



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief May 2019

In Numbers

68,008 people assisted
in MAY 2019



648 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 34,805 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six months (June–November 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, 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 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 15 May, WFP and Saferworld supported a gender sensitivity training for 80 participants, both women and men, on WFP projects in rural communities of Aravan district. In particular, the training focused on gender stereotypes, expectations from men and women prevailing in the society, social roles, gender norms, gender equality and legal norms guaranteeing equality.
- In May, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) and the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) agreed to conduct disaster preparedness training in schools located in communities most vulnerable to environmental shocks and hazards. The training focusing on disaster risk management and simulation drill will be conducted by the Training and Retraining Centre for Civil Protection Specialists of the MES in 40 schools supported by WFP's School Meals Programme.
- In May, WFP and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) conducted workshops for a group of vulnerable smallholder farmers from the south of the country. The farmers learnt new techniques for fish farming, including pond construction, water filtration, feeding of fingerlings, and other useful information. The training was provided as part of WFP's support to improve food diversity and nutrition of low-income smallholder groups to launch community-based fish farms.
- On 23 May, as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Strategic Coordination Committee meeting, WFP Representative met with the Prime Minister and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to discuss the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and the progress under UNDAF Outcome 1 related to food security and nutrition.
- On 23 May, a School Meals event was organized by the Bishkek City Hall at school #27 to commemorate one-year successful collaboration within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the municipality and WFP, which aimed to bring hot school meals to city schools. The Deputy Mayor of Bishkek city and the Deputy Minister of Education and Science participated in the event.

Photo Caption: WFP beneficiaries in Kerme-Too district of Osh province. WFP/Danil Usmanov

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
58.9 m	26.4 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June–November 2019)
12.6 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

education departments who were trained to conduct process monitoring and collect data through WFP's Mobile Data Collection and Analysis (MDCA) tool. These schools were visited for process monitoring and to verify compliance with activity requirements. The random, academic year-end school monitoring is being conducted by a contracted third party to meet accountability standards. The findings of the monitoring will inform if corporate gender and accountability indicator targets were met.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Outcomes 2 and 3 of the CSP, 136 pre-selected households from 86 field project activities were visited before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility for households that were pre-selected by the project committee.
- One complaint caused by low level of awareness about the amount of food entitlement was registered through the beneficiary hotline in May. Consultations on the case were immediately conducted, and project beneficiaries were sensitized once again about the targeting criteria and project entitlements.

Challenges

- Currently, there is an 80 percent funding shortfall for the remaining years of the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022 under Strategic Outcome 2 that focuses on supporting vulnerable and food insecure smallholders.

Partnerships

- On 28 May, WFP and the international non-governmental organization Good Neighbors International signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch a partnership aimed at improving school meals and food security in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- 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 and Sweden.

Monitoring

- Around 400 monitoring visits were implemented in schools under Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which corresponded to the monthly plan for May. Of this, 30 visits were conducted by the monitoring specialists of the district