

Brucellosis affects animals in 70% of villages surveyed in central and southern Tajikistan: Carried by livestock and transmitted to humans, the disease can cause disability, infertility, miscarriage and fever. Last year thousands were infected.

Prevalence in both animals and humans has been rising since the breakdown of control systems over 12 years ago. March marks the start of a joint, mass vaccination campaign by the Government with support from the United Nations. 300,000 sheep and goats will be vaccinated together with training for farmers in controlling the disease.



36% of Tajik children under five years have chronic malnutrition: A national nutritional survey, led by *Action Against Hunger (AAH)* and *Mercy Corps International (MCI)*, and involving 15 partner agencies, was recently published. Global acute malnutrition was down sharply from previous years — 4.7% compared to 17.4% in 2001. However, 36% suffer from stunted growth, and an alarming number remain 'at risk'.

The study found that high levels of diarrhoeal disease were closely associated with the quantity of water available in households. Key causal factors in malnutrition were found to be poor feeding practices, illness and household food insecurity. The United Nations is supporting AAH and others to implement programmes for the treatment of malnourished children.



More than 2,600 refugees registered as living in Tajikistan: The United Nations has been supporting the Government to conduct a new registration exercise of all refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in the country, 90% of whom live in Dushanbe.

Almost all of the refugees are Afghan, most having arrived in the early nineties, or following the former Taliban regime's rise to power. The process that started in late February will ensure that appropriate protection and assistance can be provided, and durable solutions including resettlement, voluntary repatriation and local integration be found.