



# WFP Tajikistan

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP Tajikistan is currently developing its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2027–2030, a key framework that will guide the organization’s priorities and operations over the next four years.
- WFP’s sustained advocacy led to a significant expansion of the state-funded School Feeding Programme in 2026, increasing both its geographical coverage and budget allocation.
- The newly appointed WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Siemon Hollema, officially started his duties. He brings extensive experience from his previous leadership roles within WFP, positioning him well to guide WFP’s support for food security, nutrition, and resilience in Tajikistan.

## IN NUMBERS



**53,200** people assisted in February 2026



**51%**  
Male



**49%**  
Female



**42.3 mt** food distributed



**USD 130,215** cash transferred



**USD 3.5M** (MAR – AUG 2026) net funding requirements

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- 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 25, and a quarter resides in cities ([TAJSTAT, 2020](#)). Stunting among children under five fell from 26 percent in 2012 to 14 percent in 2023, while wasting dropped from 10 percent in 2012 to 6 percent by 2017 and remained at 6 percent in 2023 ([TDHS, 2023](#)).
- WFP has been supporting the Government and people of Tajikistan through food and nutrition programmes since 1993. The current CSP (2023–2026) focuses on strengthening national food security, improving nutrition through school feeding programmes, and building resilience to climate change. WFP Tajikistan is currently developing its next Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2027–2030. The new CSP is being designed to align closely with national development priorities, UNSDCF, and WFP’s Global Strategic Plan. Through this strategic planning process, WFP aims to define a comprehensive programme portfolio that strengthens food security, improves nutrition, and enhances resilience across Tajikistan. The CSP will also outline WFP’s support to the government in advancing long term, sustainable solutions that benefit vulnerable communities and contribute to national development goals.

Reporting Period: February 2026

**Photo Caption:** Beekeeping is one of the income-generating activities that complement the food provided by WFP to help diversify school diets. ©WFP

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### School-Based Assistance

- The State-funded School Feeding Programme has expanded significantly for 2026 in both coverage and budget. Thanks to WFP's sustained advocacy, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has added 82 new schools nationwide, marking a major step toward broader national reach. Under the Technical Agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan and the jointly approved workplan, WFP continues to provide comprehensive technical support to ensure effective implementation of the expanded programme. With WFP's guidance, the School Feeding Unit (SFU) has launched nationwide training sessions to strengthen delivery. During the reporting period, training was successfully conducted in Khatlon and Sughd regions, targeting school management, accountants, district education staff, and newly appointed regional SFU representatives. Training for the remaining regions is planned for March 2026, ensuring full national readiness and consistent implementation standards.
- WFP continues strengthening school feeding quality through targeted infrastructure upgrades across Tajikistan. In 2025, WFP launched renovations and re-equipment of 50 school kitchens and canteens in the Sughd Region, significantly improving food safety and meal preparation conditions for schoolchildren. As of February, renovation works have been completed, and works are currently ongoing for the re-equipment of kitchens and canteens. These upgrades are integral part of WFP's School Feeding Programme—enhance hygienic food handling, cooking, and storage practices, contributing to better nutrition, safer meal environments, and improved well-being for thousands of children. Improved facilities also support a healthier and more conducive learning environment. The works are funded by the Russian Federation with additional community contributions from parents, demonstrating strong partnership and local ownership. WFP provides ongoing technical oversight to ensure all upgrades meet programme standards and national safety requirements.

- During the reporting period, WFP provided assistance to over 53,200 people through its school feeding programme, as well as nutrition and food-for-assets initiatives.

### Social Behaviour Change Initiative

- WFP Tajikistan is implementing a flagship Social Behaviour Change (SBC) initiative through a 10-episode national cooking show, "Lazzati Khoni Diyor." In February, four shows were prepared and aired. The series promotes healthier diets, improved hygiene, and climate-smart food choices. So far, seven episodes have aired during prime time on TV Safina, a national broadcaster with broad reach and strong public trust, ensuring that nutrition messages reach households across the country, including those with limited internet access. The show features popular bloggers, actors, singers, and regional influencers to maximize engagement nationwide. Each 25–30-minute episode blends entertainment with practical, evidence-based guidance, focusing on maternal and child nutrition, dietary diversity using affordable local foods, food hygiene and safe preparation, and climate-resilient food and agriculture practices. Through nationwide TV broadcasts and complementary social media content, the series is strengthening nutrition literacy, shaping social norms, and supporting better household food security across Tajikistan.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2026)



### Donors:

Eurasian Development Bank (EDB), Government of Ireland, Joint SDG Fund, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, USA, and private donors (Latter-day Saints Charities and Japan Association for WFP).