



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief January 2020

In Numbers

95,218 people assisted
in January 2020



121.534 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 11,533 cash-based transfers made

Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, low-income and food-deficit country. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous food security challenges during the winter period. The country is the poorest in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with 27.4 percent of the population living in poverty and 8.6 percent living in extreme poverty (World Bank and UNDP).

In Tajikistan, despite significant improvements in recent years, malnutrition rates remain high. WFP is contributing to the Government's progress on SDG 2, by providing access to appropriate nutritional support and health care, promoting school feeding, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and ensuring preparedness for recurring natural disasters.

The Government has identified food security and access to quality nutrition as one of its development priorities.

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993. WFP currently operates under the Country's Strategic Plan (CSP) that was launched in July 2019.



Population: **8.8 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

Operational Updates

- In January, to ensure further sustainability of Tajikistan School Feeding Programme and its gradual handover to government, the members of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Council on School Feeding travelled to Sughd Region and met representatives of local authorities to discuss issues related to the establishment of working groups on school feeding in this region. The main reason of establishing inter-sectoral working groups is to ensure the implementation of the School Feeding Strategy 2017-2027 at district and regional level, mainstream the school feeding into district development programmes, support and initiate the network of local producers, producers of food in the country to promote Home-Grown School Feeding. These working groups have already been established in Khatlon Region, Raghun Town, Rasht District and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO).
- In January, WFP received 27 innovative microgrants project proposals on School Feeding from various districts and towns of Sughd Region. The purpose of the microgrants is to create assets and enable the schools to generate additional funds for an improved arrangement of hot meals for primary grade students in combination with parents' contribution. In the long term, schools will have a better capacity in adapting to the national implementation of the school meals initiatives at the school level.

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Photo Caption: Schoolchildren from the town of Raghun.
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**Country Strategic Plan
(July 2019 – June 2024)**

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
82 m	8 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March –August 2020)
16.7 m	4.1 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure vulnerable people, including primary schoolchildren, in targeted districts meet their basic food requirements by 2024.

Focus area: Root causes of food insecurity

Activities:

- Provide nutritionally balanced school meals to targeted schoolchildren

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups, especially children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls - in districts where the national Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol is being rolled out have reduced levels of malnutrition by 2024.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Treat moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and implement malnutrition prevention activities using social and behaviour change communication with vulnerable groups while building the Government's capacity to manage nutrition programmes.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted food-insecure communities in areas vulnerable to climate change have increased their resilience to shocks by 2024.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Carry out climate adaptation, asset creation, and livelihood activities aimed at fostering resilience to shocks and stressors, and conduct early response activities in the event of a small scale disaster

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions at the central and decentralized level have strengthened capacities to target, design and implement effective food security and nutrition strategies by 2024.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to public institutions and private sector stakeholders involved in advocating for and implementing food security and nutrition programmes, including emergency preparedness.
- Strengthen the capacity of government institutions and schools to implement social protection programmes

Monitoring

- During January 2020, WFP carried out monitoring visits to 243 project sites out of the 268 planned.
- With the launch of cash assistance modality in new districts, WFP closely monitors the cash distribution and beneficiaries' access to the banking service. No complaints were reported during this monitoring exercise was received for the month of January for any activity site.

Challenges

- Since 2012, because of funding constraints WFP has been forced to reduce the daily food entitlement to children under the School Feeding Programme. To cope with the cash shortfall, the daily ration has been reduced to 61 percent of the previous amount. Further, since the 2018-2019 school year, the number of feeding days has been reduced from 5 to 4 per week, with the remaining day covered by local contributions from parents, schools, communities and local government. The school feeding interruption has continued since December 2019, with only 87,000 (20 percent) of total 422,000 beneficiaries receiving hot meals.
- WFP has 40 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which is sufficient to support 1,500 people over a period of two months. WFP requires more funding to increase its preparedness efforts.

Resourcing

- Overall funding constraints for the period of January – June 2020 makes up USD 5.00 million. Considering food procurement lead time, which is 100 days, WFP Tajikistan requires urgent allocation of resources to start food procurement to prevent a break in the food pipeline.



WFP assists women in strengthening their economic abilities through efficient vegetable production in Fayzobod District by establishing new greenhouses.
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