



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

May 2024

World Food Programme

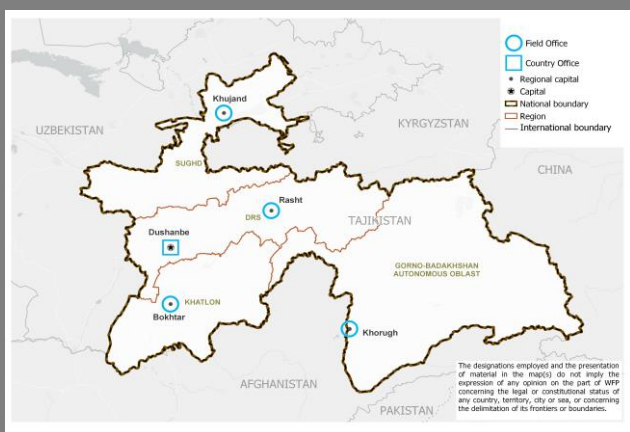
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

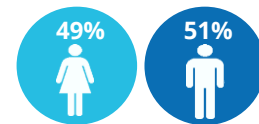
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

In Numbers

438,236 people were assisted

683.7 mt of food was distributed

US\$111,806 cash-based transfers made



Operational Updates

- WFP, jointly with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan, trained over 50 technologists and laboratory specialists of milling companies in Dushanbe and Sughd region. The training focused on (1) the technique of using premix, (2) the basic technological requirements to produce fortified wheat flour, ensuring the quality of premixes and fortified flour, and (3) food safety and quality control. WFP and the two government agencies will also collaborate on capacity strengthening of the national millers in wheat flour fortification. This will include training of food technologists and laboratory staff of milling companies on technical aspects of wheat flour fortification including food safety and quality. The training will be also continued in Khatlon Region next month.
- WFP supported the construction of 44 greenhouses in 2,000 sqm of land in targeted districts. This initiative has been further strengthened by duly registered 160 workers, who were involved in the implementation of civil works. As a result of these efforts, the beneficiaries of these greenhouses are now cultivating a diverse array of crops. The diversification of the crops not only enhances the variety in their daily food baskets, but also contributes to greater nutritional value and food stability. The successful implementation of these greenhouses is a sign of a positive impact on community food resources.
- WFP restored and cleaned 172,000 meters of irrigation canals, ditches, gutters, and flood drains. The rehabilitation and cleaning of the canal facilitated the provision of water to over 3,255 hectares of agricultural land in the targeted districts. Consequently, 2,580 cash-based transfer recipients benefited from seasonal employment, and 21,500 asset beneficiaries have seen improvements in their agricultural harvests.

WFP provided local farmer Qosim Safarov from Varzob District a greenhouse with support from USAID. He also received training on how to grow vegetables by using vertical greenhouses. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

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Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Jun- Nov 24) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
91.9 m	47.87 m	2.61 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

- With the support of WFP, ten facilities meeting the necessary criteria for mushroom cultivation were identified and underwent partial refurbishment. WFP distributed 900 sacks of substrates for mushroom cultivation to the participants. Mushroom producers have commenced cultivation and marketing of their products within local markets. This initiative has laid the foundation for the establishment of small-scale income generation projects, thereby enhancing the livelihoods of vulnerable families. Farmers grew more than 3.3 mt of mushrooms and sold them in local markets at a price of 32 to 45 Tajik somoni (US\$3-4) per kg.
- WFP supported 56 individuals with non-food items to participate in land preparation for planting seedlings, trees, nets, stems, pipes, and pumps. Around 30 hectares have been allocated for the establishment of agroforestry across four targeted districts. This agroforestry initiative enables smallholder farmers to meet daily food basket needs and increase income through sale of the crops.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In May, WFP Tajikistan dispatched 4,100 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook 13 international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. Fifty-eight passengers benefited from the flights and 380 kg of cargo was delivered.

Monitoring

- WFP published its [Food Security Monitoring System Highlights](#) indicating two out of ten people in Tajikistan are food insecure. Almost all the food insecure households are at moderate levels of food insecurity. Only one percent of households are at a severe level of food insecurity.
- Across multiple rounds of assessment from June 2022 to March 2024, fluctuations in food security levels were evident. The proportion of food-insecure households has ranged between 16 percent and 24 percent.
- These trends underscore the dynamic nature of food security over time, highlighting the importance of continued monitoring and targeted interventions.
- Considering the gender of the household, results suggests that female-headed households appear to experience slightly higher levels of food insecurity compared to male-headed households. Among male-headed households, 17 percent are food insecure, while 21 percent of the female headed households are food insecure.

Donors

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