



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



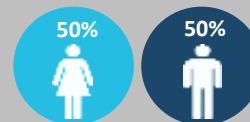
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief February 2020

In Numbers

53,523 people assisted
in February 2020

73 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

- On 14 February, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, WFP and partners met to discuss the importance of rational nutrition for social and economic progress in the country based on a large-scale analysis of "Fill the Nutrient Gap". WFP presented the results of the analysis which was based on estimates of the "Cost of the Diet" tool. It identified the barriers to adequate nutrient intake, modeled and prioritized the interventions to improve the access and attainment of nutritious diets and calculated the minimum cost and availability of diets in the Kyrgyz Republic. The analysis showed that though a purely energy-rich diet could be available for the majority of households in the country, a nutritious diet covering energy, protein, and nutrient requirements, which costs 2.5-3 times more, would be available only for three out of five households.
- In February, the Ambassador of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic visited the Kurmanjan Datka School in Osh city and the Azimov School in Jalal-Abad city on the occasion of an official ceremony to launch hot meals in eight schools in Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces. The integration of the schools into the programme was possible with the financial support from the Embassy of Japan to the local non-governmental organization TES Centre, with the technical expertise of WFP.
- On 23 February, the Defender of the Fatherland's Day, WFP conducted the #PapaCooks campaign on social media and television in order to showcase and celebrate fathers' and grandfathers' contributions to children's health and nutrition and to challenge gender stereotypes around cooking. Families shared pictures of fathers and grandfathers cooking with their children and grandchildren from their favorite recipes. A father was also filmed while cooking a meal for his children that was broadcast on television.
- As part of seasonal disaster preparedness under Strategic Outcome 3 of the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022, in February WFP reviewed and approved 28 disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects. These projects will benefit close to 3,500 vulnerable beneficiaries and reduce disaster risk to more than 1,500 residential houses, 6 schools, 3 kindergartens, 3 medical points and 58 km of roads.

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Photo Caption: Participants of a WFP income-generation project. WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova

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\$) (April – September 2020)
12.4 m	0* m

*While the overall 6-months net funding requirement is zero (US\$), the CO still requires US\$2.3 million for SO2 and US\$1.6 million 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 20 monitoring visits to the new Optimizing School Meals Programme (OSMP) schools under Strategic Outcome 1 were carried out in February. These schools were visited to assess their capacity to launch the school feeding programme during the 2020-2021 academic year and to discuss future plans with local authorities. WFP Field Monitoring Assistants and implementing partners conducted 180 monitoring visits to schools from previous implementation rounds in order to assess the composition of the school menus and

canteen conditions. Forty-three visits were conducted by the district specialists of the Ministry of Education and Science to schools of the first five implementation rounds.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Strategic Outcome 2, 23 pre-selected households from field project activities were visited before the start of the implementation. This included a 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, monitoring visits to new project areas were conducted in order to check the necessity and viability of proposed infrastructure projects and provide recommendations.
- From District Project Committees, 137 project proposals were submitted. WFP reviewed the quality and potential impact of the proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 49 rural municipalities.
- In February, no complaints about project implementation were registered through the beneficiary hotline. The WFP hotline was utilized more as an information centre by local community members. Two calls were registered where callers inquired about training opportunities.

Partnerships

- In February, WFP met with representatives of the Qatar Charity Foundation (QCF) regarding the Optimized School Meal Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic with the purpose to strengthen cooperation in launching nutritious school meals in the country. Moreover, WFP and QCF participated in the opening ceremony of the school canteen of the Baranova School in Chui province that was renovated and equipped with funding from QCF.
- WFP and the Republic of Korea-based non-governmental organization Good Neighbors agreed to cooperate in order to support the Dogdurov School in Tong district with establishing a greenhouse and the Kamyschanovka School in Sokuluk district with constructing a bakery – each to enrich the school meals’ menus in their respective schools. The bakery will also serve the needs of other schools in the surrounding of Sokuluk district.

Donors

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