



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

October 2022



The celebration of World Food Day in Dushanbe. ©WFP/Guljahan Hamroyzoda

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 Goals (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**

2021/2022 Human Development Index: **122 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

448,259 people assisted
in October 2022



884.9 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$10,778 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

World Food Day 2022 Celebration

- On 22 October, WFP, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Government of Tajikistan, organised a [national festival](#) dedicated to the World Food Day to call for global solidarity and action to transform agri-food. With the theme of "Leave No One behind – better production, better nutrition, better environment, better life", the event featured classes on a healthy and nutritious diet, theatrical performances and a photo exhibition on WFP activities. The event also showcased effective technologies and best practices in the food and agriculture sectors. Furthermore, there was a highlight on young people's role as future change-makers who can build a better, more sustainable future. More than 200 participants including government representatives, ambassadors, international and civil society, and different youth groups joined the celebration in Dushanbe. WFP also conducted a regional event in Sughd Region.

School Feeding Programme (SFP) – Capacity Strengthening

- WFP organized a knowledge exchange visit to school feeding project sites in Sughd Region for local government representatives from education departments and school feeding focal points of Khatlon Region, Gorno-Badakhshan (GBO) and Rasht Valley. The objective of the visit was to facilitate knowledge exchange on the successful implementation of microgrants initiatives and projects on SFP in diverse contexts and conditions in Sughd Region. Participants explored various income-generating initiatives, and exchange ideas on SFP implementation approaches, problems and solutions. The visit served as a favourable platform for the exchange of ideas on SFP from different regions of the country.
- Separately, WFP supported representatives from the National Inter-ministerial Coordination Council for a monitoring visit to Sughd Region on the SFP implementation, with transfers of the Government's funds to pilot schools in the region. The trip was concluded by a coordination meeting held in the town of Khujand, which was led by representatives from regional authorities.

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- WFP, in cooperation with the Regional Puppet Theatre "Afsona" in Bokhtar town in Khatlon Region and the Rasht District's culture department, [organized](#) two theatrical performances in two schools in Khatlon Region and Rasht District dedicated to Global Handwashing Day. The performances aimed at raising awareness and understanding towards the importance of handwashing with soap among schoolchildren and their families to prevent diseases. Over 500 schoolchildren participated in the event.

Climate Change Adaptation

- Under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, WFP conducted a training for trainers (ToT) session for 22 districts experts in Ishkoshim and Roshtqala districts of GBAO on the use of the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach. PICSA helps farmers to make informed decisions based on accurate, location-specific, climate and weather information; locally relevant crop, livestock and livelihood options, and with the use of participatory tools to support their decision-making.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In October, WFP Tajikistan received 3,222 mt of food commodities. Of which, some 592 mt of food commodities were delivered to Afghanistan by trucks via Sherkhon Bandar, Shohin and Darwaz border crossing points. As of the end of October, approximately 4,222 mt of food items to be transited to Afghanistan, were stored in WFP warehouse in Dushanbe and delivery operations are ongoing.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, operated 27 international passenger flights connecting Dushanbe to Afghanistan and transported 79 passengers.

Monitoring

- In October, 228 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects were monitored by WFP in all regions of the country.

Challenges

- WFP is facing a pipeline break for the provision of hot meals to schoolchildren in February 2023 through the end of the academic year. If no fresh funding is received, the shortfall will affect approximately 450,000 targeted schoolchildren, as well as their families.

Donors

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

Note: Names of donors are listed alphabetically.

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
78.3 m	47.4 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month (Nov 22-Apr 23) Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
31.9 m	10.1 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