



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief January 2021

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: **9.3 million**

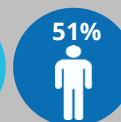
2019 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

441,636 people assisted
in January 2021



679,599 mt of food distributed in January 2021

US\$ 50,619 cash-based transfers made in January 2021

Operational Updates

- WFP is working with the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan and local authorities to plan the next take-home ration distribution on February 2021. Through this take-home ration distribution, families of the most vulnerable schoolchildren will receive fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil in addition to School Feeding. This will meet a one-month need of around 22,000 households in the country. The assistance has been made possible thanks to the additional contribution from the Russian Federation.
- In January, WFP continued implementing a cash-for-work programme to support vulnerable households in four districts of GBAO (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region) and the districts of Rasht Valley to cope with the socio-economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, primarily due to increasing food costs and decreasing remittances from migrant labourers. Through this initiative, WFP will assist 34,000 beneficiaries. In January, more than US\$ 50,000 was transferred to 1,300 participants (around 7,000 beneficiaries) in Lakhsh District.
- WFP completed the implementation of Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) nimble trials. These aimed to increase vegetable preservation to increase community accessibility to vegetables during winter as well as to promote the preservation of non-traditional vegetables such as cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and zucchini. The interventions included the distribution of recipe cards with preservation ideas and conducting cooking demonstrations and trainings on certain preservation methods. In total, WFP trained 80 mothers. Baseline and follow-up data collection was conducted to analyse the impact of interventions on vegetable preservation behaviours.

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Photo caption: Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) nimble trials on increasing vegetable preservation in Jaloliddini Balkhi District. © WFP

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84.9 m	32.7 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) Feb-Jul 21)
17.3 m	3 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 has been actively contributing to the development of the Common Country Assessment, under the overall coordination by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. WFP is the lead agency on the food security and nutrition chapter, and contributing agency on chapters related to education, social protection, climate change, and the humanitarian-development peace nexus. The assessment will be concluded in February 2021.
- In January, WFP in partnership with two local NGOs started the implementation of income-generating activities in 72 schools in Sughd Region and the districts of Rasht Valley. WFP will implement activities such as greenhouses, beekeeping, animal breeding, fishponds, canning and sewing workshops through the technical support of local NGOs. The activities will enable schools to generate income, which will contribute to the provision of improved and more nutritious school meals, while reducing the burden for parents to contribute.

Challenges

- Due to continued delays regarding procurement, WFP has not provided pulses and iodized salt since 2020 for the school feeding programme. The shortfall and mitigation measures were communicated to the Ministry of Education and Science and discussed at the School Feeding Intersectoral Coordination Council.
- The existing grant for activities related to the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) is expiring by mid-June 2021, with no indication of new applicable funding opportunities. To continue with the MAM treatment interventions from mid-June onwards, WFP will urgently need a minimum of US\$ 150,000 to ensure the continuation of these activities in target districts for one year.
- 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.

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 203 sites were physically monitored.

Resourcing

- Considering COVID-19 related needs, the total net funding requirements for the period February-July 2021 stand at US\$ 3 million.

Donors

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