



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

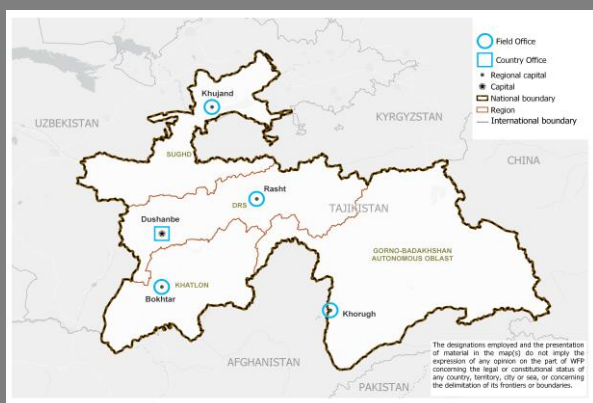
July 2025



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). The percentage of children under the age of five with stunting (low height-for-age) decreased from 26 percent in 2012 to 14 percent in 2023, while the percentage of children with wasting (low weight-for-age) decreased from 10 percent in 2012 to 6 percent in 2017 and 2023 (Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2023). WFP is contributing to the Government's progress on 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**

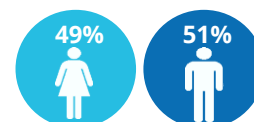
Numbers

1.3 mt of food was distributed

912 people were assisted

US\$ 4.6 million net-funding requirements (August 2025 – January 2026)

No cash transfers made



Operational Updates

- WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) of the Republic of Tajikistan signed a new Technical Assistance Agreement to reinforce their ongoing collaboration in support of the National School Feeding Programme. Under the new framework, the School Feeding Unit established under the MoES with the support of WFP, will be expanded and further strengthened to oversee the programme's implementation at the national level. This includes extending its coverage to regional and district levels, to transform the School Feeding Unit into a fully functional unit. WFP will continue to provide both technical expertise and financial support to strengthen the institutional capacity of the unit. The focus will be on enhancing the skills and systems needed to manage and scale up the programme sustainably, ensuring that schoolchildren across the country have access to nutritious meals. The agreement was signed by WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam and the Minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan, Saidzoda Rahim Hamro.
- WFP signed a technical assistance agreement with the Tojikstandart Agency, marking a significant milestone in the enforcement of national legislation on food fortification. This collaboration reflects WFP's ongoing commitment to supporting the Government of Tajikistan in strengthening regulatory systems that promote improved nutrition and public health. As part of this agreement, WFP will support the agency in enhancing the institutional and technical capacities of its personnel, particularly in the areas of external quality control and assurance. Additionally, WFP provided essential laboratory supplies to enhance the agency's ability to conduct effective quality assessments of fortified food. This partnership aims to ensure greater compliance with national regulatory and technical standards for fortified wheat flour products, contributing to national efforts to reduce micronutrient deficiencies—particularly anemia among children and women.

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Photo: WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan signed a technical assistance agreement in Dushanbe. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Aug 25 – Jan 26) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
95.3 m	73.5 m	4.58 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.

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.

- WFP, in partnership with its technical partner Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), launched the “Best School Cook – 2025” contest. The initiative was widely promoted through mass media channels, the designated Ministry of Education and Science’s School Feeding website, and via regional and district education department staff. The competition was open to all 1,840 schools participating in the WFP School Feeding Programme, as well as urban schools located in Dushanbe, Bokhtar, Khujand, and Khorog towns. A total of 145 applications were submitted by school cooks nationwide and reviewed by an expert jury comprising representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, the WFP, and SIFI. From these applications, 57 semifinalists were selected to compete in regional qualifying rounds for the “Golden Spoon” award. These rounds were held throughout July in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), Sughd, Khatlon regions, and the Districts of the Republican Subordination. Following the regional competitions, the jury selected finalists from each region to advance to the final round, which will take place in Dushanbe in September 2025.
- WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan, and Mr. Kang Seung Hun, KOICA Country Director in Tajikistan, visited the Rasht and Tojikobod districts to observe and monitor the progress of school construction projects. Two schools were destroyed during this year’s earthquake and are now being rebuilt with support from WFP and KOICA. Once completed, the new schools will provide children in remote areas of the Rasht Valley with access to quality education, helping to create brighter futures and stronger communities.



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Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In July, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by WFP, undertook nine international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. More than 40 passengers benefited from these flights.

Donors

Joint SDG Fund, Government of Ireland, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Russian Federation, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and private donors (Japan Association for WFP)