

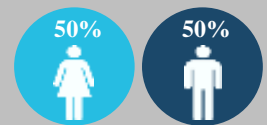


SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief December 2019

In Numbers

73,465 people assisted
in December 2019



1,065 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$7,041 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. 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

Operational Updates

- Within 2019, in support of vulnerable and food insecure smallholders, WFP implemented more than 1,000 community development projects across 300 rural sub-districts. WFP projects have enabled rural communities to build and restore access to critical community assets - drinking water, veterinary treatment facilities, and the rehabilitation of such productive assets as irrigational canals, water reservoirs and dams. In addition, WFP projects focused on strengthening skills and capacities of vulnerable smallholders and initiated various income-generation activities in beekeeping, fish-farming, agro-forestry and greenhouse businesses, which have helped to improve their livelihoods, food security and nutrition status.
- On 4 December, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic signed the School Meals Law which was previously approved by the Parliament. The law was drafted by the Ministry of Education and Science with technical support from WFP. It ensures the long-term sustainability of school feeding and creates conditions for replicating the WFP model of freshly cooked and nutritious school meals to all schools around the country. It also provides the legal basis for organizing school gardens and voluntary contributions from parents, other individuals and legal entities to support school meals.
- WFP continued to actively support the National Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Platform in the Kyrgyz Republic and has taken a leading role in co-facilitating activities of the platform. WFP has coordinated and finalized the joint assessment and 2019 Nutrition Budget Analysis of the SUN Movement in the Kyrgyz Republic. The results were shared with the SUN secretariat and presented at the SUN Global Gathering in Nepal. On 9 December, the important messages from the SUN Global gathering were presented to local media during a press conference in the Kyrgyz Republic that was led by the Minister of Agriculture and the SUN team.
- In December 2019, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) together with WFP organized a Nutrition Festival for primary schoolchildren at six schools in Chui province where the Optimized School Meals Programme is operating. The Nutrition Festival aimed at promoting healthy eating lifestyle habits and hygiene through interactive methods and engaging the young audience through learning about healthy diets.

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Photo Caption: WFP disaster risk reduction project participants in Batken province. WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	27 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February- July 2020)
12 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

- The process monitoring visits were conducted as per the monitoring plan for December 2019. The data from these visits

were uploaded into the Mobile Data Collection and Analysis system (MDCA).

- More than 300 monitoring visits to the schools under the Strategic Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) were conducted by WFP field monitoring assistants and implementing partners to assess canteen conditions, meals preparation and serving process.
- Under Strategic Outcome 2 and 3 of the CSP, more than 200 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the completion of infrastructure and training projects and to monitor the food distribution process.
- In December, no complaints about project implementation were registered through the beneficiary hotline.

Partnerships

- Between 5-6 December, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic with technical support from WFP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized a meeting to discuss the detailed Action Plan for operationalization of the National Food Security and Nutrition Programme (2019-2023). The meeting gathered representatives of line ministries, province administrations, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of UN Agencies. The meeting also focused on the finalization of the Operational Guidance to ensure proper monitoring and implementation of the National Food Security and Nutrition Programme.
- On 11 December, WFP hosted a meeting of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) Working Group on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition. Co-chairs - WFP, FAO, the World Bank, and other participants of the working group discussed the newly approved School Meals Law presented by WFP and the regulatory framework on school gardening presented by FAO. WFP is also co-chairing the DPCC Working Group on Social Protection with UNICEF.

Donors

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