



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

June 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

1,503 people assisted
in June 2022



2.5 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 10 m six months net funding requirements (Jul-Dec 22)

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Government of Tajikistan presented the 2022-2027 State Programme on School Feeding Development in the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. The presentation ceremony was attended by representatives from the Government, UN agencies and the Embassy of the Russian Federation. School Feeding is WFP's largest programme in Tajikistan, representing WFP's decades-long commitment to Tajik children and their families. Since 1999, WFP has been partnering with the Government to implement school feeding in the country, and today some 450,000 schoolchildren in 2,000 schools across 52 districts and towns receive daily hot meals under the programme. WFP has also supported the renovation and construction of school canteens, bakeries, and greenhouses, and has provided expert support to transition towards a nationally owned school feeding programme.
- Representatives from WFP, the Government of Tajikistan and wheat flour mills held a roundtable meeting in the town of Guliston, Sughd Region, to discuss the implementation of the national fortification law and in particular the next steps to achieve wheat flour fortification in the country. The roundtable, which was conducted with the support of WFP, was the beginning of a series of discussions around food fortification issues in Tajikistan. Fortification is one of the most cost-effective means of combating micronutrient deficiencies, which remains a public health problem, particularly for women and children in Tajikistan. WFP is the only agency that brings fortified food into the country, through its School Feeding Programme. Prior to the roundtable, WFP organized a field visit for participants of the roundtable to wheat flour mills in Sughd Region to observe wheat flour fortification preparations. As a next step, a study tour of representatives of the relevant government institutions as well as state and private wheat flour mills to Uzbekistan, will be organized in September.

Photo caption: WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam and the Resident Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Tajikistan, Ambassador Qozidavlat Qoimdodov. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
| 78.32 m | 43.8 m |
| 2022 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month (Jul-Dec 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
| 31.9 m | 10 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 Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam met with the Resident Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Tajikistan, Ambassador Qozidavlat Qoimdodov, to discuss bilateral cooperation, especially activities related to the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). During the meeting, WFP presented a certificate of appreciation to AKDN for the valuable contribution of its agencies to WFP's efforts in introducing a new commodity, ready-to-use supplementary food, namely Acha-Mum, for the treatment of MAM in targeted areas of the country.

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tajik Agency of Hydrometeorology to strengthen the agency's capacity to generate locally relevant weather and climate information for food security and resilience for the population of Tajikistan. As part of the MoU and within the framework of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, WFP handed over equipment to the Agency for Hydrometeorology to enable the agency to boost data rescue and management and climate data analysis.

- WFP supported in conducting the meeting of the Sughd Regional Inter Agency Council on the School Feeding Programme, chaired by the head of the council and the Deputy Head of Sughd Region, Ms. Zaynura Azimi. The meeting aimed to introduce the members and partners to the objective and role of the council in implementing the National Strategy on the Sustainability of National School Feeding Programme up to 2027 and the School Feeding Programme in Sughd Region.

- A food security situation assessment of households was conducted in Sughd and Khatlon regions, districts of the republican subordination (DRS) and Dushanbe in May. Around 360 households were interviewed in each region using the Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) method. The preliminary results of the assessment indicate that the prevalence of food insecurity is around 21 percent, while nearly 25 percent of households interviewed spent more than 75 percent of their expenditure on food, a clear trend of deteriorating household food insecurity. WFP also conducted a 4-day flood risk monitoring training using remote sensing techniques with participation from government, development partners and academia.

Monitoring

- In June, WFP monitored 57 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects out of a plan of 64 projects, in all regions of the country. WFP also issued [regular updates](#) on Tajikistan's market situation that were widely shared with partners and donors.