



World Food Programme

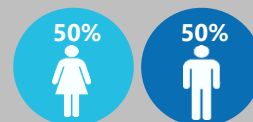
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief May 2020

## In Numbers

137,933 people assisted  
in May 2020



744.950 mt of food assistance distributed

No cash-based transfer has been made in May 2020

### 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 11.8 percent living in extreme poverty (Tajikistan Agency of Statistics).

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: **9.1 million**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

### Operational Updates

- Due to increasing the number of COVID-19 cases in the country, the National COVID-19 Response Team led by the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Qohir Rasulzoda, decided to close all secondary schools of the country for summer vacation. The new school year will be started on 17 August 2020.
- WFP Country Director in Tajikistan Alberto Correia Mendes met the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Sheralizoda Bahodur Ahmadjon, to discuss bilateral cooperation, especially the implementation of the upcoming Green Climate Fund project in the country.
- On 23 May, WFP provided food assistance to around 300 households affected by a mudflow in Khuroson District, Khatlon Region. WFP's emergency relief assistance consists of around 15 mt of fortified wheat flour and was provided following the request from the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES) to support affected households. Approximately 9,500 residents were severely impacted by a devastating mudflow following heavy rainfall between 14 – 16 May 2020, with more than 300 homes damaged or destroyed.
- As part of its response to the Coronavirus pandemic, WFP provided one-off take-home food rations to 24,000 vulnerable families whose children benefit from WFP's School Feeding Programme in Tajikistan. Following schools' closures to minimize risks of contacting and spreading the virus, WFP stepped in to ensure the families of the most vulnerable schoolchildren continue to receive the much-needed food assistance. The distributed take-home rations consist of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil and yellow chickpeas that were previously intended for the preparation of daily hot school meals under the WFP-led School Feeding Programme. The School Feeding Programme, which covers around 2,000 schools across 52 rural districts of the country is supported by the Russian Federation.

*Photo Caption: WFP Country Director in Tajikistan Alberto Correia Mendes and the Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Sheralizoda Bahodur Ahmadjon. ©WFP*

- The number of monitoring visits decreased due to the COVID-19 situation in the country. Due to high risks related to COVID-19 and pneumonia at community level in some districts, 42 remote monitoring visits were conducted. During the reporting period, totally, 143 sites out of 167 were physically and remotely monitored.

## Challenges

- Due to border closures, the country office anticipated delays in the arrival of super-cereal plus, the specialized nutritious food (SNF) that WFP provides through its treatment of malnutrition programme. Although contingency measures were put in place for the expected shortfall, recent information has confirmed the commodity arrival in time, and this will allow the country office to avoid any pipeline breaks. Nevertheless, the country office will continue monitoring the situation and will advocate for the use of alternative commodities to alleviate any future shortfalls.
- With the commencement of the 2020-2021 academic year almost one month earlier due to the early school closures, WFP may face a shortfall for the first month of the school meals interventions. With current border closures and longer lead times resulting from COVID-19 mitigation measures, these shortfalls may become protracted.
- WFP has 87 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which is sufficient to support 3,600 people over a period of two months. WFP requires more funding to increase its preparedness efforts.

## Resourcing

- To address the urgent food and nutrition assistance needs in response to COVID-19 socio-economic shocks through programming related to resilience, social protection, and nutrition, WFP requires additional USD 14 million.



*Distribution of take-home food rations to vulnerable families whose children benefit from WFP's School Feeding Programme in Tajikistan*

## Donors

Russian Federation, USA, UN Peacebuilding Fund Private Donors (Japan Association for WFP, the Earth Group)

### Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>82 m</b>	<b>19 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) Jul20 –Dec20)
<b>16.7 m</b>	<b>8.5 m</b>

#### 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