



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Tajikistan Country Brief

June 2025

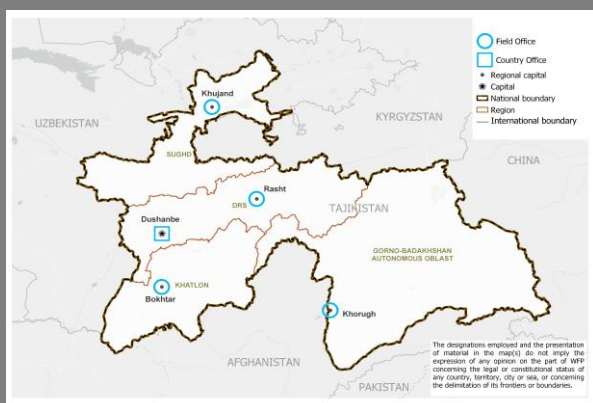


The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia handed over a generous in-kind contribution of 160 mt of dates to WFP in Tajikistan. ©WFP/Guljahon Hamroboyzoda

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**

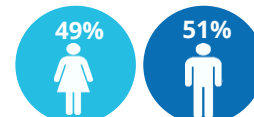
Chronic malnutrition: **18% of children between 0-59 months**

In Numbers

16.6 mt of food distributed

2,822 people assisted

US\$4.58 million net-funding requirements (July-December 2025)



Operational Updates

- WFP received a contribution of 160 mt of dates worth US\$360,000 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its school feeding programme in Tajikistan. The dates, rich in nutrients, will be used to complement meals provided to more than 43,000 primary grade schoolchildren in over 500 schools in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) and the Districts of the Republican Subordination (DRS). The school feeding programme is WFP's largest initiative in Tajikistan, providing regular, nutritious meals to approximately 420,000 students in grades 1 to 4 across 1,840 schools in 53 districts and towns. Since 2022, the Government of Tajikistan has been allocating funds from the public budget to support the programme as part of its broader nationalization agenda. To ensure a smooth and sustainable transition, WFP is working closely with the Government to strengthen institutional capacities at the national, regional, district, and school levels.
- WFP and the Committee on Primary and Secondary Professional Education under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the implementation of the State Programme on Sustainable Development of School Feeding for 2022-2027. Within this MoU, the sides agreed to establish the first-ever training center for cooks. Through this partnership, WFP will provide technical support to help set up the centre, which will train school cooks, enhance their skills, and award them with professional certificates. This initiative will ensure that children across the country benefit from qualified cooks, leading to better quality and safer meals in schools.
- Within income-generating activities, schools in Sughd Region produced more than 1.6 mt of greens, cucumber, tomato, and garlic, out of which more than 1.2 mt were consumed by primary schoolchildren during summer camps, and 400 kg of vegetables were sold for TJS 2,500 (US\$280) and spent for school canteen renovation.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/tajikistan

Country Strategic Plan (2023 – 2026)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (Aug 25 – Jan 26) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
95.3 m	73.38 m	4.14 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 conducted participatory workshops in GBAO and Rasht Valley to introduce its project “Engaging Youth Smallholder Farmers through Agri-Tech for Improved Food Security and Value Chains”, contextualise 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 and encouraged their active engagement and continued support. Through group discussions, WFP also identified local priorities such as target communities, crops, and relevant technologies, while also listening to and learning about the challenges faced by farmers.
- In Tajikistan, agricultural conditions vary significantly by region due to differences in climate, infrastructure, soil quality, and water resources. Understanding these local realities is therefore crucial. WFP remains committed to aligning the project with the needs and challenges of local farmers, to ensure the initiative contributes meaningfully to improving their livelihoods. The project is funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Humanitarian Operations Support for Afghanistan

- In June, the UN Humanitarian Air Service, managed by WFP, undertook seven international passenger flights between Dushanbe and various airports in Afghanistan. More than 50 passengers benefited from these flights.



WFP supported young Valijon Mirzoev from mountainous Varzob District to introduce mushroom production in his house for the first time. ©WFP/Nasrullo Ramazonov

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)