



CARE International Country overview

Tajikistan

Country snapshot

- Population: 6.6 million
- Life expectancy at birth: 66.3 years
- Adult literacy rate: 99.5%
- Access to improved water source: 59%
- GDP per capita: US\$1,356
- Infant mortality rate: 59 per 1,000 live births
- Maternal mortality rate: 170 per 100,000 live births
- HIV prevalence: 0.1%

Source: UN Human Development Report 2007/2008

Program overview

CARE has been working in Tajikistan since 1994, implementing emergency relief, rehabilitation and long-term development projects in 14 different districts.

Environmental protection

CARE is working to improve the conservation of globally significant biodiversity in Tajikistan by implementing new mechanisms and approaches to effective management of protected areas and their natural resources. The project is strengthening the management and sustainability of three protected areas located on the southern slopes of the Gissar Mountains. This also provides models and best practices that can be replicated throughout the national system, which strengthens the country's management of protected areas.

Health

The Sexual and Reproductive Health for Youth Project is improving sexual and reproductive health in Tajikistan through better access and advocacy for sexual and reproductive health services for youth. The project targets 350,000 youth between the age of 10 and 24 years in Dushanbe city as well as Yovon and Vahdat districts. CARE's efforts are focused on increased access to youth-friendly clinics and counseling services; increased individual knowledge, attitudes and key behaviors of youth on sexual and reproductive health; and improved policies and social environment for youths' sexual and reproductive health.

Food security

The Development Assistance Program is an integrated program working in education, health and agriculture, helping to decrease chronic food insecurity and vulnerability of households and communities in Tajikistan. It focuses on the adoption of key maternal and child health and nutrition practices; improved sustainable availability of nutritious food in communities; increased levels of education as a means of reducing vulnerability to food security threats; and distribution of supplementary rations to pregnant, lactating and vulnerable women. CARE leads the project, which is operated through a consortium of four international aid agencies in 11 districts.

Emergency response and disaster risk reduction

The Integrated Community Disaster Reduction Project focuses on community-based organizations and schools located in the most vulnerable communities in the vicinity of two protected areas, helping them to better protect themselves from disaster. The main interventions include sustainable natural resource management activities that mitigate hazards, augment economic assets of households and improve the natural environment; and preparedness activities such as community contingency planning, community-based early warning systems, risk and evacuation mapping, simulations and drills, awareness-raising activities, and building organizational capacities. The program promotes social equity and inclusion by ensuring women, children and other vulnerable groups have equal opportunities to participate in project activities.

In early 2008, a severe energy crisis combined with the harshest winter in 30 years left millions of people in Tajikistan facing food and fuel shortages and without heat or water in temperatures that dropped to -25C at night. CARE provided cash transfers, food, warm clothing, coal, generators and fuel, and medicine to more than 35,000 people. CARE targeted the most vulnerable groups, distributing emergency relief in rural and urban areas to farmers, women heads of household, schools, homes for the elderly, orphanages, nurseries, and homes for mentally and physically handicapped children.

Major donors

European Commission, Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Contact information

CARE Tajikistan

Sylvia Francis, Country Director, sylvia@care.tj

Dilbar Gafarova, Senior Program Manager, dilbar@care.tj

Tel +992.372.211.783 **Fax** +992.372.211.778

CARE Asia Regional Office – Bangkok, Thailand

Tel +66.2.204.2561-3 **Fax** +66.2.204.2564 **Web** www.care.org

Last updated July 2008.