



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

April 2024

World Food Programme

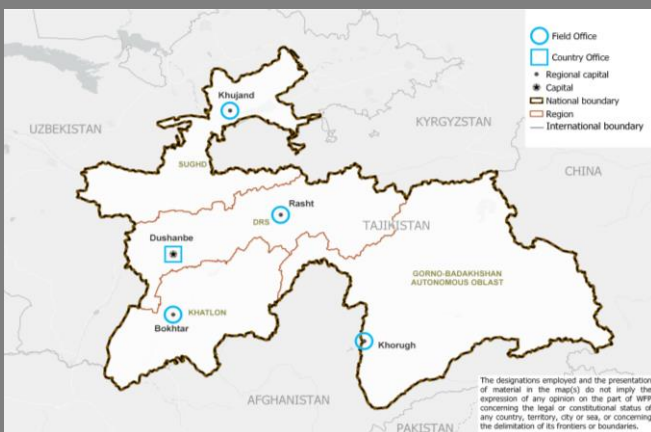
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

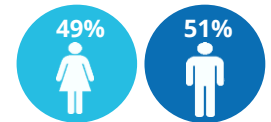
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

In Numbers

489,819 people were assisted

453.2 mt of food was distributed

US\$1,248 cash-based transfers made



Operational Updates

- WFP distributed 18 mt of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil and pulses to 319 households affected by heavy rainfall that occurred in Tajikistan between 15-22 April 2024. The rainfall caused floods, mudflows, and landslides in several districts of Dushanbe, the Districts of the Republican Subordination and Khatlon Region. No casualties were reported by authorities. The disaster affected 331 households’ basements, auxiliary buildings, and kitchen plots.
- WFP, with the support of USAID and the Green Climate Fund, completed the construction of four greenhouses with vertical agriculture in Varzob and Sharinav districts. In April, 20 km of irrigation canals were constructed and/or rehabilitated to irrigate 150 hectares (ha) of agricultural fields. In addition, 15 ha of agroforestry were created with 4,500 mixed plants. WFP engaged with 550 people through cash-for-work enabling direct income transfers to support household needs.
- Under the Green Climate Fund initiative, WFP trained 440 farmers in Lakhsh District on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA). Farmers gained knowledge on ways to incorporate climate information into their agricultural practice.
- With the support of WFP, the members of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Feeding visited Norak town in Khatlon Region to monitor the implementation of the State Programme on the Development of School Feeding in Tajikistan. The mission covered school feeding through WFP food and cash modality, the state-funded pilot schools, as well as schools implementing other interventions such as Income Generating Activities, and kitchen renovation.

Photo: WFP joined other agencies to provide food assistance to people affected from floods in Rudaki District. ©WFP

Representative/Country Director Adham Musallam
Contact info: Nasrullo Ramazonov (nasrullo.ramazonov@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (May- Oct 24) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
91.9 m	48.30 m	2.93 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 and UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan, agreed to collaborate on implementing a joint initiative related to strengthening water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) in 10 schools of the Khatlon Region. This joint effort will include installing child-friendly handwashing stations, providing essential hygiene items and information materials, implementing strategic environmental restructuring, and conducting training sessions. This will also include systematic collaboration with school staff, management, district authorities, and water supply and sanitation operators to ensure proper budget allocation and timely operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in schools. Implementing this initiative in schools, especially those enrolled in WFP's school feeding programme, represents a crucial effort in promoting proper hygiene practices, reducing the potential diarrhea cases, and significantly contributing to the well-being of thousands of schoolchildren across the country. The successful implementation and evaluation of this collaborative project will establish a solid foundation for future similar initiatives, potentially expanding coverage to include more schools.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In April, WFP Tajikistan dispatched 3,162 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook 10 international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. Sixty passengers benefited from the flights and 45 kg of cargo was delivered.

Monitoring

WFP issued [regular updates](#) on the Tajikistan market situation that were widely shared with partners and donors. The last week of April showed that prices for basic food commodities such as cottonseed oil, sugar and rice decreased by 1-3 percent due to an increase in their stocks in the markets. The average diesel and petrol price increased by 1 percent.



Nozia, a brave little soul from Khatlon Region is struggling with malnutrition. Due to support from WFP, she is now receiving Acha Mum, a supplementary weight gain food. After nearly two months of Acha Mum, Nozia has gained almost 800 grams. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamrobozoda

Donors

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