

Tajikistan

Tajikistan joined the Coalition in April 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Science in July 2023 around the following areas: Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

Ensuring food security and access to high-quality food, particularly by promoting nutrition for children through school meals, is one of three strategic priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan through 2030. The government has adopted a six-year State Programme for the Development of School Meals (2022-2027) to increase school meals coverage to 50%, upgrade infrastructure and establish sustainable markets for agricultural products by connecting local producers to schools. This outlines a phased handover from a WFP-funded programme to one that is nationally funded and government-owned. To date, USD 4.5 million (44 million TJS) has been allocated by the government and 94 schools have shifted to government funding (70% previously supported by WFP).

In support of the effort, the government has:

- Established an intersectional coordination council to engage relevant ministries.
- Prioritized the upgrade of school kitchens and canteens, with new standards mandating that schools undergoing construction or renovation include facilities for food preparation and dining. In 2024, approximately 130 were constructed or renovated.
- Trained school administrators and government focal points. Regulatory and operational documents, including monitoring tools, have been developed and endorsed.
- Improved the school meal data management systems.
- Approved new staffing structures for school canteens, including cooks and nutritionists.
- Collaborated across sectors to ensure students' access to healthy food and conduct nutrition education activities.
- Promoted the procurement of food from local farmers, contributing to the development of local agricultural markets.
- Worked with schools to pilot income-generating activities that aim to diversify meals, produce complementary foods and generate additional resources – such as orchards, greenhouses, and beekeeping.

Next steps

The government plans to develop the next five-year State Programme for School Feeding Development, to include an implementation strategy, budget, monitoring and evaluation framework and roadmap for fully transitioning to national funding beyond 2027. On 20-22 November 2025 Tajikistan will the second international School Feeding Forum of the CIS countries to share best practices in school meal implementation.

Additional priorities highlighted by the government include:

- Improved infrastructure; only 53.4% of schools currently have functional kitchens or canteens and only 22% have school gardens.
- Capacity building of government stakeholders, local authorities and schools to improve implementation.
- Promoting healthy eating habits and improving dietary culture, as well as enhanced research, improved nutrition tracking, and regular assessments of the health of primary school students.

Highlights

- Adoption of six-year State Programme for the Development of School Meals (2022-2027) to increase school meals coverage to 50%, upgrade infrastructure and establish sustainable markets for agricultural products.
- Phased handover from WFP-funded programme to one that is nationally funded and government-owned. USD 4.5 million allocated (44 million TJS), allowing 94 schools to shift to government funding.
- Promoting the procurement of food from local farmers and piloting income-generating activities such as orchards, greenhouses, and beekeeping.
- 2nd International School Feeding Forum of the CIS countries will be held in Tajikistan on 20-22 November 2025.