



World Food Programme

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

August 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

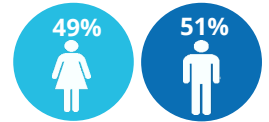
2019 Human Development Index: 125 out of 189

Income Level: Low

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

## In Numbers

1,249 people assisted in August 2021



4.8 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.6 m six months net funding requirements (Sept 21-Feb 22)

## Operational Updates

- An earthquake of magnitude 5.8 occurred in Rasht Valley on July 10, 2021. Field reports indicated that earthquake affected 16 villages in Tojikobod, Rasht and Sangvor districts. Damage and needs assessment were conducted by a national emergency commission led by Prime Minister of Tajikistan and the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES) at national and regional level. WFP is supporting the construction and rehabilitation of 70 houses that were completely or partially destroyed by earthquake through capacity development and augmentation to support post-disaster reconstruction. WFP signed an agreement with Public Organisation "Markazi Dastgirii Gharm" to implement the project activities. A Tripartite Agreement between WFP, CoES and "Markazi Dastgirii Gharm" was also signed to facilitate the implementation of post-disaster reconstruction activities. The project will last three months, from September 2021 to November 2021.
- A regional coordination council on the implementation of National Strategy for Sustainable Development of the School Feeding up to 2027 was established in Sughd Region. The regional coordination council, which is led by the deputy head of Sughd Region, Zaynura Azimi, will coordinate the work of the relevant governmental bodies on improving the school feeding and nutrition based on the national strategy priorities at regional level. Currently, WFP School Feeding Programme covers more than 600 schools in 15 towns and districts of Sughd Region.
- In August, WFP and the local authorities of Istaravshan town in Sughd Region inaugurated a greenhouse and a water well in school number 35. The greenhouse and the water well were established through financial support of the Russian Federation.

Photo caption: WFP supported to establish a greenhouse in school 35 in Istaravshan Town, Sughd Region to compliment school feeding. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

## Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>84.9 m</b>	<b>36.3 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Sept 21-Feb 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>17.3 m</b>	<b>2.6 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

The event was attended by representatives from WFP, national and local authorities, and the Russian Consulate in Sughd Region. This is part of an income generating activity where schools can enhance the school meals' nutritional value while reducing the burden of the parent's contribution.

- During the reporting period, within the framework of WFP's income generating activities, the construction of 10 greenhouses was completed in Bobojon Ghafurov, Asht districts, and Istaravshan and Isfara towns. A sewing classroom was opened at gymnasium number 1 in Devashtich District. The sewing classroom has been fully equipped with six new and modern sewing machines along with needed items and renovated in cooperation with the gymnasium. The construction of a fishing pool was completed and required items and accessories for beekeeping development were delivered to targeted schools in Kuhistoni Mastchoh District.
- In August, field data collection for Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) was conducted in 28 districts across four regions of Tajikistan. The assessment included community discussions on food security situation and key informant interviews with various food system actors. The assessment was conducted jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agency of Statistics of Tajikistan. The findings from the assessment will be incorporated into the joint report which will be published with UN FAO.
- WFP, in partnership with local public organization "Sadoi Kuhsor", launched the implementation of the first phase of the Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) project in Kulob, Jaloliddini Balkhi, Dusti, Shahritus districts in Khatlon Region and Ayni District in Sughd Region. The project promotes handwashing hygiene practices, which are carried out in primary healthcare centres, households and schools. During the first three weeks of August, SBCC activities covered over 100 households in the above-mentioned districts. With the start of the new academic year, SBCC interventions will be conducted at schools for elementary classes. The second and third phases of the project – which will focus on reducing cooking oil consumption and sessions on vegetable preservation – are planned to be carried out starting from September.

## Monitoring

- During the reporting period, 51 sites out of 54 were physically monitored. The number of monitoring visits decreased due to summer vacation for schoolchildren.

## Donors

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