



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

June 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

235,017 people assisted in June 2021



120 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0.6 m six months net funding requirements (Jul-Dec 2021)

Operational Updates

- The newly appointed WFP Representative/Country Director in Tajikistan, Adham Musallam, met the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin to present his credentials. During the ceremony, the sides also exchanged their views on the important aspects of cooperation between WFP and the Government of Tajikistan and other issues of mutual interest.
- In June, representatives of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Feeding of Tajikistan visited Khatlon and Sughd regions to monitor the implementation of bakery renovation projects and microgrants supported within the WFP School Feeding Programme. A total of eight bakeries were constructed and renovated in Sughd and Khatlon regions. 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.
- In June, WFP, FAO and the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) in partnership with the local authorities of Vakhsh District in Khatlon Region conducted a food festival. The festival, which was dedicated to the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021. The event was attended by representatives from local authorities of Vakhsh District, Khatlon Region, UN Resident Coordinator and international organisations and media agencies. In the festival, children and grown-ups learned about the nutritional and health benefits of a diversified, balanced, and healthy diet and lifestyle based on the consumption of fruits and vegetables, and about ways to reduce fruits and vegetables losses and wastes. The participants of the food festival enjoyed exhibitions, cooking demonstrations, and theatrical performances, and schoolchildren participated in a painting contest.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84.9 m	35.9 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (July-December 21) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.3 m	0.6 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 June The Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture Sector Group (FNSG) led by WFP, conducted a [rapid needs assessment on food and nutrition security situation](#) among the population

affected by mudflows Khatlon Region and their food and nutrition needs. The Rapid assessment was conducted in collaboration with the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defence under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES). The rapid assessment results showed that 70 percent of the affected population (approximately 13,000 people) were food insecure and needed immediate food assistance. Following the assessment results, WFP supported more than 1,700 households (around 8,500 beneficiaries) with approximately 90 mt of food commodities (fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil). In addition, a Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team platform (REACT) Joint Response Plan was prepared to further mobilize resources for immediate and medium-term needs.

- In June, WFP organized a workshop in Khatlon Region to review and discuss the implementation of the "Prevention and Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition" project supported by USAID. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan, regional and district health departments and primary health care centres. The project is implemented in five districts of Khatlon and Sughd regions. With USAID funds, since 2017, more than 24,000 children have been reached with treatment. In addition to the treatment activities, the project implemented a programme for electronic registration of children with moderate acute malnutrition - Conditional On-Demand Assistance (SCOPE CODA) in Jaloliddini Balkhi and Kulob districts of Khatlon Region. Furthermore, in order to prevent moderate acute malnutrition, Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities were implemented, which focused on changing people's behaviour in handwashing, preservation of vegetables, and reduction of vegetable oil consumption. USAID funding completed in June and WFP will continue interventions with the support from the Japan Association for World Food Programme until 2022.

Challenges

- WFP distributed its food stock allocated for contingency purposes within the framework of its emergency response in Khatlon Region. WFP requires additional funding to ensure adequate contingency stocks (around 100 mt of mixed commodities).

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 73 sites out of 79 were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits decreased due to summer vacation for schoolchildren.

Resourcing

- The total net funding requirements of the CO for the period of July – December 2021 stand at USD 0.6M.

Donors

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