



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief June 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**

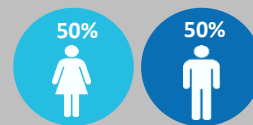
2019 Human Development Index: **125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

3,020 people assisted
in June 2020



6.103 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 18,027 cash-based transfers made in June 2020

Operational Updates

- All secondary schools of the country remain closed for summer vacation. The new school year is planned to be started on 17 August 2020. As of 15 June, the government opened all non-food shops and markets.
- During the reporting period, WFP, in partnership with FAO, started to issue a monthly update on COVID-19 and Food Security. The first update was published in June 2020.
- On 25 June 2020, WFP received clearance from the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Tajikistan Civil Aviation Agency for the implementation of WFP Aviation Services in the country. The first flight Dushanbe – Sharjah is scheduled for 13 July 2020.
- WFP launched a Cash for Work intervention to support vulnerable households in Tajikistan that are particularly affected by the socio-economic shocks induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. These resilience building projects will assist some 15,000 people through three-month cash assistance to meet their immediate nutritional needs and build long-term community assets in four districts of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBO).
- As part of public-private partnerships efforts, WFP is implementing a bakery renovation project in two regions. WFP provides grant funding to a local NGO to procure and deliver construction materials required for the bakeries' renovations, which will then supply daily bread to area schools. Construction works is ongoing and expected to be completed by September.
- As part of its Social Behaviour Change Communication Plan (SBCC), WFP started implementing nimble trials in Jaloliddini Balkhi District to raise the awareness and change the behaviour of community members to reduce the consumption of cooking oil by families. A number of information messages will be produced and disseminated. Kitchen sets will be distributed during nimble trials to measure oil consumption.

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
82 m	19 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Aug 2020 –Jan 2021)
16.7 m	5.5 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

- WFP Tajikistan is facing an immediate and critical pipeline break under its school feeding programme to cover 450,000 schoolchildren, due to supply chain challenges caused by COVID-19. The country office will continue monitoring the situation and put in place all necessary measures to mitigate the risk of a pipeline break.
- 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, including in response to COVID-19 socio-economic shocks through its resilience, social protection, and nutrition activities, WFP requires USD 8.4 million for July – December 2020.



Through its microgrant projects, WFP supports schools in Rasht District to develop beekeeping. ©WFP

Donors

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

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 157 sites were physically monitored. Remote monitoring was conducted for 15 sites. WFP also conducted remote data collection for post distribution monitoring of the take home rations provided to vulnerable schoolchildren’s families in May. Totally, 360 households were reached through the phone calls.