



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief September 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 imported 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 2 to 5 years old suffer from stunting and 43 percent of children are affected by anaemia.



Population: **6.1 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **122 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index: **91 out of 189**

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan)

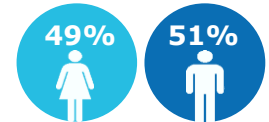
## In Numbers

**263 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 84,278** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 0** six months (October 2018 – March 2019) net funding requirements

**40,880 people assisted** in September 2018



## Operational Updates

- As part of its activities, WFP in Kyrgyz Republic provides mini-processing equipment to targeted vulnerable communities to address food security needs through the reduction of post-harvest loss and value added agricultural production. For 2018, WFP has planned to open and launch a total of 16 mini-processing workshops on dairy processing, wool cleaning, drying fruits and vegetables. By the end of September, 10 workshops were launched and their products were supplied to local markets. On 17 September, WFP Country Director had an opportunity to attend the official opening of one of the dairy workshops in Lahol village in Naryn province. The opening event had the participation of the Governor of Naryn province and members of Parliament, who expressed appreciation to WFP for its valuable contribution towards the province's rural development.
- The national "Skills, Knowledge and Practice" (SKaP) Programme of short-term courses is aimed to improve the capacity of smallholders and their agricultural production. Between 26 April 2018, when the agreement was signed with the Government on the Country Strategy Plan, and September, WFP contracted 59 rural specialists from 8 vocational schools to provide practical consultations to farmers and to conduct training sessions at the village level. Since the start of the project in May, until September, 2,665 beneficiaries have received training in animal husbandry, computer and financial literacy, veterinary medicine, cooking and agronomy.
- Between 5-7 September, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) management visited the Kyrgyz Republic. The mission visited two WFP pilot schools in Chui province and the FAO-supported Logistics Centre in Kemin district. The meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science was organized by WFP where the Optimising School Meals collaboration was discussed.
- WFP has been implementing the Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) Programme jointly with national partners in five target urban locations. Currently, over USD 120,000 has been distributed as cash entitlements among more than 900 vulnerable project participants. On average, each project participant receives USD 170 for participation in these asset creation activities and around USD 80 for capacity building and training activities.

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (Oct. 2018- Mar. 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

**Monitoring**

- The baseline round of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) conducted in August 2018 in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) targeted areas, revealed that one in two households (49 percent) have applied 'stress' livelihood coping strategies, such as borrowing money or reducing agriculture expenditures. This indicates a reduced ability to deal with shocks. 17 percent of households have applied 'crisis' coping strategies, such as selling productive assets, which directly reduces productivity. Moreover, every tenth household (10 percent) has applied 'emergency' coping strategies, such as selling land, selling last livestock

herds, or not sending children to school. These coping behaviours affect future productivity and are more difficult to reverse.

- The results of the baseline Food Security Outcome Monitoring in the CSP-targeted areas reveal that a large proportion of the population is marginally food-secure (52 percent of households) and is consuming minimum adequate food but do not engage in 'emergency' coping strategies. These households are at risk of becoming food insecure in the event of any shock. 4 percent of households are 'moderately food insecure', they have significant food consumption gaps or can meet the minimum food needs only by applying irreversible coping strategies.

**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**

- In September, WFP co-chaired two working group meetings of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC). The DPCC on Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (ECCDRM) focused on informing partners regarding the upcoming mission of the National Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership under the Paris Agreement. The DPCC on Agriculture and Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition discussed National Regional Development Policy with development partners and representatives of the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 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 the Bishkek City Administration.

**Donors**

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