



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief November 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 in Tajikistan currently operates under a 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**

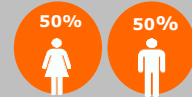
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

In Numbers

436,778 people assisted
In November 2020

598,405 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 4.3 m six-month (January – June 2020) net funding requirements



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

- During November, WFP continued bakery renovation activities in the country. Renovation works in six bakeries out of eight were nearing completion, while works on the remaining two bakeries will be completed in December 2020. The delivery of the first bulk of bakery equipment is expected in December. WFP ascertained the readiness of the bakeries for installation of the expected bakery equipment.
- WFP signed agreements with two local NGOs to implement income generation activities in schools in Sughd Region and Rasht Valley. Microgrants will support activities such as beekeeping, gardening, animal breeding (cattle, poultry, quail, rabbits), sewing workshops, fish pond and greenhouse cultivation, and canning workshops, which will be implemented during 2021 with the aim of producing natural and high quality products that will provide both revenue and diversification of school meals. In Rasht Valley, the microgrants will support 25 secondary schools. A total of 47 secondary schools will be covered by microgrants in Sughd Region. Schools are to receive around USD 300,000 in microgrant interventions.
- WFP launched cash-for-work projects in five districts of the Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS) to support vulnerable people who have been affected by the socio-economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The immediate objective of the projects is to fill the immediate food gap of around 4,500 remittance dependent food insecure households through cash transfers. The project itself has the aim of rehabilitating, 200 km of irrigation infrastructure to enhance the productivity of 4,000 ha of agricultural lands. Around 3,000 households in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) benefited from WFP's cash-for-work intervention as part of its COVID-19 response. To promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Tajikistan, WFP plans to involve women in all its projects and ensure that 60 percent of those assisted are women.

Deputy Country Director/OIC: Mariko Kawabata
Contact info: Nasrullo Ramazonov (nasrullo.ramazonov@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan

Photo caption: WFP supports women's economic empowerment in the town of Isfara. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84.9 m	33.6 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December – June 2021)
17 m	4.5 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

- During November, community and parent teacher associations (PTAs) continued providing vegetable oil in

addition to other food commodities to support feeding activities in schools, while the price of vegetable oil saw an increase. WFP mobilized resources to also provide schools with vegetable oil and the first shipment containing 120 MT of the commodity arrived in the country in November. WFP is planning to dispatch food commodities to schools in early December.

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 182 sites were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits increased by 50 percent in comparison to October 2020.
- In August 2020, WFP signed a service agreement with private Consulting Company "M-Vector" to conduct remote data collection with households and implement on site monitoring of food assistance interventions in the target regions. In the framework of this agreement, M-Vector conducted process monitoring at around 300 project sites in all four regions of the country covered by WFP. The findings are being analysed by M-Vector and will be reported in December 2020.

Challenges

- Due to the continued procurements delays, pulses will not be provided for the School Feeding Programme in 2021. The shortfall and mitigation measures have been communicated to the Ministry of Education and Science and discussed at the school feeding Intersectoral Coordination Council. Community members and parent-teacher associations will provide complimentary food commodities to schools.
- 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 and diversify its preparedness efforts.

Resourcing

- Considering COVID-19 related needs, the total net funding requirements of the country office for the period of January to June 2021 stand at USD 4.5 m.



Photo caption: WFP supported the rehabilitation of irrigation and drinking water supply systems in the distant district of Roshtqala in GBAO as a cash-for-work intervention to respond to COVID-19 ©WFP

Donors

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