



World Food Programme

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LIVES  
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LIVES

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

April 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**

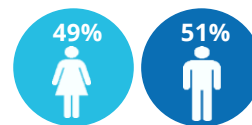
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

## In Numbers

**442,260 people assisted**  
in April 2022

**898.58 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 8.6 m** six months net funding requirements  
(May-Oct 22)



## Operational Updates

- On April 27, the Government of Tajikistan approved the National Programme for the Development of School Feeding in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2022-2027. The programme was designed with the technical support of WFP in close collaboration with Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on the School Feeding Programme, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan in partnership with Russian NGO "Social Industrial Foodservice Institute" to institutionalise school feeding in the country as per the "Strategy for Sustainable Development of School Meals in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2017-2027".
- In April, WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam met with Minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan Saidzoda Rahim Hamro. During the meeting, bilateral cooperation and the implementation of the School Feeding Programme supported by WFP were discussed. The WFP School Feeding Programme covers almost 50 percent of schools (2,000) in the country. Currently, around 450,000 schoolchildren benefit from the programme. Additionally, WFP is working closely with Tajik government agencies on the gradual handover of the programme to the Government. WFP also provides schools with microgrants to support schools to diversify school meals.
- WFP organized a study tour for a group of journalists to the Khatlon Region to raise their awareness on the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in the region. Journalists visited three schools in Vakhsh, Jaloliddini Balkhi and Dusti districts and they had the opportunity to see the menu for the schoolchildren, observe how they are fed, and get more information about the implementation of the programme in Tajikistan for their respective media agencies.

*Photo caption: WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam from left and Minister of Education and Science Tajikistan Saidzoda Rahim Hamro. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda*

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## Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>103.3 m</b>	<b>43.8 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (May-Oct 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>31.7 m</b>	<b>8.6 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

- In April, WFP released its Food Security [Update](#) and Implications of Ukraine Conflict in Tajikistan. The update highlighted that an economic downturn in Russia because of sanctions will significantly impact Tajikistan, given its close economic ties with Russia. The result is a significant deterioration in the food security situation. The proportion of food insecure households is expected to increase from 20 percent in 2021 to as high as 36 percent should Russian economy suffer a contraction.
- The implementation of the WFP project on MAM treatment with a new ready to use supplementary food commodity, namely Acha-Mam, in target areas of Khatlon and Sughd regions is ongoing. Preliminary reports and monitoring results have shown a particularly positive reception of the commodity by the target population. The introduction of the commodity was possible thanks to the support of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan as well as the Aga Khan Foundation and Aga Khan Health Services, which have built a strong experience in implementing a similar project in the country.
- WFP signed an agreement to provide carpooling services with UNICEF and the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Tajikistan. The goal of this agreement is to facilitate active collaboration across UN entities and to promote UN reform in Tajikistan.

## Monitoring

- In April, 134 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects out of planned 137, 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.



Photo caption: a group of journalists visited schools in Khatlon Region to cover the School Feeding Programme. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov.

## Donors

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