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.

Operational Updates

Food Fortification

• On 17 November, WFP and the Government of Tajikistan held a national roundtable on the implementation of the national food fortification law and the next steps to further expand wheat flour fortification in the country. Participants included representatives from the Government, wheat flour mills and development partners. The roundtable was part of a series of ongoing discussions around food fortification, particularly wheat flour fortification. In 2022, WFP conducted a comprehensive analysis of the government and the private sector capacities and public demand for fortification. WFP facilitated visits to mills in Sughd Region and a study tour to Uzbekistan in October for partners to learn about the country’s regulatory framework and implementation of wheat flour fortification.

School Feeding Programme (SFP)

• In November, WFP supported representatives from the National Inter-ministerial Coordination Council for a monitoring visit to Nurobod, Rasht and Tojikobod districts on the SFP implementation, with transfers of the Government’s funds to pilot schools in the region. The trip was concluded with a coordination meeting held in Rasht District led by representatives from the regional authorities of Rash Valley.

• WFP, in partnership with the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute, launched the first school cook competition among 2,000 schools participating in the WFP School Feeding Programme in 52 towns and districts. The competition aims to encourage school cooks to improve their knowledge and skills in preparing school meals and to diversify school meals. In November, regional level competitions were conducted in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast and Sughd Region, which will be expanded to Khatlon Region and the districts of Rash Valley. The finals of the cooking competition will be conducted in Dushanbe in December.

In Numbers

448,699 people assisted
560.6 mt of food assistance distributed
US$6,789 cash-based transfers made
US$8.2 million six-month net funding requirements (December 2022 – May 2023)

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78.3 m</td>
<td>47.4 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</td>
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<tr>
<td>33.5 m</td>
<td>8.2 m</td>
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</tbody>
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**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

National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG)

- WFP supported the NLPWG, led by the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defence, to organise a two-day workshop on 16 to 17 November to develop a national information sharing portal to improve information exchange and coordination mechanism on logistics preparedness. Establishing an information sharing portal on logistics preparedness was one of the key priority areas identified from the Capacity Needs Mapping exercise conducted by the NLPWG in 2021. The workshop discussed key features of available information sharing platforms relevant to emergency logistics operations in the country, including collective stock prepositioning monitoring and analytics systems, to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness in stock management, and relief item distribution in time of emergency.

Assessment and Monitoring

- In November, WFP continued its household level food security and nutrition assessment. Around 4,000 households were surveyed across more than 50 districts. The survey is planned to be concluded in December.
- WFP conducted regular monitoring of its school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In November, WFP Tajikistan received 4,589 mt of food commodities for WFP Afghanistan operations. Of which, some 2,685 mt of food commodities were delivered to Afghanistan. As of the end of November, approximately 6,124 mt of food items to be transited to Afghanistan, were stored in WFP warehouse in Dushanbe and Jaloliddini Balkhi District 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 82 passengers.

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. 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.