



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

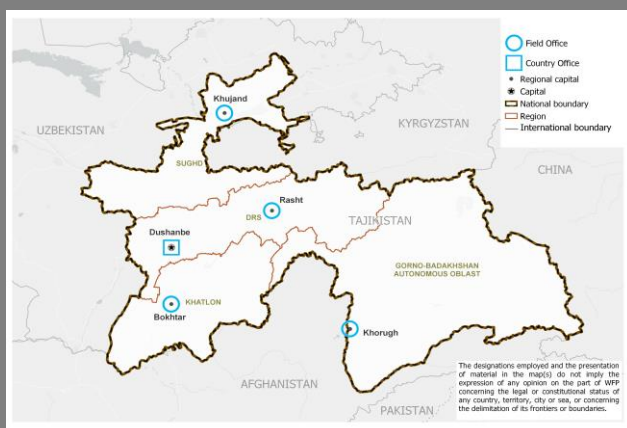
June 2023



## 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 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.



Population: **9.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

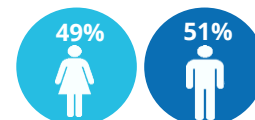
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

## In Numbers

**4,240** people assisted in June

**52.2 mt** of food distributed

Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (July – December 2023): **US\$1.06 million**



## Operational Updates

### School Feeding Programme

- On 23 June, WFP and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan handed over 1,500 mt of fortified wheat flour and 70 mt of yellow split peas to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan. The food will be used in the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in the Districts of the Republican Subordination, Khatlon Region, and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO).
- WFP began its implementation of Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative in Tajikistan in June. The project will directly benefit 60 producer farmers and six schools in Bobojon Ghafurov, Spitamen, Kulob, Vose, Rasht and Tojikobod districts of the country. HGSF is a school feeding model designed to provide children in schools with safe, diverse, and nutritious food locally sourced from smallholder farmers.

### Nutrition

- WFP and the regional health departments of Khatlon and Sughd regions have agreed to extend the Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the Prevention and Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition Programme for one more year. With an additional 30 mt of specialized nutritious food purchased by WFP this summer, the programme will continue to be implemented through more than 260 primary healthcare centres in Jaloliddini Balkhi, Dusti, Kulob and Shahritus districts of Khatlon Region and Ayni District of Sughd Region. In the first six months of 2023, the programme reached over 2,600 beneficiaries across the target districts.

*Photo caption: Handover ceremony of food commodities provided by the Russian Federation to the School Feeding Programme. ©WFP/ Guljahon Hamrobozoda*

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

## Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>91.9 m</b>	<b>21.2 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Jul-Dec 23) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>25.4 m</b>	<b>1.06 m</b>

### 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

- In June, WFP organized a training of trainers (ToT) workshop for national stakeholders on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA). The workshop reflected the learnings from the PICSA workshops conducted by the project in previous years and developed plans for the next round of the PICSA workshops in the remaining seven districts covered by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project.
- Under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, WFP is supporting construction and rehabilitation of 28 community assets including 15 drinking water systems, rehabilitation of 10 irrigation canals (80.2 km) and three storage structures. In June, the physical progress of the assets is more than 60 percent. By providing labour support in the construction and rehabilitation of community assets, about 2,627 households will receive an average of US\$50 through cash-based transfers.

### Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- In June, WFP started the distribution of food assistance to 165,000 vulnerable people as part of the emergency programme, through a US\$10 million award from USAID. The assistance aims to reach vulnerable households in response to rising food insecurity in Tajikistan. About 4,000 people were assisted in the towns of Istiqlol (Sughd Region), Raghun (Districts of the Republican Subordination), and Rushon District (GBAO). As this is the first high-scale emergency programme organized in the country in over 20 years, these first distributions served as a pilot to contribute to the capacity strengthening of local partners. Distributions in other districts are expected to start by mid-July. The USAID funding will enable WFP to support vulnerable communities to better meet their food needs and strengthen government capacity to address the impacts of concurring shocks. Through this project, beneficiaries will receive unconditional food assistance, along with livelihoods support.

### Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- During the reporting period, WFP dispatched about 3,700 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan and received 1,600 mt of food commodities. The balance will be dispatched to Afghanistan in due course. The WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service undertook nine international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan and 40 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.