



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief January 2019

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 into 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**

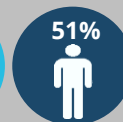
2018 Human Development Index:
122 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index:
91 out of 189

In Numbers

74,277 people assisted
in JANUARY 2019



84 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

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

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP organized extensive community consultations in all targeted provinces jointly with local project committees in order to ensure community-based participatory planning. During these consultations, WFP was able to confirm community ownership, maintenance of assets and project sustainability. It is an effective approach guaranteeing that the voices of targeted beneficiaries are included in the common action plan with the Government for greater synergy, efficiency and coordination. Project Implementation Committees (PIC) collected project proposals for 2019 in all targeted districts (27) and towns (5) in alignment with regional and local development priorities. As part of the community consultations, focus group discussions were held at a village level with women, men, elderly and persons living with disabilities (PLWD) to verify collected project proposals. As it is the second year of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and there is more knowledge about WFP projects, greater commitment and interest from local partners were observed.
- On 11 January, in preparation for these community consultations, WFP received a no-cost induction training for the social inclusion of PLWD in community projects by the local association of PLWD. Moreover, the association provided a list of non-government organizations that work with PLWD in the country and that receive social contract funding from the Government for greater synergy in community-level project planning. As a result, WFP staff enhanced their skills and knowledge in social inclusion of PLWD for field-level projects.
- Between 18 and 22 January, province-level meetings with the participation of the Minister of Labour and Social Development were held in Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces. Review of the first year of the CSP, including its achievements and future plans, was held with participation of the governors and PIC members. The mission visited project sites including pilot schools with school gardens, disaster risk reduction projects with mudflow catchers, and income-generation projects with micro processing facilities.

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Photo Caption: A household in Naryn province over a traditional drink. WFP/Maxim Shubovich

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
58.9 m	27.9 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)
12.7 m	0 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

- During January, monitoring visits were related to preparations for district and community consultations to identify the needs and to prioritise the field-level activities of Strategic Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 of the Country Strategic

Plan 2018-2022. Community consultations were also aimed at assessing the sustainability of completed WFP-supported Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) projects and to evaluate the level of maintenance and functionality, benefits to the community, as well as local capacities to manage climatic risks. Results of the conducted district and community-level consultations will be available in February. They will be used to prepare field-level project proposals throughout the year and inform on achievements and lessons learnt from completed activities.

- No complaints about project implementation were registered through the beneficiary hotline in January. One call was received with the request for information about the project, beneficiary eligibility criteria and requirements. The requested information was provided to the caller.

Challenges

- Although the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approved the “Climate Services and Diversification of Climate Sensitive Livelihoods to Empower Food-Insecure and Vulnerable Communities in the Kyrgyz Republic” Project in October 2018, the first funding tranche is expected only by mid-2019, after finalisation of all agreements between WFP and the GCF. In anticipation of this timeframe, WFP already has begun planning and preparation of these Outcome 3 project activities.

Partnerships

- On 29 January, a joint meeting with the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) was conducted with the participation of the Minister of Labor and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic under the framework of the thematic working group on Social Protection. This working group is co-chaired by WFP and UNICEF. The minister presented his vision of the Social Protection Sectoral Strategy to donors and invited all stakeholders to strengthen coordination and collaboration.
- On 31 January, the Ministry of Emergency Situations organized coordination meeting dedicated to the results of joint work in the area of disaster risk reduction (DRR) with the participation of partner organizations, including UN agencies. WFP in the Kyrgyz Republic and two WFP staff were awarded special appreciation certificates from the Ministry for their cooperation and valuable contributions with the Government in the implementation of the DRR Strategy in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Donors

Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and Sweden.