



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

January 2025

World Food Programme

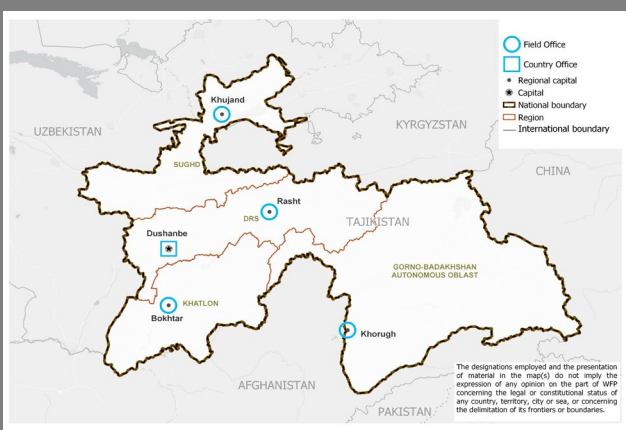
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, mountainous country and its population of 10.27 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 the age of 5 years 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. 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 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **122 out of 191**

Income Level: **Low**

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

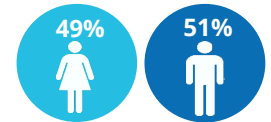
In Numbers

848.2 mt of food distributed

US\$35,654 cash-based transfers made

US\$4.36 million six month net funding requirements (February-July 2025)

417,689 people were assisted



Operational Updates

- Within the framework of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council (IMCC), representatives from WFP and the relevant ministries and departments discussed the implementation of the State Programme on Development of School Feeding in Tajikistan for the period of 2022-2027 and achievements for 2024 as well as plans for 2025. WFP implements a school feeding programme in Tajikistan, supported by the Russian Federation.
- Reinforcing its efforts towards improved nutrition through food fortification, WFP provided the Agency for Standardization, Metrology, Certification, and Trade Inspection of Tajikistan with laboratory supplies to enable regulatory laboratories to conduct quality control and quality assurance of fortified wheat flour. WFP purchased three micro feeders for state-owned mills under the State Reserves Agency of Tajikistan. These will be installed in state-owned mills in Kulob, Levakant towns, and Shughnon District, as per agreement between WFP and the State Reserves Agency of Tajikistan.
- An abstract on "Media-Based Social Behaviour Change Communication Interventions to Promote Nutrition Outcomes", implemented by WFP, will be presented at the Behaviour Change Conference 2025, to be organized by University College London. WFP will develop a poster and will publish the study through the conference's platforms. The conference is scheduled for 2–3 April in Lisbon, Portugal.

Photo: WFP supports and trains Tajik farmers to grow vegetables in greenhouses. Greenhouses also protect the harvest in the winter and summer seasons. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

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Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Feb - Jul 25) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
91.9 m	47.82 m	4.36 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 and its implementing partner, Dastyor, held the final workshop on the Global Climate Fund project in Nurobod District, focusing on key project achievements and gathering stakeholder feedback. The workshop highlighted three main components of the project: addressing climate challenges through community-driven initiatives, strengthening resilience by enhancing local capacities, and providing financial support. Key achievements included identifying priority project sites, establishing working groups, facilitating community participation, providing financial assistance to beneficiaries, and creating sustainable assets. Local authorities and community representatives expressed their appreciation for the project’s impact. They proposed future initiatives such as supporting local seed nurseries, developing a small factory for mulberry processing, and establishing dog-rose orchards. The session concluded with an open discussion, where participants shared insights on project successes and challenges, offering valuable input for shaping future initiatives in the region.

Market Monitoring

- The overall percentage change for all commodities (including fuel) between December 2024 and January 2025 in Tajikistan shows a marginal increase of 2 percent. For fuel prices, there were slight decreases observed across diesel and petrol by 1 percent, while gas prices dropped significantly by 9.7 percent. The market monitoring updates are widely shared with stakeholders including the government, donors, and the media to provide strategic insights and inform decisions.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In January, WFP Tajikistan dispatched about 2,000 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook eight international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. Sixty-five passengers benefited from these flights and 175 kg of cargo was delivered.



WFP encourages schools to grow vegetables in their pre-school land plots to diversify school meals. ©WFP