



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief August 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**

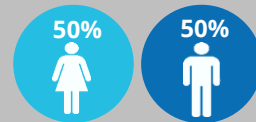
2019 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

3,704 people assisted
in August 2020



4.894 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 23,381 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

- Following the decision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on COVID-19, all schools and universities of the country started the academic year on 17 August 2020. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan issued procedures and general recommendations on preparing educational institutions for the beginning of the academic year, as well as on organizing educational processes with consideration of the epidemiological situation in the country.
- With the re-opening of schools after early summer vacation due to COVID-19, WFP started the implementation of Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) nimble trials in pilot schools of Jaloliddini Balkhi District in Khatlon Region. The nimble trials focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) issues to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and improve the hand-washing behaviours of schoolchildren. This activity focuses on primary schools to create good hand washing and hygiene habits from early school years. A baseline data collection was conducted prior to the implementation of this intervention. WFP plans to expand this in all schools of targeted districts.
- WFP is implementing a cash-for-work programme to support vulnerable households in four districts of GBAO (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region) to cope with the socio-economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, primarily due to increasing food costs and reducing remittances from labour migrants. WFP and its cooperating partners are involving target households in public works, making sure that COVID-19 preventive measures are applied. The initiative is expected to assist 15,000 beneficiaries. During August, around 2,300 beneficiaries were assisted under cash-for-work intervention.

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Photo caption: Distribution of bank cards for the beneficiaries of cash-for-work projects in Roshqala District in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
82 m	20 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) October 2020 – March 2021
16.7 m	10 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

- Under the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contribution towards the COVID-19

response in Tajikistan, WFP plans to expand cash-for-work projects to support 18,000 vulnerable people in the Districts of Republican Subordination. Field level agreements for this response are under development.

- WFP, in partnership with the Committee for Environmental Protection and the Agency for Forestry under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, launched a three-month mission to carry out Community-based Watershed Participatory Planning in 11 target districts to serve as a basis for the inception phase of the four-year Green Climate Fund funded project.

Monitoring

- During August, 53 sites were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits decreased in comparison with previous months due to holidays for schoolchildren in the country.

Challenges

- WFP Tajikistan is facing an immediate and critical pipeline break under its school feeding programme due to delays in the procurement process using the existing contribution from Russia. The school feeding process will partially resume in September by distribution of only the recently arrived fortified wheat flour to about half of the schools that WFP supports.
- 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

- Considering COVID-19 related needs, the total net funding requirements of the country office for the period of October 2020 – March 2021 stand at USD 10.4 M.



Renovation process of a school bakery roof in Spitamen District of Sughd Region with the support of WFP within its School Feeding Programme. ©WFP

Donors

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