



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

May 2022

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: **9.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

442,348 people assisted in May 2022

952.364 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 8.8 m six months net funding requirements (Jun-Nov 22)



Operational Updates

- In May, the British Ambassador to Tajikistan, Tim Jones visited Vakhsh, Jaloliddini Balkhi, and Yovon districts of Khatlon Region and saw first-hand the School Feeding Programme implemented by WFP in the region. In his meetings with WFP and the education authorities of Khatlon, the Ambassador learned about how parents, schools and, the local government are coming together to ensure the sustainability of the programme. The Ambassador also visited a bakery in Yovon district, one of eight bakeries in Khatlon and Sughd regions renovated or constructed by WFP and the private sector. The Ambassador's visit was preceded by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the Government of the United Kingdom Development Director for Central Asia, Mirza Jahani's visit to schools in Ayni district, Sughd Region. In 2021, FCDO contributed £1 million in funding to school feeding in Tajikistan. Continued donor engagement and funding are critical to sustaining the School Feeding Programme, which provides regular nutritious meals to 450,000 students in grades 1-4 in 2,000 schools across the country.
- To improve coordination between communities, regional and district authorities, to deal with issues related to education, health, nutrition and promote the implementation of state policies in the field of school feeding, members of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on the School Feeding visited selected schools in Khatlon Region. The objective of the visit was to observe the school feeding processes in schools as well as to meet with local government and the board of the regional, town and district Intersectoral Coordination Council on the School Feeding to enhance collaboration for the implementation of the School Feeding Programme. Following this visit, the Regional Intersectoral Coordination Council on the School Feeding convened for a meeting to review the implementation course of the programme in the region.

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Photo caption: WFP Deputy Country Director in Tajikistan Ms. Hyun Ji Lee from left and British Ambassador to Tajikistan Tim Jones in bakery in Yovon District. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

- In May, an assessment of the household food security situation was conducted in the Sughd and Khatlon regions, districts of the republican subordination (DRS) and Dushanbe. Around 360 households were interviewed in each region using the Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) method. The assessment aims to provide an update on the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the food security situation in Tajikistan, including the change in the flow of remittances.
- WFP in coordination with the specialists from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan organized joint monitoring visits to three targeted districts to monitor the implementation of the IMAM (Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition) protocol, in particular the use of the newly introduced, ready to use supplementary food commodity, namely Acha-Mum for the MAM (Moderate Acute Malnutrition) treatment. The team monitored the work process and followed how the primary health care centres (PHCs) staff put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired at the professional development training last winter. In addition, the team provided support and guidance to the family doctors and nurses that implement the project in the PHCs.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
103.3 m	44.58 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Jun-Nov 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
31.7 m	8.8 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

Monitoring

- In May, 135 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects out of a planned 138, 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.

Challenges

- WFP Field Office in Khorog does not have access to internet after the authorities launched a security operation in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) on 17 May. During the reporting period, WFP reduced its field trips to this region due to security situation. WFP is undertaking additional measures to improve connectivity options in the region.



Photo caption: School number 25 in Bobojon Ghafurov District started benefiting from harvests from a greenhouse established by WFP. ©WFP/Umedajon Akhmedova.

Donors

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