



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief September 2020

In Numbers

193,499 people assisted
in September 2020



97.282 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 263,940 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 3.2 m six-month (November 2020 – April 2021)
net funding requirements

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 Tajikistan Country 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

- 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 pandemic, primarily due to increasing food costs and decreasing remittances from labour migrants. WFP and its cooperating partners are involving target households in public works. The initiative is expected to assist 15,000 beneficiaries. During the reporting period, more than 14,000 beneficiaries were assisted. In addition, WFP is also launching cash-for-work projects in the districts of republican subordination (DRS) with the support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to respond to COVID-19. This initiative will support an additional 19,000 vulnerable people through the same targeting mechanisms used in the response in GBAO. Field level agreements for this response have been signed with two partners and projects have been launched.
- The WFP Representative and Country Director Alberto Correia Mendes met with the Minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan, Mr. Imomzoda Muhammadyusuf Saydali, to discuss bilateral cooperation, and particularly the implementation of the school feeding programme in the country and issues related to the gradual handover of the programme to national ownership. The establishment of a school feeding unit under the Ministry of Education was a further point of discussion. WFP's School Feeding Programme covers around 500,000 Tajik schoolchildren from grades 1 to 4 in 2,000 schools across 52 rural districts.
- On 11 September, WFP handed over around 3,000 tons of fortified wheat flour to the Government of Tajikistan during a ceremony held in Dushanbe to cover the needs of its National School Feeding Programme for four months. This was the first batch of a total of 6,000 tons of fortified wheat flour that is to be received this year and which have been obtained with funding from the Russian Federation. The handover ceremony was attended by representatives from WFP, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan, the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan and other partners.

Photo caption: Handover ceremony for fortified wheat flour to the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
84.9 m		31.5 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2020 – April 2021)
16.8 m	17.3 m	3.2 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

- In September, school feeding was resumed in Sughd Region and the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS) after receiving fortified wheat flour. Vegetable oil, a further important commodity for the school feeding programme, is expected to arrive in the country in November 2020. Local government authorities and the parent-teacher associations in Sughd Region and DRS confirmed to contribute vegetable oil and other supplementary food items to support school feeding at schools. Khatlon and GBAO regions plan to resume school feeding as of November.
- WFP in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan conducted a six-day training for more than 50 primary health care providers in Kulob District. The purpose of the training was to start the expansion of electronic registration of children with moderate acute malnutrition through WFP's SCOPE CODA (Conditional On-Demand Assistance) platform. Participants were introduced to SCOPE CODA devices and cards and learned how to register beneficiaries, issue individualized cards, as well managing beneficiary data in the online database. Data privacy and protection topics were also addressed and data of beneficiaries that are discharged from the programme after full recovery is deleted.

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 80 sites were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits increased by 50 percent in comparison to August 2020.

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 was partially resumed in September after fortified wheat flour arrived in the country. This situation will likely continue in October. The arrival of vegetable oil is expected in the first part of November.
- WFP has 87 mt of food commodities allocated for emergency response as a preparedness measure, which can support 3,600 people over a period of two months. WFP requires more funding to increase and diversify its preparedness efforts.

Resourcing

- Considering COVID-19 related needs, the total net funding requirement of the country office for the period November 2020 – April 2021 stands at US\$ 3.2 million.

Donors

Russian Federation, USA, Private Donors (Japan Association for WFP), Green Climate Fund and SDC.