



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

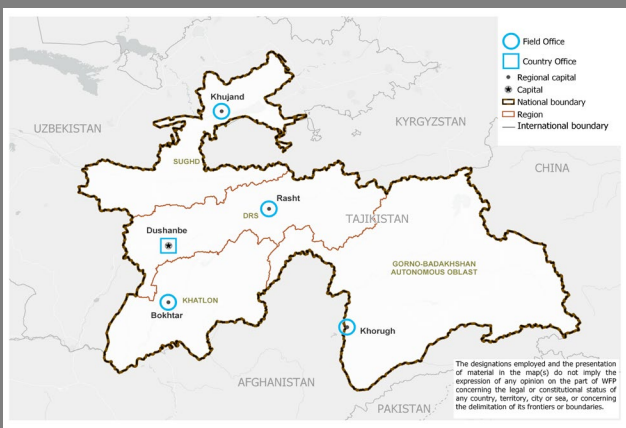
## November 2024



### 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 and 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**

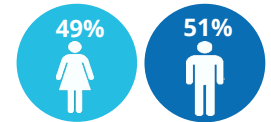
## In Numbers

**587.2 mt** of food was distributed

**US\$232,648** cash-based transfers made

**US\$4.4 million** net funding requirements (December 2024-May 2025)

**434,503** people assisted in November



### Operational Updates

- With the support of WFP, the members of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Feeding visited the districts of Rasht Valley 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-based transfers, the state-funded pilot schools, as well as schools implementing other interventions such as income generating activities and kitchen renovation.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, finalized the national contest for the best school cook among more than 70 school cooks in Dushanbe from all regions of the country. The contestants presented dishes prepared as part of a home assignment using their own recipes and participated in a food feud where they prepared main courses, salads, drinks, and baked goods from a suggested set of ingredients, following recipes from the WFP’s School Meals Recipe Book. Zulfiya Alieva, the cook from school 44 in Farkhor District, was selected “Best School Cook – 2024.” The finalists received awards and certificates of appreciation from distinguished guests from WFP and governmental representatives. The competition was open to school cooks from all 1,866 schools participating in the WFP’s school feeding programme, where 61 school cooks expressed their interest to participate. The contest provided an excellent opportunity to identify talented and creative cooks, inspire them to enhance their culinary knowledge, and showcase their skills in developing, preparing, and serving nutritious and delicious school meals.

Photo: participants of best school cook contest during final stage. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamrobozoda

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

## Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Dec 24- May 25) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>91.9 m</b>	<b>47.3 m</b>	<b>4.4 m</b>

### 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 successfully conducted a two-day orientation workshop in Dushanbe, engaging its staff and local potential implementing partners. The workshop was aimed at equipping partners with essential knowledge and tools to implement the USAID-funded “Tajikistan Food Security Safety Net Activity” project. Through plenary sessions, specialized trainings, and interactive discussions, participants enhanced their understanding of project requirements, strengthened technical skills, and fostered coordination to ensure effective collaboration and project success.

- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, conducted trainings for health specialists on the impact of climate change on health and nutrition. The course provided clear, concise, and up-to-date information to gain a general understanding of the health and food risks caused by climate change and strategies to address them. District level trainings were conducted in Nurobod, Rasht, Lakhsh, Tojikobod districts, and community-level trainings completed in Fayzobod, Muminobod and Khovaling districts. About 100 trainers were prepared for Rasht Valley who will further conduct sessions at the community levels. More than 2,000 people (50 percent females) benefited from these trainings.

- In November, WFP distributed 3 mt of food commodities to 205 people affected by mudslide which occurred on 8 November in Tojikobod district. The mudslide completely destroyed two residential houses, partially damaged two more, and also caused partial damage to 12 auxiliary structures and 12 household plots.

- WFP introduced a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) in the country to facilitate communication between the WFP and the people it supports. The CFM is a formal two-way system that receives, manages, analyzes, and resolves feedback. In November, 176 suggestion boxes were installed in the school feeding project sites and the community was sensitized to send their suggestions and questions to WFP for programme adaptation and better improvement of its operation.

### Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In November, WFP Tajikistan dispatched about 225 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-four passengers benefited from the flights.

## Donors

Denmark, Germany, Green Climate Fund, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Russian Federation, USAID, and private donors (Japan Association for WFP)