



World Food Programme

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

May 2021

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

**433,473 people assisted**  
in May 2021

**893.5 mt** of food assistance distributed



## Operational Updates

- WFP Tajikistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The MoU includes technical cooperation on integrated water resources management and climate change adaptation. The specific activities for collaboration include rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage networks, setting up an off-grid drip irrigation system to efficiently supply water to drought-prone lands, effective natural resource management techniques such as soil and water conservation practices, formation of new Water User Associations (WUA), and building the capacity of existing WUAs through tailored training that enhance the sustainability of integrated water resource management activities.
- WFP Deputy Country Director/Representative, a.i. Mariko Kawabata met the deputy minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan (MoES), Mr. Sobirzoda Nurali Mirali, to discuss the implementation of the WFP School Feeding Programme and its gradual handover to the Government of Tajikistan. The establishment of a school feeding unit under the ministry was the main subject of the discussion between WFP and MoES representatives. It is planned that a MoU on establishing a school feeding unit will be signed between WFP and the ministry in the nearest future.
- In May, WFP successfully completed the installation of modern equipment to eight bakeries in Sughd and Khatlon regions that were recently renovated with the financial support of the Russian Federation. These bakeries will provide fresh bread made of fortified wheat flour to over 110,000 school children and will also have the capacity to bake fresh bread to supply local markets. Following the installation of the equipment, bakeries' staff received training on bakery management as well as sanitation and hygiene.

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*Photo caption: Ceremony of signing MOU between WFP and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, Tajikistan.*  
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## Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>84.9 m</b>	<b>34.9 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (June-November 21) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>17.3 m</b>	<b>0.8 m</b>

### 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 May 2021, WFP Tajikistan commenced income generation activities at schools, including rabbit and poultry breeding as well as greenhouse production in Khatlon Region and beekeeping in

the town of Roghun. The projects provide capacity development opportunities for school staff and schoolchildren and will eventually create revolving capital for the schools to support the provision of nutritious meals.

- Torrential rains occurring from 7-12 May 2021 triggered floods, landslides and mudflows that affected Kulob town and nine other districts in Khatlon Region. The disaster damaged infrastructure, destroying entire communities and creating wide-spread loss of household and productive assets. The Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture Sector, led by WFP, conducted an emergency assessment in the most affected districts and towns. Results indicated up to 70 percent of the affected population – up to some 14,000 people - is in need of immediate food assistance. Through an initial response to the first flood in these series, WFP provided food assistance to 20 families affected by landslides caused by heavy rains in Abdurahmoni Jomi District, Khatlon Region with about 2 mt of food commodities (fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil). Another 1,700 beneficiaries will be supported with approximately 90 mt of mixed commodities in June. In addition, WFP, under the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team platform, will prepare further response plans and mobilize resources for early recovery activities.

## Challenges

- WFP has distributed its food stock allocated for contingency purposes within the framework of its emergency response in Khatlon Region and requires additional funding to ensure adequate contingency stocks (around 100 mt of mixed commodities). As a temporary solution, WFP is now diverting resources from other activities for emergency response and early recovery actions.

## Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 136 sites out of 145 were physically monitored.

## Resourcing

- The total net funding requirements of the Country Office for the period of June – November 2021 stand at USD 0.8 million.



Emergency food distribution in Abdurahmoni Jomi District, Khatlon Region, ©WFP/Jamshed Abdurahimov

## Donors

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