



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief October 2018

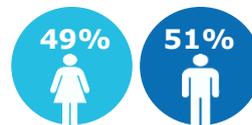


## In Numbers

658 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 six months (November 2018 – April 2019)  
net funding requirements

49,924 people assisted  
in October 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**

2018 Human Development Index:  
**122 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## Operational Updates

- On 16 October, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Ha Tae Yok, visited the WFP office and met with the Country Director and WFP team. During the meeting, the parties discussed the WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022, WFP's successful experiences with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in the country and possible areas for further collaboration.
- On 19 October, the WFP project "Climate services and diversification of climate sensitive livelihoods to empower food insecure and vulnerable communities in the Kyrgyz Republic," was approved at the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board. The project, which has a total budget of USD 9.6 million for four years and total number of 102,000 direct beneficiaries, will start in January 2019.
- Between 21-25 October, the Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Gulmira Kudaiberdieva, presented the School Meals Optimization programme, which was implemented with the support of WFP, at the high-level panel of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in Tunisia. Prior to the Forum, the Minister visited programme-assisted schools with a press tour to see the progress of the programme and to raise public awareness on school-related issues, including nutrition.
- In October, WFP supported 1,200 vulnerable and food-insecure households with a total cash-based transfers of USD 123,000 through community-based projects aimed at improving the food security of vulnerable populations. WFP supports capacity-strengthening of low-income households, protection of productive assets from the risks of natural disasters, and rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure. On average, project participants receive either USD 170 for taking part in asset-creation activities or around USD 80 for their participation in capacity-strengthening and training activities.

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### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (December 2018 - May 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
58.9 m	26.4 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 WFP-supported areas revealed that households in the targeted communities have insufficient economic capacities to withstand shocks and stressors. The average share of expenditures devoted to food was 49 percent among all households

residing in the targeted areas and 59 percent among the bottom 20 percent of the sampled households in terms of income (the poorest). These households spend more than half of their food budget on starch-based products, such as wheat products, potatoes, sugar, and tea.

- One-third of the households in targeted areas rely on income from agriculture, 23 percent rely on income from irregular non-qualified labour, and 20 percent rely on irregular money transfers from remittances. Relying on unstable and risk-prone economic activities, the majority of sampled households (77 percent) have reported that they are currently in search of an additional or alternative income source for their families. In spite of significant economic vulnerabilities faced, only 20 percent of the households living under the national extreme poverty line reported receiving the government poverty-targeted social assistance transfer (Monthly Benefit for Poor Families), and only 2 percent participated in the Government's Public Works Programme.

## Challenges

The formal agreement by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is yet to be finalised, pending the launch of the extended Cross-Border Project between Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, which is funded by the Peacebuilding Fund.

## Partnerships

- In October, WFP received the "Best International Partner" award from *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* in the Kyrgyz Republic for the "Optimising School Meals Programme". Through the programme, GIZ and WFP were able to provide hot meals in seven rural schools in Naryn and Issyk-Kul provinces in 2018. WFP will further promote collaboration with GIZ at the country level.
- WFP's activities in the Kyrgyz Republic 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, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.