



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

July 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

14,369 people assisted in July 2021



19 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 88,818 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

- In July, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaboration on the development of a sustainable National School Feeding Programme in the country. The MoU is aimed at improving the collaboration to further strengthen efforts towards a sustainable programme, particularly establishing a school feeding centre under the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan. This is the first MoU between WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan to improve the School Feeding Programme in the country. School feeding remains among priority areas of the National Development Strategy 2016-2030, National Strategy for Education Development 2021-2030 and its Mid-term Action Plan 2021-2023. The institutionalization of the school feeding programme is one of the priorities set forth in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the School Feeding in Tajikistan for the period till 2027.
- In July, WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam met with the chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEP), Sheralizoda Bahodur Ahmadjon. During the meeting, the implementation of the project "Building climate resilience of vulnerable and food-insecure communities through capacity strengthening and livelihood diversification in mountainous regions of Tajikistan", funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), was discussed. The sides referred to the current progress and the future plans for GCF project and agreed to make maximum efforts to deepen cooperation between WFP and CEP in the field of environmental protection and climate change on the existing agenda and building its potential in the future.

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Photo caption: MoU signing ceremony between WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
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- An earthquake of magnitude 5.8 occurred in Rasht Valley on 10 July. The earthquake affected 16 villages in Tojikobod, Rasht and Sangvor districts. As an emergency response to population affected by earthquake and following government's request, WFP provided emergency food assistance to 303 households (1,515 beneficiaries) in Tojikobod and Rasht districts. Households were supported with approximately 15.70 mt of food fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84.9 m	36.3 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Aug 21-Jan 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.3 m	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

- WFP conducted a workshop on Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) in the town of Kulob on the implementation of the corresponding project for the Public Organization (PO) "Sadio Kuhsor" to strengthen the capacity of this local PO. The main objective of the workshop was to introduce SBCC as a field of study and help participants understand the rationale behind implementing SBCC interventions, present and explain the project's main target issues (hand hygiene, oil consumption, vegetable preservation) and people's behavior as one of the main reasons for their incitement.

- In July, within the framework of its School Feeding Programme, WFP launched the implementation of 45 microgrant projects in the country. 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. The projects include animal and poultry breeding, fish farming, canning and sewing shops, beekeeping and greenhouses.

Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 52 sites out of 56 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 next 6 months stand at USD 1 million.



WFP provided emergency food assistance to population affected by earthquake in Tojikobod District. @WFP/Davlatmurod Nurov

Donors

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