

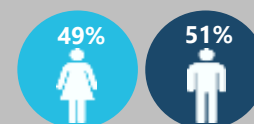
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief January 2020

In Numbers

53,707 people assisted
in January 2020

47 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made

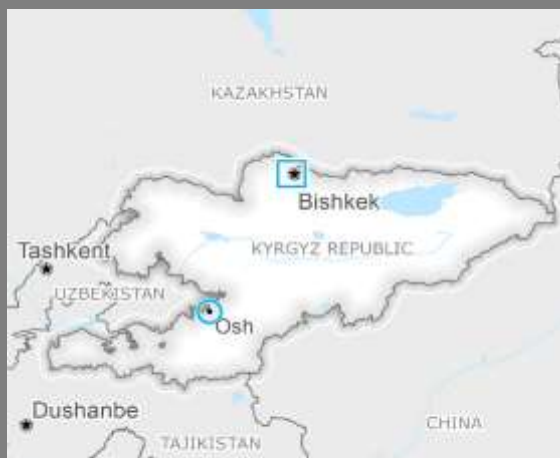


Operational Context

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 (SO): providing hot school meals for primary school-aged children (SO1); supporting vulnerable and food-insecure smallholders to enhance their livelihoods (SO2); strengthening resilience to shocks and climate change for vulnerable communities (SO3); and capacity-strengthening of government institutions for a comprehensive food security and nutrition management system (SO4).



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 January, WFP organized community-level consultations (CLCs) in all 27 target districts of 5 provinces in the Kyrgyz Republic to build more effective local partnership for greater sustainability of activities jointly with state authorities, civil society and various development stakeholders. The consultations have collected valuable recommendations from local partners and target beneficiaries to improve local ownership, accountability, sustainability and targeting of field-level activities. Total 700 community leaders (social workers, heads of village administrations and local municipalities) have been consulted on the challenges in the implementation and reporting on the Optimizing School Meals Programme, support for food security and the livelihoods of vulnerable smallholders, and the protection of productive assets from the risks of natural disasters and the shocks of climate change adaptation.
- In January, WFP supported the engineering assessment of a school canteen in Chui province and partnered with the Qatar Charity Foundation to renovate and provide canteen equipment to the school. WFP also organized consultation meetings with school staff and representatives of District Education Departments in Kochkor and At-Bashy districts in order to receive feedback on the implementation of the Optimizing School Meals Programme in their districts' schools.
- On January 30-31, WFP organized a field visit to Batken province with the participation of the Minister of Labour and Social Development and the UN Resident Coordinator to WFP projects including a pilot local purchase activity and peacebuilding projects. Over 800 direct beneficiaries in Osh and Batken provinces have received locally produced food for participating in WFP field projects, including the rehabilitation of drinking and irrigation water facilities in the border areas of Batken province. Such activities directly or indirectly reduce the drivers of conflict for natural resources in multi-ethnic communities and promote peaceful cross-border economic relations. WFP projects triggered inter-community dialogue and collaboration for joint planning and implementation of projects that address access to critical resources such as water.

Photo Caption: Kyrgyz farmer presenting his produce for local purchase. WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova

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 US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	28 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2020)
12.4 m	0* m

*While the overall 6-months net funding requirement is zero (US\$), the CO still requires US\$1.1 million for SO2 and US\$1.6 million 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

- During January, project monitoring visits were minimal, and most WFP activities were related to preparations for district and community-level consultations to identify needs and prioritize field-level activities for Strategic Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 of the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022. Results of the conducted district and community-level consultations will be available in February. They will also be used to prepare field-level project proposals for 2020 and inform lessons learnt and achievement discussions from the activities completed by WFP in 2019.
- Under Strategic Outcome 1, 35 visits to schools were conducted by district monitors as a regular evaluation of the contributions by stakeholders to provide hot school meals and to assess the composition of the school menus.
- Two calls were registered through the beneficiary hotline in January. One call was received with a request for information about the project, beneficiary eligibility criteria and other requirements. Another call was received from the Head of the Toktogul District Pasture Committee expressing his interest in the rehabilitation of pasture roads. The responsible Field Monitoring Assistants addressed the inquiries of the callers.
- According to the monitoring results at the end of 2019, project participants generally reported experiencing positive results from WFP projects. Regarding the rehabilitated assets, 97 percent of beneficiaries were satisfied with the state of the assets and 75 percent of beneficiaries were using the assets to meet their household needs. For a better quality of life, 72 percent of direct beneficiaries reported the improved access of household members to clean water.

Partnerships

- In support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), in 2019 all WFP activities were implemented with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and other development partners. To expand its partnerships, WFP signed new Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with non-governmental organizations and technical partners to boost local community development and support rural schools with poor infrastructure. Through the collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conducted a joint planning meeting to discuss social protection, climate change and to strategically develop a Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan for 2020-2021. To further support partnership-building and track the progress of national SDG implementation, WFP with other UN agencies supported the Government to prepare its first Voluntary National Review in the areas of food security, nutrition and social protection.

Donors

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