



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

March 2022



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: **9.5 million**

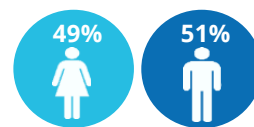
2019 Human Development Index:
125 out of 189

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

442,066 people assisted
in March 2022



529.760 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 8.6 m six months net funding requirements
(Apr-Sep 22)

Operational Updates

- WFP continued its food fortification feasibility assessment to assess the current context of wheat flour fortification in Tajikistan and to explore the opportunities of launching a local wheat flour fortification programme. The assessment began in February and will run until May this year. As of end-March, secondary data was analysed, and meetings were held with the development partners, the government, and the private sector representatives at national level to discuss technical collaboration. In the coming weeks, meetings with manufacturers in Sughd Region and a study tour with national partners to neighbouring countries with more advanced experience are planned.
- WFP Tajikistan introduced Acha Mum - the new commodity for the treatment of the moderate acute malnutrition in selective districts of Khatlon and Sughd regions. The previous specialised nutrition food used for the treatment programme, wheat soya blend, was not deemed a sustainable solution for longer term programming as it is produced in Europe. WFP worked with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan and other partners to introduce an alternative commodity that is based on local commodities, well accepted and more easily consumed by the targeted beneficiaries. The chickpeas based ready to use supplementary food Acha Mum is produced in Pakistan and was integrated into the national protocol after having been piloted in another region of the country. Training was conducted for the frontline staff in over 260 health facilities who deal with the nutrition activities on the updated Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition protocol and the use of this new commodity. The next objective is to explore opportunities of a local production of the supplementary food in Tajikistan, similar to Acha Mum.

Photo caption: participants of cash-based transfer (CBT) training in GBAO. ©WFP/Nikkadam Nazarov

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Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
103.3 m	41.5 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Apr-Sep 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.7 m	8.6 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

- WFP together with Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) finalized the work on the Public Finance Management of the School Feeding Programme (SFP). In March, the final report and recommendations were presented to MoES and WFP. The per-capita financing is a crucial component of the eventual handover of the SFP to the government. The study examined the background of per-capita financing and the implication on the SFP component. WFP recommended a mechanism of gradual proposal changes to the governing laws that regulate the per-capita financing of education system. MoES, as the main beneficiary of the results of the study, formally expressed its satisfaction with the quality of the study and its recommendations. MoES is committed to pursue the recommendations and to pilot initiatives with the Ministry of Finance to develop and introduce concrete changes into the national legislation of per-capita education financing.
- In March, WFP conducted training on the implementation of cash-based transfer and procedure for local procurement in Sughd Region and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast within the School Feeding Programme. The training was conducted following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and MoES. Participants were school principals, accountants and finance representatives from both regions of the country.
- In March, a rapid protection analysis with host communities for Afghan refugee emergency preparedness planning was conducted in five communities of Panji Poyon and Jaloliddinin Blakhi District. The results of the assessment informed WFP of the host communities' perception on how the potential influx of Afghan refugees may affect their community, with a particular focus on food security and nutrition needs. The assessment also helped identify and understand key protection risks at the household and community level that may impact on the effectiveness of WFP's food assistance interventions. Lastly, the assessment was also designed to identify preferential communication channels and relevant accountability mechanisms already existing within host community areas for setting up the community feedback mechanism.

Monitoring

- In March, 108 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects out of planned 115, were monitored by WFP in all regions of the country. WFP also prepared regular updates on Tajikistan Market Situation that were widely shared with partners and donors and received more attention due to the economic repercussions of the ongoing Ukraine-Russia crisis.

Donors

Russian Federation, USA, Green Climate Fund and Private Donors (Japan Association for WFP).