

CASE STUDY

TAJIKISTAN: Emergency Food Security

March 2009

Save the Children has worked in Tajikistan since 1994. In response to a series of economic and social shocks that are hampering the ability of families to obtain sufficient and nutritious food, Save the Children is providing ongoing assistance to help vulnerable people through the current crisis.



In the village of Tojikobod, most inhabitants are refugees from the country's civil war. Men tend to migrate to Russia and many do not return or send money to their families. It is very difficult for women, most of whom do not have an education, to care for their children as they must also support their families by themselves.

Mastura lives with her three children in a one-bedroom house. Her husband left to work in Russia a year ago and has not sent money to his family. Mastura is now trying to feed and support her three small children.

Mastura previously worked as a servant for other people in her village. However, this was not enough; she had to sell grass from her land just to buy daily bread for her family. Her children began to fall sick from food shortages and nutrition deficiency.

Mastura says: "It is difficult to live from day to day. I even do not know what to do, how to feed children, it was pitiful to see my hungry children. I do not have education to work and earn, and children are also small, I do not have parents who could support me at least during the winter period."

In the past two years, harsh weather during the winters and severe droughts during the summers have exacerbated an already extreme energy and food crisis in Tajikistan. Save the Children launched a five-month Emergency Food Security Project, funded by USAID, to help support children and their families in the country's poorest areas with food and small cash grants for basic needs. Some 16,800 households benefited.

Mastura's family was one of those in the project. She received food and also was able to buy wheat seeds for planting, three bags of wheat flour, oil and other supplies. She gratefully says, *"Thanks to Save the Children my children will not be hungry and will be supplied with all necessary food. Now I can be sure that we will pass winter. Thank you very much for the assistance in needed moment and saving my children from shortage of food."*



Save the Children®

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