



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief August 2019

## In Numbers

8,222 people assisted  
in August 2019



181 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 72,861 cash-based transfers made

### 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 August, WFP implemented the "Purchase for Progress" pilot project to increase market opportunities for target smallholders and to support local economic development, national food security and the domestic production of staple foods through procuring food from amongst vulnerable smallholders. WFP competitively selected milling company "Dan-Azyk" in Osh province to participate in this project. Consequently, Dan-Azyk purchased wheat from WFP target smallholder farmers in Kara-Suu, Nookat and Aravan districts and used this wheat to produce fortified wheat flour for WFP project distribution. One hundred mt of wheat were purchased from local smallholder farmers by the milling company.
- WFP signed grant agreements with four local self-governments to transfer mini-processing equipment, under the funding from the Government of Japan, to support local food security and nutrition interventions focusing on vulnerable households. These target communities will be able to reduce their post-harvest losses and improve their value-added production using wool processing, fruit and vegetable drying, and canning equipment.
- On 21 August, WFP's School Feeding Programme had a meeting with the Director of the non-governmental organization (NGO) 'Good Neighbors International', based in the Republic of Korea, to discuss their joint project of a school-based bakery and greenhouse in Chuy Province. The project envisages the opening of a local bakery in the village of Kamyschanovka which will produce products for the entire village and may distribute their bakery products to neighboring villages. This project will create additional jobs for those in the community.
- Throughout August the WFP Representative had a series of meetings, including a courtesy meeting with the Ambassador of China to the Kyrgyz Republic, and a meeting with the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kyrgyz Republic, to discuss further collaboration and partnerships. WFP is organizing a dedicated field visit for the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Talas province in mid-September.

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Photo Caption: WFP drinking water project beneficiary from Achy village of Aravan district. WFP Photo/Maksim Shubovich

## 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) (October 2019 – March 2020)
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

## Monitoring

- More than 90 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools under Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) were carried out in August. These schools were visited in order to check their infrastructure and readiness status to be able to begin the optimized school feeding model.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Outcome 2 of the CSP, 92 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 households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. More than 120 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the implementation status of projects and to provide recommendations for further enhancement.
- Twenty-nine project proposals from the District Project Committees (DPC) have been submitted for WFP's Project Review Committee (PRC) screening to review the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities.
- In August, 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 1 January 2019 start date of the project.

## Partnerships

- Between 13 and 14 August, the UN Country Team Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Working Group convened to discuss the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Report findings, review progress towards UNDAF outcomes, and operationalize a plan for joint UN system support for the SDGs. WFP was engaged in developing the UNCT Road Map and Action Plan to support the Kyrgyz Republic in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- On 27 August, the Kyrgyz Republic United Nations Operations Management Team (OMT) retreat was held in Bishkek with the participation of OMT members from 14 UN Agencies. WFP has been chairing the OMT since 2018. The Team discussed the Business Operations Strategy workplans and developed an action plan for the implementation of the Secretary General's business operations targets.
- On 28 August, the WFP Representative had a meeting with the Vice Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament Ms. Aida Kasymalieva to discuss the upcoming hearing of the revision of the National School Feeding Law and the next steps of the optimisation of the national school feeding system.
- On 30 August, the WFP Representative had a regular coordination meeting with the Minister of Labour and Social Development to discuss several topics, including the Social Development Strategy.

## Donors

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