



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

February 2023



Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, mountainous country and its population of 9.5 million people is growing at a rate of nearly 2 percent per year – the highest in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. Half the population is under the age of 25, and one quarter lives in urban areas (Statistical Agency under President of the Republic of Tajikistan, 2020). Despite the decrease on the national level the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 from 26.5 percent in 2012 to 5.3 percent in 2020 (The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021), malnutrition continues to be widespread in Tajikistan. WFP is contributing to the Government's progress on the Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger, 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.

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993 and operates under Country Strategic Plan (2023–2026) launched in January 2023.



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

448,374 people assisted in February 2022



285.6 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 65,000 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

New USAID Contribution to WFP Tajikistan

- In February, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new US\$10 million contribution to WFP in Tajikistan in response to rising food insecurity. The announcement was made by USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman and WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam in a meeting in Dushanbe. The funding will enable WFP to support vulnerable communities to meet their food needs and strengthen government capacity to address the impacts of concurrent shocks. Some 200,000 people will receive unconditional cash transfers, along with livelihoods support. The latest WFP food security assessment shows that the combined impact of remittance losses due to the conflict in Ukraine and food price increases could exacerbate severe food insecurity in Tajikistan from one to eight percent, resulting in about 800,000 people falling into severe food insecurity. WFP is closely monitoring household-level food security and market situation, as well as mobilizing funds in support of food-insecure families in the country.

School Feeding Programme

- In February, WFP completed the implementation of School Feeding Programme using a contribution from the Government of Japan in 2022, reaching 68,000 schoolchildren and their families in 214 schools, including Afghan refugee children who attend these schools. The purchased food commodities (fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, and yellow split peas) were prioritized for schools with refugee students. The School Feeding Programme covers more than 1,900 schools in 52 districts to improve nutrition and health of primary grade schoolchildren.

Photo caption: WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam and USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman announced new USAID contribution to WFP. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda

Representative/Country Director Adham Musallam

Contact info: Nasrullo Ramazonov (nasrullo.ramazonov@wfp.org)

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
91.9 m	20.9 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Mar-Aug 23) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.4 m	1.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: By 2026, food-insecure and vulnerable populations in urban and rural areas have strengthened livelihoods, resilience and adaptive capacities through improved climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive agri-food value chains.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Carry out climate adaptation, asset creation, market access support and livelihoods building activities through nutrition-sensitive and ecological approaches aimed at fostering resilience to shocks and stressors and increasing smallholder farmer production and income.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: By 2026, rural and urban populations in targeted areas have improved food security and nutrition for inclusive human development.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritionally-balanced school meals to targeted schoolchildren.
- Treat moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6–59 months and strengthen local capacity to manage nutrition programmes.
- Provide social behaviour change communication interventions to targeted groups to improve dietary diversity and prevent malnutrition.

Strategic Result 3: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: By 2026, crisis-affected and nutritionally-vulnerable populations are better able to meet urgent food needs, and national systems and subnational capacities are strengthened to address cumulative impacts of disasters and crises and enable affected communities to build back better.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide food assistance, nutrition-focused social behaviour change communication, post-crisis reconstruction and livelihoods building activities to refugees and food-insecure populations affected by crises or natural disasters.

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions are strengthened to accelerate and sustain results contributing to inclusive social protection programmes and strengthened national and subnational food systems by 2026 in Tajikistan.

Activities:

- Strengthen the capacity of government and private sector institutions to implement social protection through nationalized school feeding, nutrition programmes and local fortification that enhance diets and reduce acute and other forms of malnutrition.

Focus area: Root causes

Climate Change and Adaptation

- WFP is currently implementing its project on climate adaptation with the support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project aims to establish orchards and other agroforestry activities for soil and water conservation and food production covering an area of 400 hectares across 11 targeted districts. The project supports the establishment of chain-link fences to cover at least 300 hectares of orchards. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Committee of Environmental Protection of Tajikistan and other governmental authorities at national and regional levels. In February, field-level agreements were signed with three cooperating partners to support the implementation in seven districts of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), Khatlon Region, and the Districts of the Republican Subordination (DRS) in the next two years.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In February, WFP received 7,865 mt of wheat flour and vegetable oil and dispatched 2,600 mt to Afghanistan. The rest of received food items will be further delivered to Afghanistan.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, carried 20 international passenger flights to/from Dushanbe International Airport to various airports in Afghanistan. In February, 44 passengers benefited from the flights.

Monitoring

- In February, 178 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects, were monitored by WFP in all regions of the country. WFP also issued [regular updates](#) on Tajikistan Market Situation that were widely shared with partners and donors.



WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam visited a bakery in Panj District, which was constructed with the support of WFP.
©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

Donors

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

Note: Names of donors are listed alphabetically.