

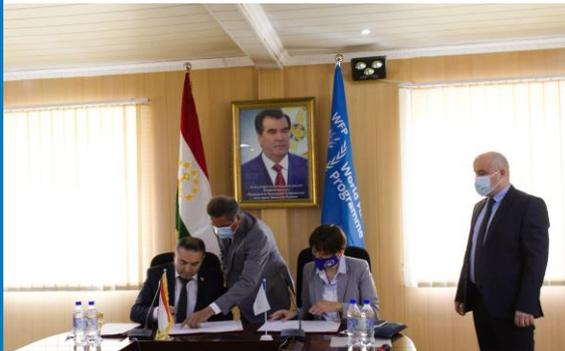


WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

April 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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

444,280 people assisted in April 2021



998 mt of food distributed

US\$ 88,873 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

- In April 2021, WFP held a handover ceremony in the town of Khujand, Sughd Region where 1,400 mt of fortified wheat flour, a contribution of the Russian Federation, was provided to the local authorities in support of the school feeding programme. Representatives from WFP, the General Consulate of the Russian Federation in Sughd Region, and local authorities attended the ceremony. In Sughd Region, the WFP school feeding programme covers around 164,000 primary school students in 600 schools. This is a part of WFP's nationwide school feeding programme, through which WFP reaches around 500,000 Tajik schoolchildren from grades 1 to 4 in 2,000 schools across the country with hot, nutritious soup or other local meals and traditional bread baked using WFP fortified wheat flour. The school feeding programme is WFP's largest operation in Tajikistan and represents the organization's strong commitment to changing lives. In vulnerable and food insecure communities, providing healthy food to children at schools improves nutrition and health as well as increases access to education.
- In April, representatives from WFP, the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Sughd Region, and the Education Department of Sughd Region visited the town of Isfara and Jabbor Rasulov District to observe WFP field operations under the school feeding programme. Visits included schools where hot meals or income generation activities are being implemented and bakeries renovation projects are ongoing. This programme is made possible due to the financial support of the Russian Federation.
- In April, the head of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBO), Mr. Yodgor Faizov, received representatives from the WFP field office in the region to discuss bilateral cooperation and achievements of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. In addition the implementation of the WFP school feeding programme was discussed with the educational authorities of the region.

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Photo: Ceremony of signing MOU between WFP and the Forestry Agency of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

- WFP and the Agency for Forestry of the Republic of Tajikistan signed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together to build government capacity to adapt to climate change. Within this MOU, WFP and the Agency of Forestry will collaborate in developing and disseminating information on forestry management in relation to local climate adaptation activities, establishing 400 hectares of orchards and agroforestry covering 200 hectares. Training on tree selection suited to local ecosystems, planting, and application of compost is planned for the employees of the agency. Training on drying, processing, and preservation of fruits from the orchards, as well as vegetables and herbs will be considered in the future. WFP will also raise awareness about climate change and adaptation among the 50,000 people participating in the Green Climate Fund project, ensuring they have timely and relevant climate information for household decision-making when it comes to food security.

- In April, WFP provided two high-capacity scanners to the Agency of Statistics of Tajikistan in the overall amount of US\$ 29,000 to support the country's Census 2020 data processing at regional levels. This donation will help the agency's branches in Khatlon and Sughd regions to expedite the scanning of hard copy questionnaires from the census survey into electronic format and share with the central office for analysis. This donation is part of the efforts by WFP to strengthen the technical capacity of the Agency of Statistics in statistical data generation. In the past, WFP also supported the agency by building the capacity of its staff in GIS data analysis and mapping.
- WFP started implementation of social behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities in primary schools of five target districts to improve the hand-washing behaviour of children. Over 80 schools received WASH items, including mirrors for wash basins, liquid soaps, antiseptic sprays and paper towels. Additionally, all primary schoolchildren received soap and soap dishes for their regular use in schools. Information sessions were conducted for teachers and schoolchildren on hand hygiene.

Challenges

- 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.

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 153 sites were physically monitored.

Resourcing

- The total net funding requirements of the CO for the period of May – October 2021 stand at USD 0.1M.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84.9 m	33.3 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (May-October 21) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.3 m	0.1 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

Donors

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