



# WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

May 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

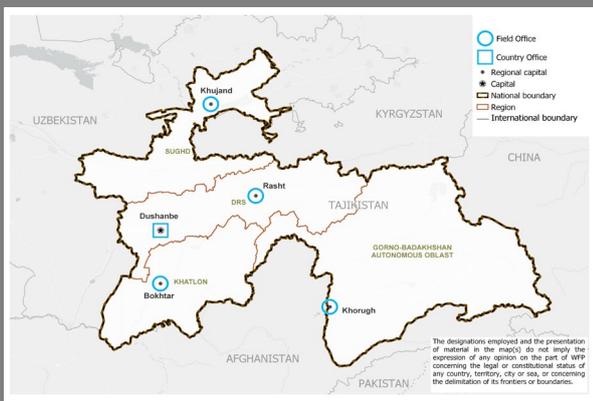


Regional Inter-Sectoral Coordination Council meeting on school feeding in Khorog, GBAO . ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

## 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). The percentage of children under the age of five with stunting (low height-for-age) decreased from 26 percent in 2012 to 14 percent in 2023, while the percentage of children with wasting (low weight-for-age) decreased from 10 percent in 2012 to 6 percent in 2017 and 2023 (Tajikistan Demographic and Health Survey, 2023). WFP is contributing to the Government’s progress on 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

**1,170.2 mt** of food was distributed

**US\$3,850** cash-based transfers made

**US\$3.11 million** net-funding requirements (June–November 2025)

**409,298** people were assisted



## Operational Updates

- WFP Representative and Country Director in Tajikistan Adham Musallam met with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Tajikistan, Muzaffarzoda Badriddin. They discussed bilateral cooperation, and the implementation of the School Feeding Programme supported by WFP, which covers nearly half of primary schools in the country, with the end goal of gradually handing them over to the Government. Currently, 430,000 schoolchildren benefit from the programme with daily hot meals. In 2022, the Government of Tajikistan approved the National Programme for the Development of School Feeding in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2022-2027. In 2025, the government allocated almost 19 million Tajik somoni (roughly US\$1.8 million) for this programme.
- WFP organized a visit of the members of the National Inter-Ministerial Coordination Council on School Feeding (IMCC) to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) to observe the implementation of the School Feeding Programme in Rushon, Shugnon, and Ishkashim districts of the region. The team visited targeted schools across the region, where they engaged with students, teachers, and school administration and observed the food preparation and distribution of the school meals, as well as the overall condition of canteens. The IMCC delegation discussed the implementation of cash-based transfers launched by the Government of Tajikistan. They also participated in the regional Inter-Sectoral Coordination Council meeting on school feeding and discussed the implementation of the National Programme for the Development of School Feeding in Tajikistan for the period of 2022 to 2027.

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- Within its “Engaging Youth Smallholder Farmers through Agri-Tech for Improved Food Security and Value Chains” project, WFP conducted participatory workshops in Khatlon and Sughd regions to introduce the project, contextualize its activities, and better understand local needs. The workshops brought together government counterparts from the target districts — including representatives from the agriculture, youth, economy, and education sectors — as well as potential international and local implementing partners. During these sessions, WFP introduced the agri-tech project for young farmers to regional authorities for the first time. Through group discussions, WFP also identified local priorities such as target communities, crops, relevant technologies, and challenges faced by farmers. In Tajikistan, agricultural conditions vary significantly by region due to differences in climate, infrastructure, soil quality, and water resources.

- WFP conducted a master class for mushroom producers to re-engage and motivate them to strengthen their technical capacity. The master class was led by Mirzoev Valijon, a successful producer (participant) from the Varzob district, and brought together other project participants from Shahrinav, Yovon, and Varzob districts and Vahdat town for peer-to-peer learning. Through this initiative, WFP connected with the participants with a successful peer, fostering knowledge exchange and peer-support to sustain their businesses. The objective of the master class was to empower beneficiaries supported under the “Tajikistan Food Security Safety Net Activity” project by addressing the challenges they faced in mushroom production. The session provided a platform for practical learning, knowledge exchange among peers, and skills development—facilitated by a successful mushroom producer. The master class renewed participants’ motivation and confidence to restart their businesses, proving that sustainable mushroom cultivation is achievable with the right techniques and support. The creation of a WhatsApp group further strengthened peer networking and enabled continued exchange of experiences, advice, and encouragement.

## Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In May, WFP Tajikistan dispatched 2,046 mt of food commodities to Afghanistan. The UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook six international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. More than 30 passengers benefited from these flights.

## Donors

Joint SDG Fund, Government of Ireland, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Russian Federation, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and private donors (Japan Association for WFP)

## Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Jun–Nov 25) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
91.9 m	68.54 m	3.11 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