik population lives below the national poverty line, with nearly 10 percent living in extreme poverty, and many women and children are undernourished. The U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative helps farmers increase production of profitable, nutritious crops while teaching families more balanced dietary habits and improved infant and child feeding and hygiene practices. Feed the Future targets smallholder farmers living in 12 districts in southwestern Khatlon, home to the country's largest concentration of poor people and over 30 percent of the country's children under 5 suffering from stunted growth, due to chronic undernutrition. USAID has helped thousands of farmers in Tajikistan gain reliable, legal access to land and water, for the first time in decades. Through a network of legal aid centers, USAID has provided legal consultations to 27,000 farmers on their land use rights, and 56 new water users associations organized by USAID are delivering improved irrigation water management for over 100,000 farmers. USAID also works to improve maternal and child health and nutrition. Since 2009, USAID assistance has helped increase exclusive breast feeding from 37 percent to 85 percent in target areas, which optimizes infant growth, development and health.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

USAID programs enhance prevention and treatment services for TB, MDR TB and HIV/AIDS for the general population, with a particular emphasis on the most at-risk populations. USAID technical assistance to the Ministry of Health developed a national strategy to implement GeneXpert technology, which reduces the diagnostic time of MDR TB from several weeks to less than two hours. With 50 percent of Tajikistan's fourth graders unable to read at grade level, USAID education programs work to establish and bolster a reading culture for pre-primary and primary school students. Efforts focus on improved reading instruction, increased availability of age-appropriate reading materials, greater after-school reading time and renewed government support for literacy. Other activities target older students, especially girls, who are most at risk of dropping out of school.

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

To increase stability throughout Tajikistan, USAID has strengthened local government capacity to increase community access to the most basic public service: safe drinking water. USAID supports independent media outlets and strengthens legislation to enable independent and objective journalism. In addition, USAID builds the capacity of civil society organizations through training, mentoring and legal support. USAID's engagement with youth in remote regions of Tajikistan nurtures civic identity and leadership.

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USAID is addressing a shortage of children's books in the Tajik language by commissioning local authors to produce more. Photo credit: USAID



USAID helps rural municipalities install pay-for-service drinking water systems for unserved households. Photo credit: USAID