



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief September 2019

In Numbers

63,422 people assisted
in September 2019



598 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$95,592 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 US\$1.3 per day. As of 2017, GDP per capita stands at US\$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. Anaemia prevalence is high in the country, women – 38 percent, children – 43 percent.



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 12 September, the opening ceremony of the wool mini-processing workshop in Naryn province was attended by WFP management, local partners and the members of the District Project Committee. WFP have contributed to expand the capacity of the target community for small business production of wool products and handicrafts through provision of training and equipment.
- On 13 September, WFP Representative met with the newly appointed Minister of Education and Science to discuss the current status of joint cooperation between the two organizations under the school feeding programme.
- On 17 September, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and the office of Good Neighbors International in the Kyrgyz Republic organized the launching ceremony of school feeding in the Kamyshanovka school for more than 600 students. Good Neighbors International carried out the necessary repair and construction work and WFP provided technical assistance. This is one of the examples of WFP partnership with the Government and non-governmental organization for effective implementation of school feeding in the country.
- Between 19-20 September, the new Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kyrgyz Republic visited WFP projects in Talas province. The WFP Representative and the participants took part at a symbolic launch of hot meals at Talas School #2 and visited an infrastructure project (rehabilitation of an irrigation canal). The overall feedback from the Ambassador was very positive.
- Between 24-25 September, the cross-border simulation exercise was organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic in Tuura-Tash village of Batken province. The representatives of governing bodies, Civil Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic for emergency response, and Red Cross/Crescent of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the event. WFP participated as part of the Disaster Risk Coordination Unit/Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (DRCU/REACT). The earthquake simulation was exercised on DRCU assessment and reacting to the basic food needs of the Government during emergencies.

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Photo Caption: WFP staff member in the Osh warehouse. WFP Photo/Maksim Shubovich

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
58.9 m	26.6 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2019 – April 2020)
12.6 m	0 m*

* While the overall 6-month net funding requirement is zero (US\$), the CO still requires US\$0.15 m for SO2 and US\$0.7 m for SO 3.

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 400 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools under Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) were carried out in September. These schools were visited to assess their capacity to launch the optimized school feeding

programme in the 2020-2021 academic year and to discuss future plans with the local authorities.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Outcome 2 of the CSP, 32 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. In addition, more than 70 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the implementation status of infrastructure projects and provide recommendations.
- Twenty-eight project proposals from the District Project Committees have been submitted. WFP reviews the quality and potential impact of the proposed field level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 15 rural municipalities.
- In September, 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 which is beyond the planned starting date of the project - 1 January 2019. However, WFP Kyrgyz Republic has been engaged in the preparation process of the project.

Partnerships

- WFP management attended the UN Country Team (UNCT) Retreat. The participants discussed how the UN can support the Kyrgyz Government in achieving and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- WFP Representative attended the retreat between the Office of the President and the UNCT. The WFP Representative made a presentation on behalf of the Results Group (RG) 1 (Economic Growth Pillar) of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) regarding the progress and the future plans of the RG. Participants decided on the roadmap for interaction on the SDGs for the Office of the President and the UNCT in the Kyrgyz Republic with clear next steps.
- The new Governor of Naryn province conducted an official visit to WFP Country Office to discuss the current partnership and future programming under the WFP-project funded by the Green Climate Fund.
- WFP management participated at the event on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China. It was an opportunity to discuss possible future cooperation.

Donors

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