



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

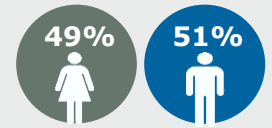
April 2018

In Numbers

32 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0 six months (May - October 2018) net funding requirements.

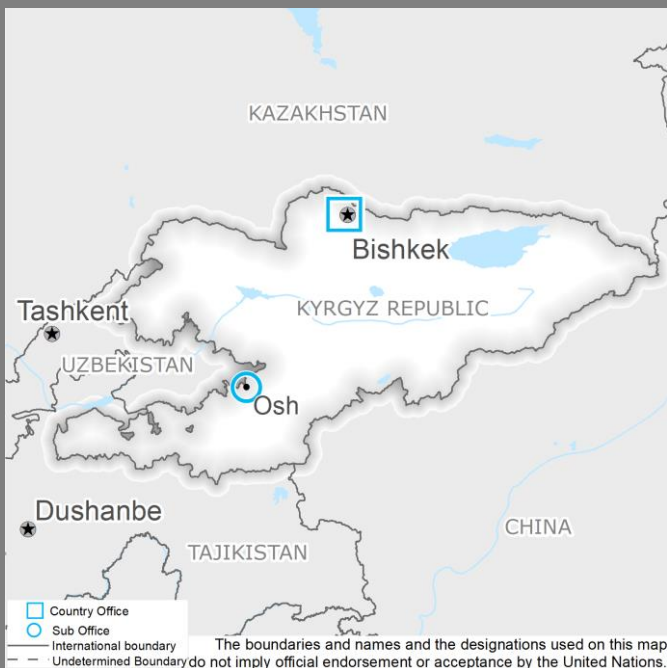
26,575 people assisted in APRIL 2018



Operational Context

Two-thirds of the Kyrgyz Republic's multi-ethnic population live in rural areas, which are the poorest areas, and quarter of the population live below the national poverty line of USD 1.3 per day. As of 2016, GDP per capita stands at USD 1,077.

The country's high dependency on the import of basic food items, particularly wheat, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable food insecure households, who spend over half of their household income on food. Poor food diversification can lead to malnutrition; 12.9 percent of children under 5 suffer from stunting and 43 percent suffer from anaemia.



Population: **6.1 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **120 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2015 Gender Inequality Index: **90 out of 159**

Operational Updates

- On 16 April, WFP, amongst other UN agencies, participated in a planning workshop of the second phase of the "Cross-border cooperation for sustainable peace and development" project. A teleconference was organized with UN cross-border project team in Tajikistan to agree on joint plan of activities. First coordination meeting between the teams has been scheduled for 15-16 May, to be held in Dushanbe.
- On April 17, WFP Country Director met with the World Bank Country Manager for the Kyrgyz Republic and discussed issues of strategic coordination and cooperation. The World Bank expressed their interest in rolling out the optimized school meals to higher school grades and support to the Cost of the Diet study, collaborating in the activity and towards resource mobilization.
- In April, the Ministry of Education and Science recommended 85 schools for launching preparation works for the 6th round of capacity strengthening and school meals improvement activities. This will include the renovation and provision of equipment for school kitchens, activities to enhance nutrition and quality of the meals.
- In April, WFP conducted two programmatic meetings in Bishkek and Osh involving more than 270 school directors and local authorities. The meetings were chaired by the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic. General information on the optimising school meals programme, as well as detailed roadmap for organization of meals, safety and hygiene requirements were presented. Each pilot school reported on the current progress within resource mobilization and further actions required to launch hot meals in September 2018. Mercy Corps and the Social and Industrial Food Institute, as main programme partners, were also in attendance to the meeting in Bishkek.
- On 27 April, WFP and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU will serve as a legal framework for WFP to commence its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) implementation (which had already been endorsed by the Prime Minister in November 2017).

Main Photo

Credit: WFP
Caption: School children in Aksy of Jalal-Abad province

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Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategy Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
59 m	17.5 m	0

*May-October 2018

WFP Country Activities

- SO 1** Provide school meals to primary school-aged children and strengthen the capacity of government institutions and schools to implement school meals
- SO 2** Provide support in productive assets creation to vulnerable communities and food insecure smallholders
- SO 3** Provide capacity strengthening to food insecure smallholders
- SO 3** Provide capacity strengthening to local community members and authorities
- SO 3** Provide support for protective and risk reduction assets creation and rehabilitation to communities vulnerable to climate-change and natural disasters
- SO 4** Provide capacity strengthening to national institutions
- SO 4** Provide evidence-based analysis to relevant national institutions

Challenges

- The Kyrgyz Republic faces severe micro-nutritional deficiencies; in part due to low quality of food and poor dietary diversification, contributing to high levels of anaemia. Stunting is prevalent in 43 percent of children and 35 percent of girls and women aged 15 to 49. Moreover, 13 percent of children aged 24 to 59 months suffer from chronic malnutrition, as a result of the inadequate consumption of nutritious food in the Kyrgyz Republic (National Statistics Committee Demographic Health Survey, 2012).

Monitoring

- Under CSP Outcome 1, 201 field monitoring visits to schools to check the progress of implementation and provide coaching to project stakeholders were conducted (93 percent of the monthly plan). Under the CSP Outcome 2 and 3, 59 sub-districts were visited as a follow-up to district-level consultations (conducted in early 2018) to verify local needs, prioritize the planned field activities and coach district commissions and local project stakeholders on project proposal formulation and implementation requirements. Project implementation monitoring visits under Outcomes 2 and 3 will start from May 2018.
- WFP Kyrgyz Republic is working on extending the use of mobile data collection through WFP's Mobile Data Collection and Analysis (MDCA) tool. This will include all progress monitoring and reporting systems, serving as the key data provider on the planned and actual activity results.
- WFP's beneficiary hotline is fully operational and incoming feedback is regularly tracked by M&E unit. During April, no high-risk issues were reported though monitoring visits or WFP's hotline.
- In April, WFP hosted a mission on Strategic Evaluation of WFP's Support to Enhanced Resilience from the Office of Evaluation.
- M&E knowledge exchange visit was conducted between WFP Kyrgyzstan and WFP Armenia to learn lessons and best practices applied in the implementation and monitoring of the school meals programme in two countries.

Partnerships

- In April, WFP, as a chair of UNDAF Priority 1 "Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrial, rural and agricultural development, food security and nutrition", shared the vision and plans of UN partners linking the UNDAF with new 'Unity, Trust, Creation' Government programme at the Development Partners' Coordination Council meeting.
- WFP's activities are implemented in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Science, Health, Labour and Social Development; Emergency Situations; Agriculture; the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry; the Vocational Education Agency; the National Statistics Committee; and National Institute of Strategic Studies, and Bishkek City Administration.
- WFP, in partnership with FAO and UNICEF, co-chairs the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, and Social Protection working groups of the Development Partners' Coordination Council (DPCC). WFP, FAO and UNICEF have been assisting the Government in developing a national food security and nutrition programme, and are working together in the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) movement.

Donors

Japan, Norway, The Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation, Sweden, The United Kingdom

