



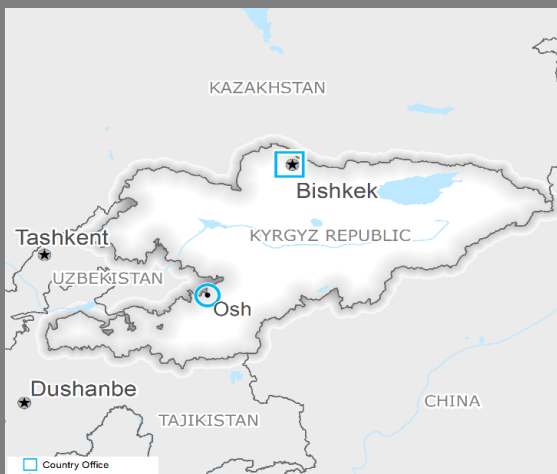
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief October 2019

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. 22.4 percent of the population live below the poverty line and according to the "2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in the total population is 23.9 percent (2016-2018).

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. This translates into 13 percent of children aged 2 to 5 years suffering from stunting. Anaemia prevalence is high, women – 38 percent, children – 43 percent.

The WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018–2022, approved in November 2017 by the Executive Board, focuses on four Strategic Outcomes: providing hot school meals for primary school-aged children; supporting vulnerable and food-insecure smallholders to enhance their livelihoods; strengthening resilience to shocks and climate change for vulnerable communities; and capacity-strengthening of government institutions for a comprehensive food security and nutrition management system.



Population: **6.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index:
122 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index:
91 out of 189

In Numbers

67,772 people assisted
in October 2019



549 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$78,000 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

- On 10 October, WFP launched the School Meals Cookbook, a unique compilation of 150 nutritious recipes that aim to promote a healthy and diverse diet for schoolchildren. The cookbook was developed by the Ministry of Education and Science with the support of WFP and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute. This unique guidance will be used by school cooks all over the country to plan and prepare diverse and nutritious menu, with special focus on fresh, locally available ingredients and nutrition requirements for the school-age children.
- On 23 October, the School Meals Law initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science was endorsed during the final hearing of the Kyrgyz Parliament. WFP provided technical and legal support throughout the process of drafting and discussing the law. The law on optimized school meals was designed to ensure solid frameworks for setting up and sustaining safe and nutritious school meals system benefitting all the primary school children in the country.
- On 24 October, 586 young people benefited from WFP peacebuilding efforts on the border between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. WFP organized short-term training courses in sewing, carpentry, welding, computer literacy, gardening and wool processing. Such income-generating activities are designed to create more employment opportunities, contributing to decrease social tensions and grievances and enhancing a peaceful conducive environment in the cross-border area.
- In October, nearly 600 vulnerable households in 5 small towns received WFP assistance under the Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) programme for participating in small community development project activities, which included income-generation, agriculture enhancement, promotion of infrastructure access and disaster risk mitigation works.
- During October, 600 vulnerable smallholders benefited from disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects. These set of WFP activities support the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) of the Kyrgyz Republic and the local authorities in Talas, Batken and Jalal-Abad districts; it focuses on strengthening river banks and planting trees in order to mitigate mudflow and soil degradation risks.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	27 m
2019 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2019 – May 2020)
13 m	0 m*

* While the overall 6-month net funding requirement is zero (US\$) and the donor funding is earmarked for specific activities, the CO still requires US\$0.15 m for SO2 and US\$0.7 m for SO3.

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 450 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools under Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) were carried out in October. 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, 72 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 committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. In addition, more than 120 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects and provide recommendations.
- Thirty-four project proposals from the District Project Committees have been submitted. WFP reviews the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 21 rural municipalities.
- In October, no complaints about project implementation were registered through the beneficiary hotline.
- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) results showed that the levels of satisfaction with the implemented projects is very high (96 percent) - with high use of created assets (reported by 75 percent of households) and knowledge (reported by 83 percent of households) among most households - reflecting the relevance of the activities tailored to the communities' needs.

Partnerships

- As a lead-up to World Food Day, WFP, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) organized consultations on nutrition for shoppers during the "Healthy Family Dinner for Zero Hunger" events in different locations of one of the biggest supermarket chains in the country. It was part of a nutrition awareness campaign inviting families to calculate the nutritional and caloric value of products they were purchasing for a family dinner.
- On 4 October 2019, WFP in cooperation with the University of Eastern Finland, FAO and the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University organized a Fish Awareness Day in one of the WFP-supported schools in Naryn province. The objective of the event was to widen the knowledge of primary schoolchildren about the health benefits of fish.
- Between October 18-25, WFP hosted an expert mission from the Republic of Korea (RoK) as part of a feasibility study of a project concept note submitted to the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) under 2021 multi-bilateral funding for Kyrgyzstan. This innovative idea on youth entrepreneurship for zero-waste was prepared by WFP in consultation with the Kyrgyz government and has gained strong support by local KOICA office and the RoK Embassy.
- WFP provided assistance to the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in the formulation of the draft legislation titled "Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Assistance in Emergencies." It contributed to the areas on food security based on international nutrition standards and norms.

Donors

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