



WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

June 2024

World Food Programme

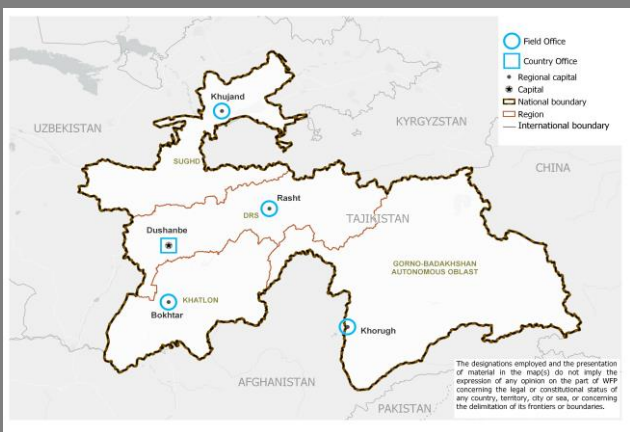
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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

10,489 people were assisted

62.3 mt of food was distributed

US\$85,900 cash-based transfers made



Operational Updates

- During his visit in Sughd Region, WFP Representative and Country Director Adham Musallam met with the chairman of Sughd Region, Rajaboi Ahmadzoda, to discuss bilateral cooperation and perspectives of joint endeavors for WFP’s upcoming projects. WFP has invested US\$ 8 million in the region since 2023, assisting more than 250,000 people. WFP Representative visited a solar greenhouse established within home-grown school feeding initiative in Spitamen district. He met 15 women farmers and education authorities to see how the nexus between schools and farmers are developed, and both benefit from each other. The schools are supplied with affordable fresh greens and vegetables and the farmers opened a new market for their products, in addition to the school.
- WFP participated in the 10th anniversary of the International Sughd Trade Fair 2024 which took place in Khujand. WFP supported vertical greenhouses were exhibited as an innovation tool supporting farmers to increase productivity of livestock.
- WFP with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population and the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies conducted training for over 35 technologists and laboratory specialists of milling companies in Khatlon Region. The training focused on the technique of using premix, the basic requirements to produce fortified wheat flour, ensuring the quality of premixes and fortified flour as well as food safety and quality control.

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Photo: The construction of a new school kitchen in Tojikobod District supported by WFP. ©WFP / Nasrullo Ramazonov



Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Jul- Dec 24) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
91.9 m	45.55 m	3.3 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, programme participants restored and cleaned 162,000 meters of irrigation canals, ditches, gutters, and flood drains. Also, 40 water distribution gates were installed. Consequently, 462,580 cash-based transfer recipients benefited from seasonal employment. In addition, the construction of four greenhouses was completed.
- WFP distributed more than 60 mt of food commodities (fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil and pulses) among 1,061 households affected by heavy rainfall that occurred in June. The rainfall caused floods, mudflows, and landslides in 11 districts and towns. No casualties were reported by authorities. The disaster affected households' basements, auxiliary buildings, and kitchen plots.
- WFP continued the implementation of its initiative on promoting handwashing practices among schoolchildren. This project, now active in 64 target schools, employs behaviour change interventions to encourage positive hygiene habits. By restructuring the school environment and fostering intrinsic motivation, the project aims to make handwashing a regular part of schoolchildren's routines. Furthermore, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science has embarked on a comprehensive review of nutrition education modules for primary school children. This pilot project, set to launch at the beginning of the new academic year, will provide holistic nutrition education to school children in the target schools, equipping them with the knowledge to make healthier choices.

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- WFP Tajikistan dispatched 548 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 187 kg of cargo was delivered.

Monitoring

- WFP issued regular updates on the [Tajikistan market situation](#) that was widely shared with partners and donors. In June, the average prices of basic food commodities declined by 2 percent compared to May. Significant price volatility was observed for fresh vegetables. The price of gasoline remained stable, with no changes recorded from May to June.

Donors

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