



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief August 2018



Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a land-locked, mountainous country located at the centre of the Eurasian continent with a territory of 199,000 sq. km. The country borders China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Two-thirds of the country's multi-ethnic population live in rural areas, which are the poorest areas, and a quarter of the population lives below the national poverty line of USD 1.3 per day. As of 2017, GDP per capita stands at USD 1,272.

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-related expenses. Poor food diversification can lead to malnutrition; in the Kyrgyz Republic, this translates to 13 percent of children aged from 2 to 5 years old suffering from stunting and 43 percent of children affected by 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**

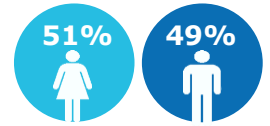
In Numbers

725 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 34,201 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six months (September 2018 – February 2019) net funding requirements

11,273 people assisted in August 2018



Operational Updates

- Between 1-3 August, the Government and UN press services jointly visited several rural infrastructure projects, including WFP project sites in Uzgen, Nookat, and Kadamjay districts, within the framework of the 2018 Regional Development Year. The media groups were filming a TV show featuring the long-standing success of projects under the Country Strategic Plan aimed at agricultural production enhancement, rural assets improvement and disaster risk mitigation.
- On 13 August, WFP Country Director participated at a meeting of the National Council for Sustainable Development under the chairmanship of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The participants discussed the draft of the National Development Strategy of the country for 2018-2040, including issues related to food security and nutrition.
- In August, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project experts conducted an oversight mission to visit the new WFP processing workshops in Aksy, Uzgen, Alay and Aravan districts. During the visit, the JICA experts observed the capacity and potential of milk processing, fruit drying and canning facilities, and gave their technical recommendations on 'starting a business' processes, hygiene and marketing. JICA expressed its willingness to partner with WFP's interventions in producing quality products.
- In August, WFP participated in the nationwide August Education Conference organised by the Government. The Ministry of Education and Science initiated a special session on nutrition in schools where the Ministry together with WFP presented the work plan of the School Meals Programme and its roadmap for the next five years.
- Between 27-29 August, WFP Country Director conducted an oversight visit to Talas province to monitor the implementation of WFP projects and meet with the Governor and local authorities to update them on the joint implementation of the Country Strategic Plan.

Contact info: Daniyar Alymkulov (Daniyar.alymkulov@wfp.org)

Country Director: Andrea Bagnoli

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

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (September 2018- February 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
59 m	26.4 m	0.00 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: All primary school-aged children in the Kyrgyz Republic have access to safe, adequate and nutritious food all year round
Focus area: *Optimizing School Meals*

Activities:

- Provide school meals to primary school-aged children and strengthen the capacity of government institutions and schools to implement school meals

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable and food insecure smallholders, in particular women, in the most vulnerable geographic areas of the Kyrgyz Republic have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks to better support food security and nutrition needs all year round
Focus area: *Supporting smallholders*

Activities:

- Provide support in productive assets creation to vulnerable communities and food insecure smallholders
- Provide capacity strengthening to food insecure smallholders

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure communities in areas that are highly vulnerable to climate change have strengthened food systems and are more resilient to shocks all year round
Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to local community members and authorities
- Provide support for protective and risk reduction assets creation and rehabilitation to communities vulnerable to climate-change and natural disasters

Strategic Result 4: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions at central and decentralized levels have strengthened capacities for comprehensive food security and nutrition management by 2030
Focus area: *Capacity building*

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to national institutions
- Provide evidence-based analysis to relevant national institutions

52 percent of households were found as 'marginally food secure' consuming minimally adequate food, and being unable to afford the essential non-food expenditures. These households are at risk of becoming 'food insecure' in the event of any shock. Among the major shocks to food security are high fuel and food prices.

- The results of the baseline Food Security Outcome Monitoring point at high correlation between food insecurity and poverty and confirm the relevance of the selected targeting principles of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) activities.

Challenges

- The formal agreement by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is still pending for the launch of the extended Cross-Border project between Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic funded by the Peacebuilding Fund.

Partnerships

- On 16 August 2018, WFP Programme Policy Officer gave a lecture at the University of Eastern Finland on Food Law and Policy as part of a partnership agreement between WFP and the university signed in 2016. The students had the opportunity to hear about WFP work in policy design and implementation, particularly the development of the Food Security and Nutrition Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2023, as well as field level interventions.
- 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; the National Institute of Strategic Studies; and Bishkek City Administration.

Donors

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

Monitoring

- The baseline round of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) conducted in the targeted areas revealed that 6 percent of households had a 'poor/borderline' Food Consumption Score (FCS) with a three-times higher prevalence among the poorest households (18 percent), who were more likely not to consume haemoglobin/protein-rich foods. Other findings include that 38 percent of women of reproductive age did not reach the required Minimum Diet Diversity (MDD) while