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 hazards.

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

In Numbers

- **100,927** people assisted in August
- **1,552.4 mt** of food distributed
- **US$5.10 million** six-month net funding requirements (September 2023-February 2024)

Operational Updates

**School Feeding Programme**

- WFP and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tajikistan handed over 68 mt of fortified wheat flour, 117 mt of fortified sunflower oil and 202 mt of yellow split peas to the Ministry of Education and Science in the districts of the Republican Subordination (DRS), Khatlon Region and Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (GBAO). Furthermore, WFP and the Consulate of the Russian Federation in Khujand Town handed over 1,350 mt of fortified wheat flour, 60 mt of fortified sunflower oil and 135 mt of yellow split peas to Sughd Region for the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in the region.

- On 24 August, WFP Representative and Country Director Adham Musallam met with the Deputy Head of Sughd Region Ms. Zainura Azimi to discuss bilateral relations between WFP and Sughd Region’s authorities, and the implementation of school feeding and nutrition interventions in the region.

- WFP conducted a validation workshop on the School Feeding Programme (SFP) and different interventions to discuss the implementation of school feeding activities and to validate improved monitoring and reporting formats introduced under a standardized approach across the country. The workshop was conducted in close coordination and with participation of representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Finance of at national and regional levels, school principals, accountants and focal persons for daily coordination and monitoring of SFP activities.

Photo caption: WFP Representative and Country Director Adham Musallam and the Deputy Head of Sughd Region Ms. Zainura Azimi discuss bilateral cooperation. ©WFP/ Guljahon Hamroboyzoda
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91.9 m</td>
<td>25.5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month (Sept 23-Feb 24) Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.4 m</td>
<td>5.10 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.

Focus area: Root causes

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.

Nutrition
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, organized cultural programmes in five targeted districts in Khatlon and Sughd regions dedicated to the World Breastfeeding Week. The aim was to raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding, challenge stereotypes around it, and encourage exclusive breastfeeding for up to six months, continuing until the child is two years old or longer together with the complementary food. More than 200 participants learned about the benefits of breastfeeding, including its nutritional value, and had the opportunity to dispel common misconceptions around it. These efforts will promote good breastfeeding practices and creating an enabling environment for breastfeeding at home, at work, as well as in society in general.

Climate Change and Adaptation
- With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), WFP started cash assistance for asset activities in Varzob, Shahrinav, Yovon districts and Vahdat Town. The project aims at supporting 8,000 food-insecure households by providing cash-based assistance to the households to help them build assets to improve their food security and resilience. These assets include: 50 greenhouses with vertical agriculture, hydroponics, and mushroom farming; 30 hectares of agro-forestry; 130 kilometers of rehabilitated irrigation canals; protective infrastructure to improve hill side stabilization and river-bank protection. In addition, the project will also train more than 2,500 smallholder farming households on modern agriculture technologies and digital agriculture practices. The project is expected to help the households improve their food security and resilience and reduce their vulnerability to shocks such as climate change and natural hazards.
- WFP organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) in Rasht District. A total of 14 trainers were trained and are now equipped to conduct community-level PICSA workshops in the district over the next six months.

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)
- As of August, WFP distributed more than 2,500 mt of food commodities to more than 150,000 vulnerable people in 21 districts as part of the emergency programme financed by USAID in response to rising food insecurity in Tajikistan. Through this project, beneficiaries will receive unconditional food assistance, along with livelihoods support.

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

Note: Names of donors are listed alphabetically.