



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

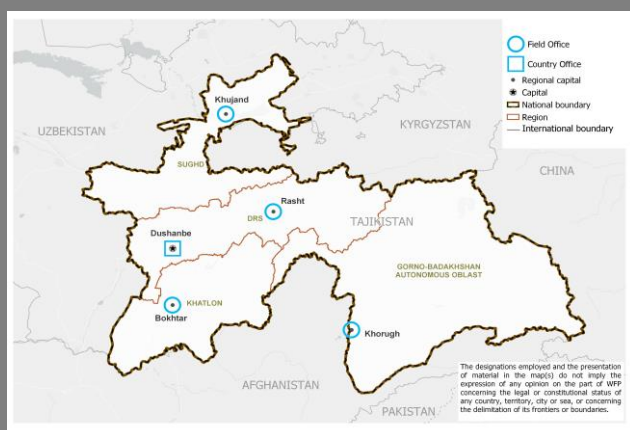
October 2023



Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, mountainous country and its population of 10.7 million people is growing at a rate of nearly 2 percent per year – the highest rate in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Half the population is under the age of 25, and a 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 from 26.5 percent in 2012 to 5.3 percent in 2020 (The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021), 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.



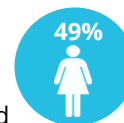
Population: **10.7 million**

2022 Human Development Index:
122 out of 191

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers



578,071 people were assisted

3,105.7 mt of food was distributed

US\$133,678 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

School Feeding Programme

- Within the framework of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council (IMCC), representatives from the World Food Programme (WFP) and relevant ministries, visited Sughd and Khatlon regions to observe the implementation of the school feeding programme. The team visited targeted schools, where they interacted with students, teachers, and school administration and observed the process of preparing meals, distribution, and the conditions of the canteens. National IMCC members also participated in the regional Inter-sectorial Coordination Council meeting on school feeding and discussed the implementation of the State Programme on Sustainable Development of School Feeding in Tajikistan for the period of 2022-2027.
- WFP published its [School Facilities Assessment Report](#), which was conducted in late 2022 in targeted schools. The outcome of the assessment analyses infrastructure and facilities in schools supported by WFP and will help national partners in future planning with respect to their commitments. The report was widely shared with national and regional partners.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building

- In October, WFP completed the construction of six drinking water supply systems in project districts. Simultaneously, an additional nine systems are in the final stages of completion in Khovaling, Muminobod, Faizobod, Nurobod, Rasht, Tojikobod, and Lakhsh districts. Nine more drinking water systems in the GBAO region finalized their design phase and initiated construction or rehabilitation work. WFP completed the rehabilitation and cleaning of 100 km of irrigation canals, significantly enhancing access to water for smallholder farmers.

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Photo: World Food Day celebration in Dushanbe. ©WFP

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
91.9 m	27.5 m
2023 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Nov 23-Apr 24) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.4 m	4.3 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

- WFP conducted two district-level trainings in Tojikobod and Nurobod districts on participatory integrated climate service for agriculture (PICSA) for 45 trainers. These trainings equipped participants with the skills to effectively conduct community level PICSA workshops. In parallel, 47 community-level PICSA workshops were conducted in Shughnon District. These workshops reached 865 smallholder farmers, enhancing their understanding of climate change, climate information, and adaptation options in agriculture.

- Within the Tajikistan Food Security Safety Net project supported by USAID, WFP constructed 1,020 cubic meters of stone-gabion walls for riverbank protection in four districts: Varzob, Shahrinav, Vahdat, and Yovon. These protective structures will play a crucial role in restoring flood protection infrastructure damaged by the August floods and reducing the risk of future floods in these communities. Notably, 300 flood-affected households were engaged in the cash-for-asset intervention for riverbank protection. Furthermore, the project identified locations for 130 kilometers of canal for rehabilitation and has begun the process of identifying beneficiaries for greenhouse and mushroom cultivation initiatives. These efforts will not only enhance flood resilience but also provide income-generating opportunities for local communities.

Nutrition

- As part of its Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy, WFP has launched media-based SBCC interventions through a culinary show called “Taste of Home Cooking”, which is aired on national TV Channel “Safina” at prime-time on Saturdays. The purpose of the show is to present traditional nutritious foods from various regions of the country and demonstrate their health benefits. With high rates of malnutrition linked to increased consumption of unhealthy snacks and low-quality food products, especially among women and children, it is important to invigorate interest in traditional nutritious foods that provide the necessary vitamins and minerals to battle such health issues. These foods are already part of the local cuisine and are available and affordable.

Donors

Denmark, Germany, Green Climate Fund, Russian Federation, USAID, and private donors (Japan Association for WFP)