



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

February 2022



## Operational Context

Tajikistan is a landlocked, low-income and food-deficit country. The mountainous landscape confines arable land to just seven percent of the country's surface and poses enormous food security challenges during the winter period. The country is the poorest in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with 27.4 percent of the population living in poverty and 11.8 percent living in extreme poverty (Tajikistan Agency of Statistics).

In Tajikistan, despite significant improvements in recent years, malnutrition rates remain high. WFP is contributing to the Government's progress on SDG 2, by providing access to appropriate nutritional support and health care, promoting school feeding, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and ensuring preparedness for recurring natural disasters.

The Government has identified food security and access to quality nutrition as one of its development priorities.

WFP has been present in Tajikistan since 1993. WFP currently operates under the Country's Strategic Plan (CSP) that was launched in July 2019.



Population: **9.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **125 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

## In Numbers

**442,129 people assisted**  
in February 2022

**805 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 6.6 m** six months net funding requirements  
(Mar-Aug 22)



## Operational Updates

- On 2 February, WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan, Adham Musallam met with the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan, Amirzoda Abdukholiq Amir. The meeting discussed the bilateral cooperation and implementation of the school feeding and nutrition programmes supported by WFP. The School Feeding Programme, which is coordinated by Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan and WFP, covers almost 50 per cent of schools (2,000) in the country. In 2021, WFP reached 626,719 schoolchildren and their family members with over 8,500 mt of mixed commodities through daily hot meals to schoolchildren and a once-off take-home ration to the families of vulnerable schoolchildren. WFP is also closely working with Tajik Government agencies on the gradual handover of the School Feeding Programme to the Government. WFP also provides schools with microgrants to support schools to diversify school meals.
- WFP began conducting training on the implementation of cash-based transfer (CBT) and procedures for local procurement in 15 selected pilot schools following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) of Tajikistan. The Government of Tajikistan allocated TJS 5.5 million (roughly US\$487,000) in the form of CBT for the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in the country. The Government's contribution will be use in the 42 districts covered by the WFP School Feeding Programme. Additionally, WFP plans series of training for 57 schools across the country.

*Photo caption: WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam from left and Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan Amirzoda Abdukholiq Amir. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda*

## Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>103.3 m</b>	<b>41.5 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month (Mar-Aug 22) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>31.7 m</b>	<b>6.6 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food-insecure vulnerable people, including primary schoolchildren, in targeted districts meet their basic food requirements by 2024.

**Focus area:** *Root causes of food insecurity*

**Activities:**

- Provide nutritionally balanced school meals to targeted schoolchildren

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable groups, especially children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls - in districts where the national Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) protocol is being rolled out have reduced levels of malnutrition by 2024.

**Focus area:** *Root Causes*

**Activities:**

- Treat moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months and implement malnutrition prevention activities using social and behaviour change communication with vulnerable groups while building the Government's capacity to manage nutrition programmes.

### Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Targeted food-insecure communities in areas vulnerable to climate change have increased their resilience to shocks by 2024.

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

**Activities:**

- Carry out climate adaptation, asset creation, and livelihood activities aimed at fostering resilience to shocks and stressors, and conduct early response activities in the event of a small-scale disaster

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Government institutions at the central and decentralized level have strengthened capacities to target, design and implement effective food security and nutrition strategies by 2024.

**Focus area:** *Root Causes*

**Activities:**

- Provide policy advice and technical assistance to public institutions and private sector stakeholders involved in advocating for and implementing food security and nutrition programmes, including emergency preparedness.
- Strengthen the capacity of government institutions and schools to implement social protection programmes

- In February, WFP completed the implementation of its Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) project in Jaloliddini Balkhi, Dusti, Kulob, and Shahritus districts of Khatlon Region and Ayni district of Sughd Region. The project focused on promoting hand hygiene observation in communities and schools, reducing cooking oil consumption and diversifying vegetable preservation. Over the seven months of the project, more than 17,000 community members and over 30,000 schoolchildren benefited from SBCC interventions. In addition, more than 7,000 hygiene kits, preservation jars and other necessary materials related to project themes were distributed among the target population. The project was implemented in partnership with local public organisation "Sadoi Kuhsor".
- WFP conducted a baseline assessment of the project "Building climate resilience of vulnerable and food-insecure communities through capacity strengthening and livelihood diversification in mountainous regions of Tajikistan" funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The baseline report was finalised in February 2022 and submitted to GCF. The report found that although more than 90 percent of the households were having acceptable food consumption, this was achieved through adoption of food-based coping strategies. Only 34 percent of households had acceptable consumption without using consumption-based coping strategies. Female-headed households were found to be twice as likely to be food insecure as compared to male-headed households. Additionally, a greater proportion of female-headed households were adopting livelihood-based coping strategies as compared to male-headed households.

## Monitoring

- In February, 163 school feeding, nutrition and resilience projects out of a planned 165, were monitored by WFP in all regions of the country. During the reporting period, WFP also prepared regular updates on Tajikistan Market Situation that were shared with partners and donors.

## Challenges

- WFP reduced the daily food entitlement to children under the School Feeding Programme from 5 to 4 days per week, due to funding constraints. The reduced feeding days will be continued until end of March 2022. Schools agreed to cover the gap with the support of the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs).

## Donors

Russian Federation, USA, Green Climate Fund and Private Donors (Japan Association for WFP).