



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

December 2021



## 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

**443,863 people assisted**  
in December 2021

**917 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 8.4 m** six months net funding requirements  
(Jan-Jun 22)

49%



51%



## Operational Updates

- WFP supported the construction and rehabilitation of 70 houses damaged or destroyed by a magnitude 5.8 earthquake that struck Rasht Valley in July 2021. Through a three-month project, WFP worked closely with the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense (CoES) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and provided US\$ 500,000 towards the cost of the project. A tripartite agreement between CoES, WFP and Markazi Dastgiri Gharm — a public organization — was signed to facilitate the reconstruction activities and project coordination. Over the past five years, WFP has provided technical assistance, equipment, and training to CoES staff at the local and regional levels to help strengthen disaster-resilient communities. In 2021, WFP assisted 30,000 people through resilience-building projects, while strengthening national emergency preparedness and response capacities for the government development partners.
- WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to pilot a cash-based transfer modality (CBT) for the School Feeding Programme (SFP). WFP will pilot CBT intervention in 15 secondary schools in the country, which are covered by SFP. The pilot will test the process of procuring commodities for SFP from local small-holder farmers and the procedure of handing over management of the programme to the local authorities. This initiative is an important step towards planning towards a long-term transition and handover of SFP to government and enabling the local markets to accommodate the needs of the schools across the country.
- WFP signed an agreement of cooperation with the University of Central Asia to promote hazard mapping and forecasting and identify the best approaches for disaster risks to mitigate damages in the rural agrarian communities. Together with UCA, WFP aims to use analysis models from the Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM) and the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach in Tajikistan through applied research on agricultural practices and best approaches for disaster risk reduction.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>103.3 m</b>	<b>40.5 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Jan-Jun 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>21.2 m</b>	<b>8.4 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 cooperation will enable WFP to bring food security and nutrition issues to the UCA student community's attention and increase their awareness of WFP's work in the areas.

- A validation workshop on Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) School Feeding Assessment was conducted in Dushanbe. This is the second round of the assessment that WFP conducted over the last 5 years. Historically, the SABER School Feeding instrument was developed in collaboration with WFP, World Bank and Partnership for Child Development (PCD), including UNICEF, WHO, Save the Children and other partners. It helps the key strategic stakeholders to analyze the existing national capacities, gaps, recommended action and potential partners for School Feeding. Based on this validation workshop the final report will be prepared during the first quarter of 2022.
- WFP and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan conducted training on the updated Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol for primary health care family doctors and nurses in Jaloliddini Balkhi, Dusti, Kulob and Shahritus districts of Khatlon Region. The training covered 260 of 270 participants planned to attend.

## Monitoring

- In December, 57 out of 251 primary health centers were monitored in Jaloliddini Balkhi, Dusti, Kulob and Shahritus districts of Khatlon Region and Ayni District of Sughd Region on the implementation of WFP nutrition interventions. Additionally, 1,300 out of 2,000 schools were monitored. The above-mentioned monitoring visits were conducted by an outsourced monitoring company in addition to the 137 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects that were monitored by WFP staff.

## Challenges

- Due to funding constraints, WFP reduced the daily food entitlement to children under the School Feeding Programme from 5 to 4 days per week starting from November 2021. Schools agreed to cover the gap with the support of the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs). The reduced feeding days will be continued until March 2022.
- During the reporting period, WFP Field Office in Khorog did not have access to internet, however this did not affect any operations in the field. WFP is undertaking additional measures to improve connectivity options in the region.

## Donors

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