



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

October 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

441,958 people assisted in October 2021



975 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.2 m six months net funding requirements (Nov 21-Apr 22)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP Deputy Regional Director for Asia and Pacific region, Anthea Webb, travelled to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO) as part of her mission to Tajikistan. During this trip, she met with the chairman of the region, Yodgor Fayzov, to discuss bilateral cooperation between WFP and GBAO and the current situation on the border with Afghanistan. In addition, WFP Deputy Regional Director visited cross-border points and WFP resilience and school feeding project sites in Ishkashim and Roshqala districts. She also discussed the importance of further cooperation with the University of Central Asia in the town of Khorog.
- On 9 October, WFP handed over 60 sets of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment to the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan to support the coordination and reporting process of the School Feeding Programme in the country. The ICT equipment will be distributed to the decentralized education departments at town, district and regional levels. Earlier this year, a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a School Feeding Centre under the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan was signed between WFP and the Ministry. This is a milestone step towards the gradual handover of the School Feeding Programme to the Government of Tajikistan. The School Feeding Centre will be the main operational hub for school feeding once the transition is complete.
- On 26 October, WFP and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan handed over 1,485 mt of fortified wheat flour and 61 mt of vegetable oil to the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan. The food commodities will cover the needs of the national School Feeding Programme in the Districts of the Republican Subordination (DRS), Khatlon Region, and the Gorno- Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO).

Photo caption: handover ceremony of ICT equipment to the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan in Dushanbe City. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
84.9 m	37.4 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Nov 21-Apr 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.3 m	4.2 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

The handover ceremony was attended by WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam, Russian Ambassador to Tajikistan Igor Lyakin-Frolov, and Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan Sobirzoda Nurali Mirali. The food was purchased with funds from the Russian Federation, which allocated US\$ 5 million to improve food security in Tajikistan in 2021 as part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation. With this financial support, WFP also delivered an additional 945 mt of fortified wheat flour and 60 mt of vegetable oil to rural schools in Sughd Region.

- Within the framework of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, WFP signed field level agreements with five public organisations. The agreements cover community level activities, including establishment of 10 climate-proof polycarbonate greenhouses, rehabilitation of 34 km of irrigation canals, installation of 10 drip irrigation systems, construction of 10 storage facilities, provision of nine solar cookers, six fruit dryers and establishment of 400 hectares of orchards. Overall, the GCF project will help create assets through the engagement of participants in community works in order to improve their food security and nutritional status as well as manage land and natural resources in a sustainable manner
- In October, WFP in partnership with the health authorities of the country and local public organisation “Sadoi Kuhsor” conducted a one-day workshop in the town of Bokhtar in Khatlon Region to discuss the current implementation of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) interventions in Dusti, Jaloliddini Balkhi, Kulob and Shahritus districts of Khatlon Region and Ayni District of Sughd Region. The participants particularly discussed the linkage between Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and SBCC interventions. This will help address the negative behaviour related to nutrition in the target families, which may cause serious health problems for children, including malnutrition.

Monitoring

- In October, monitoring activities for the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment and prevention programmes started. In total, 94 primary health facilities and 150 beneficiary households in five districts of Khatlon and Sughd regions were visited through outsourced monitoring. In addition, WFP conducted a total of 190 monitoring visits to school feeding, nutrition and resilience sites.

Donors

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