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 in 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.

School Feeding Programme

- In May, WFP organized a visit of the members of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Feeding (IMCC) to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) to observe the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in Rushon, Shugnon, and Roshtqala districts of the region. The team visited targeted schools across the region, where they interacted with students, teachers, and school administration and observed the process of food preparation and distribution of the school meals, as well as the overall condition of canteens. The delegation from the IMMC discussed the implementation of cash-based transfers launched by WFP and the Government of Tajikistan. They also participated in the regional Inter-Sectorial Coordination Council meeting on school feeding and discussed the implementation of the State Programme on Development of School Feeding in Tajikistan for the period of 2022-2027.

- This month, WFP started the implementation of the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) pilot approach in Tajikistan. The project will be implemented in Bobojon Gafurov, Spitamen, Kulob, Vose, Rasht and Tojikobod districts. Sixty producer farmers and six schools will benefit directly from the project. HGSF is a school feeding model that is designed to provide children in schools with safe, diverse, and nutritious food sourced locally from smallholder farmers.

- WFP and UN Women signed a partnership agreement to enhance inclusive and gender-transformative programming and effective interventions. UN Women will support WFP to address a wide range of dimensions of rural development in a holistic, coherent and coordinated manner. The partnership is grounded on building women’s capacity and providing support to the formation of networks to ensure that rural women’s voices are heard, have influence, and are equally effective in decision-making and direction-setting at the household and community levels.

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan)

Photo caption: Regional Inter-Sectorial Coordination Council meeting on school feeding in the town of Khorog, GBAO. ©WFP/Elizaveta Ilyusova
Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>91.9 m</td>
<td>21.2 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>25.4 m</td>
<td>0.76 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-Month (Jun-Nov 23) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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**Climate Change and Adaptation**
- WFP distributed 141 sets of greenhouses, fruit dryers and solar cookers to food-insecure and vulnerable households in Faizobod, Khovaling, Muminobod, Lakhsh, Nurobod, Rasht and Tojikobod districts. The support was provided from the climate change adaptation project supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which aims to enhance households’ resilience to climate change.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)**
- WFP conducted two, two-day training sessions focused on household targeting and verification and food distribution site set-up for its cooperating partner - the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), 41 regional and district coordinators, and eight WFP field staff. The training served as a training-of-trainers and in the upcoming weeks, the RCST and appointed coordinators, in collaboration with WFP field staff, will train some 200 people who will support the overall project implementation through household targeting and food distribution site management. The training also provided guidance on food distribution logistics, monitoring, and reporting.

**Nutrition**
- In May, WFP completed renovating and equipping three nutrition resource centres across three target districts of Rashl, Jalolidini Balkhi and the town of Roghun. These are model centres established within schools and are aimed at improving the knowledge and practice in nutrition and hygiene, as well as contributing to the overall improvement of the nutritional status of the communities surrounding the target schools. The centres will primarily target schoolchildren; however, periodic sessions will be conducted for teachers, parents, and other community members. WFP is developing a learning module on nutrition to guide the operation of the centres. It will focus on developing knowledge and competencies among stakeholders to understand and appreciate the importance of healthy eating and adherence to proper nutritious behaviour. The full operation of the centres is expected to begin in the next academic year.

**Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan**
- In May, WFP Tajikistan dispatched about 10,600 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan and received 5,000 mt of food commodities. The balance will be dispatched to Afghanistan in due course. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook eight international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan and 64 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.