



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief July 2020

In Numbers

1,833 people assisted
in July 2020



5.354 mt of food assistance distributed

No cash-based transfer made in July 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

- All schools and universities in the country plan to open on 17 August 2020 for the new school year. Schools and universities were sent to early summer vacation in April due to increasing COVID-19 cases in the country. WFP has been working with the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan, UNICEF and other development partners to prepare for the reopening of schools under the context of COVID-19. Through this effort, guidance on management of school canteens and mealtimes has been drafted with discussions to ensure feasibility and adherence underway. In addition, for longer term measures, preliminary discussions were held to conduct a joint water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assessment in schools.
- On 1 July, WFP and the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan signed an agreement to launch a climate change adaptation project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project will benefit approximately 115,000 food-insecure people in rural Tajik communities over the next four years through climate change adaptation interventions that strengthen the capacities of national actors by providing climate information services via monthly and seasonal forecasts and weather alerts to rural communities, while enabling the communities to use the information and plan accordingly. GCF has contributed more than US\$9 million to finance the project.
- On 13 July, WFP Aviation Services started implementing twice a week flights between Dushanbe and Sharjah after receiving clearance from the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and Tajikistan Civil Aviation Agency.
- In July, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributed US\$1.1 million towards the WFP COVID-19 response in Tajikistan. The funds will help WFP implement Cash for Work projects that will support 18,000 vulnerable people in

Photo Caption: Mr. Shelalizoda Bahodur Ahmadjon – Chairperson of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of Tajikistan and WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Alberto Correia Mendes sign agreement on the launch of GCF project. ©WFP

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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) (September 2020 – February 2021)
16.7 m	6 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

the districts of republican subordination who have been directly affected by the pandemic's socio-economic

impact. Participants will receive cash assistance in exchange for their work on rehabilitating or constructing community assets such as irrigation canals, drinking water supply systems and forestry areas in the targeted communities. WFP is prioritizing food-insecure families—many of them are women-headed households—who cannot secure their basic food needs due to high food prices and reduced remittances from migrant workers.

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 147 sites were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits decreased in comparison with previous months due to holidays for schoolchildren in the country.
- During the reporting period, WFP, in partnership with FAO, published the July 2020 edition of the monthly update on COVID-19 and Food Security.

Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan is facing an immediate and critical pipeline break under its school feeding programme, which supports 450,000 schoolchildren. Due to delays in procurement processes and the early start of the school year, WFP is unable to deliver food prior to the commencement of the new school year in mid-August. A two-month delay is foreseen.
- WFP has 87 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which will 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 9.2 million for August 2020 – January 2021.



WFP handed over WASH items to the health and social protection department of Khatlon Region as part of its Social Behaviour Change Communication Programme (SBCC) with the aim of changing handwashing behaviours of people and preventing the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic in Tajikistan. ©WFP