In Numbers

- **68,744** people assisted in July
- **916 mt** of food distributed
- **US$12,950** cash-based transfers made

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.

Operational Updates

**Climate Change and Adaptation**

- In July, the construction and rehabilitation of 28 assets under the Climate Change Adaptation project funded by the Green Climate Fund continued. These assets, which include 15 drinking water systems, 10 irrigation canals and three storage buildings in 11 districts, will support vulnerable households in adapting to climate change. While developing these assets, WFP provided cash transfers of 132,983 Somoni (US$12,950) to 259 households in four districts of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) to meet their immediate food and other household needs.

- WFP conducted a workshop for 18 officials from the Agency of Forestry of Tajikistan and district level forestry authorities from 11 GCF project districts. The workshop discussed the modalities of implementing agroforestry by aligning with the Government’s policies for the project implementation. The GCF project plans to establish 200 hectares of agroforestry across 11 districts in 2023–2024.

- WFP organized a training on statistical software for climate data analysis for 10 specialists from the Agency of Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan. The training was aimed at enhancing the skills of climate analysts in analysing historical climate data and prepare user-friendly communication materials. The training developed graphs for the upcoming series of trainings on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSAs) in seven GCF target districts based on climate data from five stations (Fayzobod, Khovaling, Rasht, Navobod, and Rushon districts) for the last 30 years.

Photo caption: Food distribution to vulnerable people in Rushon District with the support of USAID. ©WFP/ Gulazor Mamadrizobekova

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2023 - 2026)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91.9 m</td>
<td>21.2 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>25.4 m</td>
<td>2.52 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six-Month (Aug 23 - Jan 24) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</td>
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**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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**Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)**

- In July, WFP distributed 940 mt of food to more than 56,000 vulnerable people in 21 districts of the country as part of the emergency programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Distributions are going on in other districts. In February 2023, USAID awarded US$10 million to WFP Tajikistan in response to rising food insecurity in Tajikistan. This will 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.

- With the support of WFP and other stakeholders, the Committee of Emergency Situations conducted simulation exercises aimed at enhancing coordination and preparedness in logistical operations and ultimately improving the delivery of assistance during emergency situations. The first day of the simulation included a demonstration of the STOCKHOLM online stock prepositioning information sharing portal, which showcased its potential in facilitating effective logistics planning. It was followed by the second day of simulations in Shahrinav District, with the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group actively participating and supporting with mobile storage unit assembly that was used for the stock prepositioning facility of the involved stakeholders.

**Nutrition**

- Within the framework of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities, WFP is conducting a formative study to identify barriers and factors contributing to healthy food consumption, proper hygiene observation and nutrition education among the population. The findings of the study will be used for the development of a robust SBCC strategy and interventions to be implemented in selective districts across the country.

**Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan**

- In July, WFP Tajikistan dispatched about 900 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan and received 430 mt of food commodities. The balance will be dispatched to Afghanistan in due course. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook nine international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan and 28 passengers benefited from the flights. Also, 190 kg of pouches were delivered.

**Donors**

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

Note: Names of donors are listed alphabetically.