



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

April 2023

World Food Programme

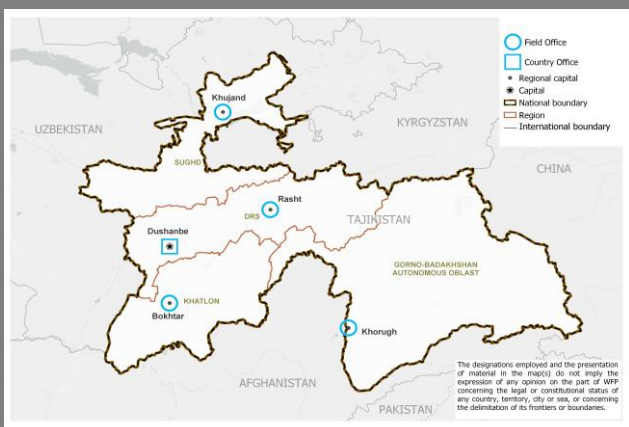
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 rate 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 prevalence of stunting in children under 5 decreased from 26.5 percent in 2012 to 5.3 percent in 2020 (The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021) at the national level, 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 healthcare, 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. WFP currently operates under the 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



458,304 people assisted in April 2023

808.7 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$48,499 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- Through its School Feeding Programme, WFP supported 126 income-generating projects to diversify school meals in the country. WFP worked with local non-government organization EvalGroup to review the progress of various 60 sampled income-generating activities in the Districts of the Republican Subordination (DRS), Khatlon, and Sughd regions, as well as for eight constructed and renovated bakeries. The review aimed to take stock of the strengths and weaknesses of the projects to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability. In April, WFP conducted a validation workshop to review findings on income-generating and bakery renovation activities with the participation of implementing partners and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science to agree on recommendations for improvement and further expansion.

Nutrition

- WFP conducted a workshop for 60 primary healthcare (PHC) workers of Ayni District in Sughd Region who are involved in the implementation of the Prevention and Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) programme. Through a practical session, the PHC workers were encouraged to work on recommendations to improve the project implementation based on the findings of WFP’s outcome and process monitoring. According to monitoring reports, training of focal points and PHC staff, and enhancing home visits will further improve the implementation of the project. It was acknowledged that such capacity development initiatives would improve the skills and abilities of the relevant PHCs staff in screening children in due course and developing qualitative monthly progress reports. The MAM programme of WFP is being implemented in Jaloliddini Balkhi, Dusti, Shahrituz and Kulob districts of Khatlon Region and Ayni District of Sughd Region.

Photo caption: WFP Tajikistan invited specialists from Hydromet Agency of Russia to train Tajikistan Hydromet specialists on long-range seasonal and sub-seasonal forecasting. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda

Representative/Country Director Adham Musallam
Contact info: Nasrullo Ramazonov (nasrullo.ramazonov@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan

Climate Change and Adaptation

- WFP conducted a week-long training on long-term meteorological forecasting for the employees of the Agency of Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan. The training, attended by 10 specialists, was aimed at building the agency's capacity for long-term forecasting to develop and disseminate climate change advisories. The training also provided guidance on the World Meteorological Organization's Climate Services Information System and modern long-term forecasting methods, including hydrodynamic long-range forecast production and interpretation. Four experts from Russian Hydromet Agency conducted the training.

- WFP provided TJS 597,591 (approximately US\$54,700) worth of cash-based transfers to 684 households from 11 districts through a Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activity. Households who worked for the construction and rehabilitation of the climate resilient assets benefited from this assistance. WFP selected 10 drinking water supply systems, 13 irrigation schemes (55 km of irrigation channels), three household storage units, and three community storage units' locations, for the project.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP supported the Government of Tajikistan in conducting a training on emergency preparedness and response for the representatives of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan and other local stakeholders on the automatic mapping of snow avalanches. The training, which was conducted by WFP partner - the Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) - provided a solid background on physical characteristics of snow hazards, while also informing the participants on how to use the Snow Avalanche Frequency Estimation (SAFE), an automatic script for avalanche mapping developed by MSRI. With technical expertise in place, the government will be better placed to enhance the early warning and response mechanisms for hazards caused by snow avalanches.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- WFP dispatched 7,100 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan and received 4,900 mt of food commodities. The balance will be dispatched to Afghanistan in due course. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook 15 international passenger flights to/from Dushanbe to various airports in Afghanistan and 42 passengers benefited from the flights.

Donors

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

Note: Names of donors are listed alphabetically.

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
91.9 m	21.2 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (May-Oct 23) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.4 m	2.3 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