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 winter. 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). Despite significant improvements in recent years, malnutrition rates remain high. WFP is contributing to the Government’s progress on Sustainable Development Goal (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.

In Numbers

- 455,372 people assisted
- 909.6 mt of food assistance distributed
- US$5,941 cash-based transfers made
- US$ 7.6 million six-month net funding requirements (October 2022 – March 2023)

Operational Updates

Capacity Strengthening on Wheat Flour Fortification

- WFP, in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan, conducted a four-day study tour to Uzbekistan to learn about the implementation of the wheat flour fortification regulatory framework. Representatives from Tajikistan state institutions, wheat flour mills and the private sector participated in the study tour. This fostered an opportunity to exchange knowledge on the regulatory framework, success stories, and support provided to millers on wheat flour fortification in Uzbekistan. This visit further strengthened the implementation of the Law on Food Fortification and the National Programme for Prevention of Micronutrient Deficiency and Related Diseases for 2022-2027.

- WFP continues its technical support to Tajikistan to accelerate wheat flour fortification as part of its nutrition programme. The Government of Tajikistan has already adopted several strategic documents to eliminate micronutrient deficiencies among the population and identified food security and nutrition as one of the country’s four strategic goals in the 2016-2030 National Development Strategy.

Emergency Response

- On 16 September, fighting along the Tajik-Kyrgyz border in Bobojon Gafurov District and Isfara Town in Sughd Region led to the displacement of residents living along the border. At the request of the local authorities, WFP provided a rapid response to assist the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in both locations with fresh bread loaves baked in WFP-supported bakeries. A total of 4,336 MT of fortified wheat flour was utilized to bake daily fresh bread to cover 5,600 IDPs during 17-23 September.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78.3 m</td>
<td>47.4 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.9 m</td>
<td>7.6 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 3: 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 4: 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.

### School Feeding Programme

- With the generous contribution from the Government of Japan, WFP plans to support 68,000 school children and their families in 214 schools, including Afghan refugee children who attend these schools. The mixed food commodities, including fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, and yellow split peas, will be prioritised for schools with refugee students.

### Climate Change Adaptation

- Under the Green Climate Fund project, WFP conducted a training for trainers (ToT) session for 28 experts and leaders from local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), district authorities and selected community members in Muminobod and Lyakhsh districts. The ToT session was conducted using the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach. PICSA helps farmers to make informed decisions based on accurate, location-specific, climate information; locally relevant crop, livestock and livelihood options, and with the use of participatory tools to support their decision-making. These local trainers will provide support to access and understand relevant climate information and advisories to support on-farm decisions such as crop selection, water management, and mitigation measures in the face of extreme climate events.

### Monitoring and Assessment

- WFP conducted a training for 65 enumerators from the Tajikistan Red Cross Society, who will participate in the data collection for a household survey in October. The survey will cover 7,000 households across the country, as part of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) exercise undertaken by WFP, in collaboration with the Government, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The IPC exercise will provide crucial information on the food security and nutrition situation in Tajikistan, which can inform programme design.

- In September, 199 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects were monitored by WFP in all regions of the country.

### Donors

Germany, Japan, Green Climate Fund, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Private Donors (Japan Association for WFP).