



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief July 2019

In Numbers

16,561 people assisted
in July 2019



657 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 86,508 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six months (August 2019 - January 2020) 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 1,220.

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

- In July, preparatory works for the launch of school feeding were underway for the 93 rural schools of the seventh round, as well as for replication schools, which will provide hot meals with WFP technical support using their own funding. As part of the school meals launch process, 12 training sessions for 178 school cooks will be arranged across the country. The school meals recipes of the Kyrgyz-language cookbook were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic (MoES) for review and approval.
- WFP jointly with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) conducted a feasibility study for the establishment of a Logistics Center to support the needs of the School Meals Programme in introducing the 'Farm to School' model in four selected districts – Aravan (Osh province), Bazar-Korgon (Jalal-Abad province), Kadamjai (Batken province), Sokuluk (Chui province). In addition, WFP and SIFI conducted a needs assessment and feasibility study on the establishment of Regional Centres of Competence within the national vocational education system to serve as regional training hubs for school cooks and other staff involved in the school meals organization.
- On 2 July, National Rural Women's Day was held as part of the joint Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE) Project. More than 100 RWEE project participants, high-level government representatives, keynote speakers, and UN representatives gathered in Aksy District of Jalal-Abad province to discuss the role of rural women in local development.
- Between 2 and 5 July, the Gender Evaluation Mission (inception phase) visited WFP Kyrgyz Republic as a part of the global review of WFP's corporate Gender Policy 2015-2020, its associated guidance and implementation activities. The mission met WFP partners and visited field projects including for the RWEE Project.
- Between 15 and 17 July, the WFP Kyrgyz Republic All-Staff Retreat was held and led by Mr. Douglas Miller, a UK-national team building facilitator. Focus themes included communication, trust, sharing information, innovation, feedback and coaching.

Photo Caption: WFP beneficiaries in Chek-Abad village of Jalal-Abad province. WFP/Danil Usmanov

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) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 58.9 m | 26.4 m |
| 2019 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March– August 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

available infrastructure and readiness status to start providing the optimized feeding models.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Strategic Outcome 2 of the CSP, 52 pre-selected households from 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. All of these households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. More than 30 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the implementation status of projects and to provide recommendations.
- In July, 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 beyond the planned start date of the project – 1 January 2019.

Partnerships

- On July 9, the WFP Representative met with the new Country Director of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Naoyuki Nemoto to discuss the progress of the WFP/JICA partnership and ways for further expansion, including through the new project proposal submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- Between 18 and 19 July, WFP management attended the UN Country Team (UNCT) field session in Karakol, which included a meeting with the Deputy Governor of Issyk-Kul Province. The UNCT discussed various issues regarding new UNDAF guidelines and UN reform among other topics.
- On 19 July, WFP representatives participated in the annual Mercy Corps (MC) planning meeting with the school directors and the presentation of the new 2019-2021 programme of MC.
- On 31 July, WFP met with representatives from the Global and Transnational Education team of the University of Eastern Finland to update the joint action plans under the current partnership. The issues such as social workers' capacity development; research and data analysis; school meals and nutrition situational analysis, including joint advocacy efforts; and fishery's training were discussed.

Monitoring

- More than 60 monitoring visits to schools were implemented under the Strategic Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), which corresponded to the monthly plan for July. These schools were visited to examine

Donors

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