



# WFP Tajikistan

## Country Brief

March 2025

World Food Programme

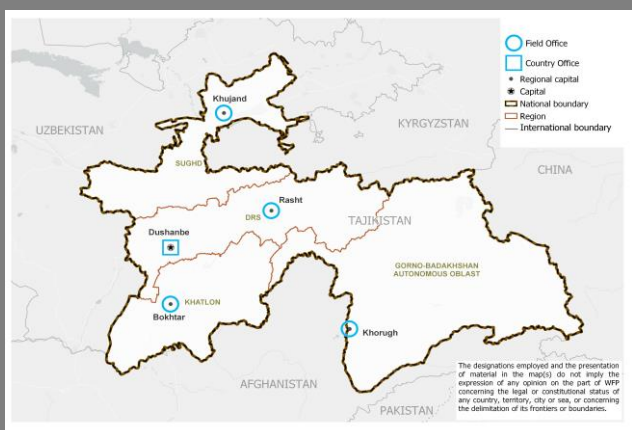
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### 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 shocks, 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**

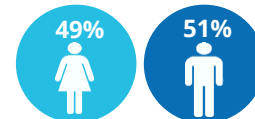
Income Level: **Low**

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

### In Numbers

**415,597** people were assisted

**632 mt** of food was distributed



### Operational Updates

- The Russian Federation confirmed a USD 19 million contribution to WFP in support of the State Programme on the Development of School Feeding in Tajikistan for the period 2025–2028. This four-year contribution reflects the strong, continued partnership between the Russian Federation, WFP, and the Government of Tajikistan, and underscores the shared commitment to enhancing child nutrition, strengthening national capacities, and building a sustainable and nationally owned school feeding system. This contribution will significantly contribute to the long-term sustainability and nationalization of the school feeding programme by empowering schools and national systems to take greater ownership in delivering nutritious meals to children across Tajikistan. The renovation of school kitchens and canteens, income-generating activities and capacity strengthening will be covered through this fund. The WFP school feeding programme covers almost half a million primary grade students with daily hot meals.
- The WFP Representative and Country Director Adham Musallam met with the newly appointed Country Director of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Mr. Seoung Hun Kang, to discuss ongoing partnerships and future collaboration. Notably, WFP is the first recipient of KOICA's multilateral funds in Tajikistan, receiving USD 10 million for a project spanning 2024–2027. The initiative focuses on youth empowerment in agricultural development, and digitalization and supports activities aimed at improving sustainable agricultural production in Tajikistan.

Photo: The WFP school feeding programme is crucial to combating malnutrition and improving the health of children. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda

## Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Apr - Sept 25) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
91.9 m	68.43 m	3.7 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 an introductory workshop to engage potential cooperating partners for the project supported by KOICA. The workshop enhanced participants' understanding of the project goals and helped them identify their capacities in relevant thematic areas. It generated strong interest and encouraged partners to submit thoughtful and innovative proposals. The KOICA funding will support the Government's priorities in achieving food security and broadening access to high-quality nutrition by boosting Tajik youth capacity, creating links to equitable and sustainable access to specialized knowledge, innovation, and a more favourable business environment. The funding will enable WFP to support 200,000 people, including 40,000 youth participants, to promote skills and knowledge on digital technologies in agribusiness and rural development and create income-generating activities. WFP will also focus on asset creation, market access and livelihoods programmes that incorporate digital solutions to foster nutrition-sensitive and ecological approaches aimed at building resilience to shocks and stressors and increasing smallholder farmer production and income.

- WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, launched a social and behaviour change communication campaign. This campaign was designed to enhance knowledge and skills about healthy eating habits as well as preparing healthy meals using locally available and affordable ingredients. It includes promotional videos, social media posts, radio podcasts, and printed materials, all unified under a single brand and strategically interconnected. Social media posts serve as the cornerstone of the campaign.

### Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In March, the UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook seven international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan.



WFP trained Tajik women to grow vegetables in greenhouses.  
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### Donors

Green Climate Fund, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Russian Federation, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and private donors (Japan Association for WFP)