



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief March 2019

## In Numbers

54,459 people assisted  
in MARCH 2019



54 mt of food assistance distributed

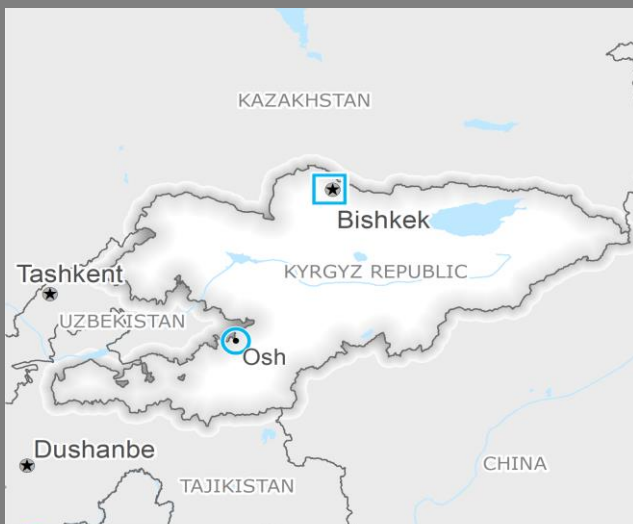
US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six months (April-September 2019) net  
funding requirements

## 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, the gross domestic product (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 suffering from stunting and 43 percent of children being 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 4 March, an official grant signing ceremony was held at the Japan Embassy, awarding USD 90,000 to help provide daily hot meals to more than 3,500 primary school students in eight rural schools in two provinces of the country. This donation will build on the proven success of school meals improvements implemented by WFP over the last few years in partnership with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science (MOES).
- On 13 March, on the occasion of the International Day of School Meals, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) planted 3,000 apple trees at 15 schools in Chui province to support the development of school gardens at these schools. The fresh produce grown in these gardens will be used to improve the diversity of the school menus and will strengthen the sustainability of school feeding. The first 120 seedlings were planted at the Kudruashov School in the town of Orlovka by MOES representatives, the Embassy of the Russian Federation, FAO and WFP.
- In March, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, together with WFP and the Ministry of Health, held meetings with school principals, representatives of the District Education Departments, and local authorities to plan the integration of the hot school meals programme in 93 schools. The launch will take place at the beginning of the 2019–2020 school year.
- In March, there were several events involving the major donor, the Russian Federation. The WFP Kyrgyz Republic's Representative visited Moscow to meet with Russian counterparts to discuss the first year of implementation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and perspectives on future programmes. In connection to the visit of the Russian President to the Kyrgyz Republic, the WFP Representative gave an [interview](#) to the "Russian Newspaper". WFP also submitted operational updates on support of the Russian Federation to WFP in the Kyrgyz Republic to the Russian Embassy and the Kyrgyz Government for further sharing with the visiting delegation.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>58.9 m</b>	<b>26.4 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April–September 2019)
<b>12.6 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

### 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

- Under Strategic Outcome 1, more than 200 monitoring visits were conducted to schools in accordance with the March monthly plan. Schools were visited for process monitoring and to check compliance with activity

requirements. The frequency of monitoring visits to these schools was based on the schools' capacity and performance regarding the implementation of the optimized feeding model. The 19 schools that started to provide optimized school meals during the 2018–2019 academic year were visited for progress monitoring and to learn of any challenges that they are facing.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria, 145 pre-selected households were visited to carry out Strategic Outcome 2 monitoring activities. This included the random verification of Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE) Project eligibility for these households that were pre-selected by the project committee.
- These Strategic Outcome 2 monitoring visits also aimed to support district project committees and addressed the needs identified earlier this year during district- and community-level consultations. More than 214 project proposals from district project committees were submitted for WFP's Project Review Committee (PRC) screening and review.
- In March, no complaints about project implementation were registered through the beneficiary hotline.

## Challenges

- Green Climate Fund (GCF) Field-Level Agreement negotiations are ongoing at the corporate level. The project was initially slated to start on 01 January 2019.

## Partnerships

- On 05 March, a UN Talks event was held, where more than 400 young people gathered in Talas town to listen to speeches on successful life skills strategies and on choosing employment and career paths. This event was held under the auspices of the UN as part of a global International Women's Day campaign to promote the rights and opportunities of women and girls and to promote equality, innovation and technology.
- On 20 March, a UN Tree Planting event was organized to celebrate the International Day of Forests and to support a national greening campaign. The objective of the tree planting is to improve humidity and dust protection for the city, especially for the schools. The event was supported by WFP, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and FAO. The trees were planted by the UN staff and high-school students in two city schools.
- Between 27 and 29 March, the "Defining WFP's Contribution to Improving the Prospects for Peace - Kyrgyzstan Case Study" was presented and discussed during the WFP and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Phase 1 Research Workshop in Rome. The workshop is a key part of the established Knowledge Partnership between WFP and SIPRI to strengthen the contribution of WFP food assistance to peace.

## Donors

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