



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

March 2024

World Food Programme

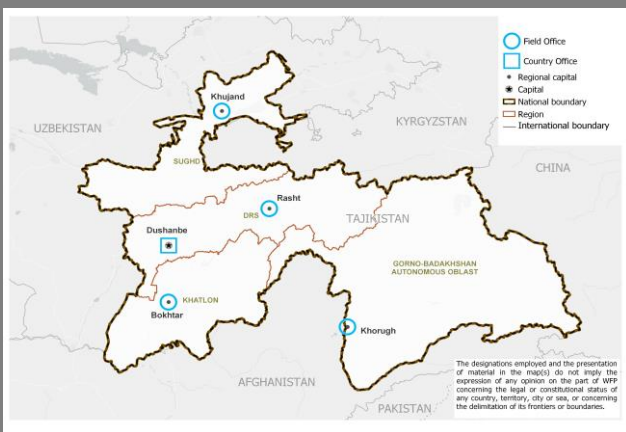
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

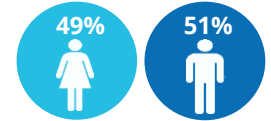
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

In Numbers

428,772 people were assisted

211.2 mt of food was distributed

US\$31,846 cash-based transfers made



Operational Updates

- In March, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed US\$7 million to WFP to bolster assistance for vulnerable households facing rising food insecurity in Tajikistan. The funding will enable WFP to support vulnerable communities to better meet their food needs and strengthen the Government’s capacity to address the impacts of ongoing price hikes. Over the next two years, this initiative will benefit around 15,000 households with cash-based transfers in exchange for work in building productive and protective assets. These assets will further enhance the resilience of more than 24,000 households, supporting a total of 120,000 people. WFP is working directly with smallholder farmers, especially those led by women and youth on the ground to enable them to maintain their livelihoods.
- WFP, with the support of USAID, completed the construction of 10 greenhouses with vertical agriculture in Shahrinav, Yovon, Varzob districts and Vahdat town. In addition, 92 km of irrigation canals were rehabilitated and constructed which increased water availability for 1,500 ha of agricultural fields and 11 ha of agroforestry.
- Under the Green Climate Fund initiative, WFP trained 670 farmers in Fayzobod and Khovaling districts on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA). Farmers gained knowledge on ways to incorporate climate information into their agricultural practice. WFP also completed capacity strengthening training in Ishkoshim and Roshtqala districts to mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience activities in districts’ social and economic development plans. In March, the development plans of two districts were finalized and submitted to authorities for review and further endorsement.

Photo WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam and U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Manuel Micaller announce new USAID contribution to WFP.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Apr- Sept 24) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
100.13 m	53.15 m	1.45 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

- In March 2024, 230 children under the age of 5 years recovered from malnutrition through WFP's initiative on preventing and treating moderate acute malnutrition. Over 300 parents were trained on proper child feeding practices, while more than 40 staff members of the primary healthcare centres were provided with on-the-job professional development training. Notably, the programme operated in five target districts across in Khatlon and Sughd regions for over six years, yielding substantial reductions in moderate acute malnutrition cases among children. In light of this achievement, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan has conveyed its satisfaction with the programme's performance, indicating a desire for its expansion into additional vulnerable regions.

- On the eve of the International School Meals Day, WFP conducted a healthy nutrition week in Danghara District to promote healthy eating habits among primary schoolchildren under the school feeding programme. The campaign covered activities including dedicated classes, master classes, and nutritious meals prepared using recipes from the WFP Recipe Book. Children also participated in a drawing competition to propose new healthy dishes for their school menu.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In March, WFP Tajikistan dispatched 802 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook nine international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. Forty-six passengers benefited from the flights and 353 kg of cargo was delivered.

Monitoring

- During the month, WFP issued [regular updates](#) on the Tajikistan market situation that were widely shared with partners and donors.



WFP supports Tajik farmers to adopt vertical farming and produce large quantities of quality crops year-round. ©WFP/Guljohon Hamrobozoda

Donors

Denmark, Germany, Green Climate Fund, Russian Federation, USAID, and private donors (Japan Association for WFP)