



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief December 2018

In Numbers

2,579 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 165,587 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six months (February - July 2019) net funding requirements

114,126 people assisted
in December 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 suffering from stunting and 43 percent of children 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

- In December, under the Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) scheme, 1,438 participants of WFP projects received cash entitlements in the total amount of USD 165,587, reaching a 99.3 percent disbursement rate for 2018 out of an overall total of USD 610,000. The remaining 0.7 percent will be disbursed in January 2019.
- On 19 December, WFP conducted a one-day Heads of Units Retreat to discuss achievements and lessons learned from the first year of the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022). All outcome managers and heads of functional units had an opportunity to bring forward and discuss challenges and possible solutions. The exercise was combined with the Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2018 End-Year Review and the APP 2019 Planning Phase.
- In December, the newly appointed Minister of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic participated in two field visits to WFP projects in Naryn and Talas provinces. The Minister had an opportunity to meet with the district project committees headed by local authorities, governors of Naryn and Talas provinces, and to visit WFP pilot schools. The strengthening of cooperation and coordination to better target vulnerable households for joint projects was discussed.
- In December, six 2-day training sessions were organized by the Social and Industrial Food Service Institute (SIFI) for 106 school cooks who recently joined the WFP Optimising School Meals (OSMP) Programme in Chui, Naryn, and Talas provinces and Bishkek city. Participants were trained on sanitary and hygienic requirements, nutrition, cooking technology, quality control and food safety, and other aspects of the programme.
- WFP, together with SIFI, completed an engineering assessment of the seventh round (86 schools) of pilot schools for the OSMP. As part of the assessment, programme engineers conducted a technical assessment, which included a calculation of the estimated equipment matrix, necessary measurements and recommendations. As a result, technical designs for each school were prepared.

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 Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)
58.9 m	27.9 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

rehabilitated infrastructure assets, and 71 percent are using it to meet various needs for agriculture or other key livelihood activities. Eighty-three percent of households stated that access to irrigation water improved, and more than half of participants stated that their crop productivity increased.

- Community assets that were protected from natural disasters helped to better secure livelihoods: 77 percent of participants who were involved in the rehabilitation of such assets stated that they perceived their livelihoods to be sufficiently protected from natural disasters.
- Most of the households that participated in the training activities (90 percent) are currently using the skills gained in practice, with 62 percent receiving additional income.

Challenges

- There is a significant funding gap for Strategic Outcome 4 that focuses on strengthening the capacities of government institutions in the field of food security and nutrition management.

Partnerships

- On 5 December, WFP and FAO held the second joint retreat to discuss the results achieved under the Collaboration Workplan (2018-2022). They also discussed the challenges and plans for 2019. The workplan envisions the joint promotion of food security and nutrition, cooperation under the Optimising School Meals Programme (OSMP), building synergies under social protection, joint awareness-raising for SDG2 and SDG17, and joint activities for climate change and disaster risk management.
- On 10 December, as part of efforts towards achieving SDG17 and 70 years anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, WFP management participated at high level conference with the title of “Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a basis of constitutionalism and parliamentary democracy in the Kyrgyz Republic.” The conference was chaired by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and brought together representatives of all government agencies, parliament, international organizations and civil society. “Right to food” was discussed as one of the universal human rights.

Donors

Green Climate Fund, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and Sweden.

Monitoring

- The results of the post-project monitoring conducted through phone-based interviews among 1,000 households participating in the Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) activities in 2018 suggested that project activities were relevant and useful to address household and community needs. Ninety-one percent of households reported being satisfied with the state of