



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief April 2020

## In Numbers



**37,629 people assisted**  
in April 2020

**1,034 mt** of food assistance distributed

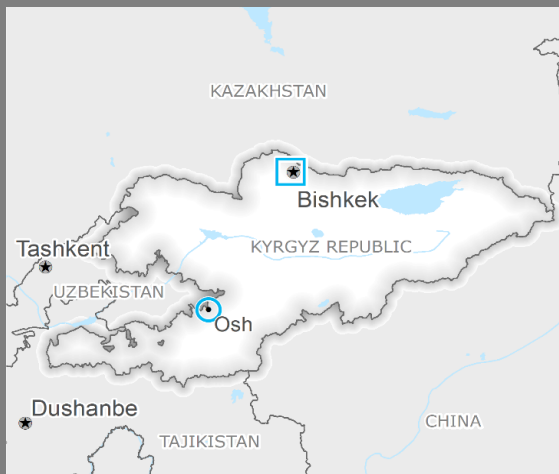
**US\$0** cash-based transfers made

## 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**

2019 Human Development Index: **122 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2017 Gender Inequality Index: **91 out of 189**

## Operational Updates

- On 28 April, President Jeenbekov signed a decree to extend the state of emergency in Bishkek, Osh, Jalal-Abad cities and for At-Bashi district until 11 May 2020. Internal roadblocks in the city of Bishkek were removed. The government announced the phased resumption of economic activity starting from 1 May, 11 May, and 21 May.
- More than 53,000 primary school children around the country will receive up to 4 kg of wheat flour as a take-home ration. WFP has agreed with the Ministry of Education and Science to utilize the food stocks which are unused at schools due to the school closure to provide additional support to the rural families in the face of the crisis.
- WFP, with funding from the Swiss Embassy implements an emergency food assistance project in support of vulnerable people living in 22 social inpatient institutions - the elderly, people with disabilities (PwD) and orphans. The total number of beneficiaries is about 3,200, including 1,140 women and 1,978 people with disabilities.
- In April under Strategic Outcome 2, WFP together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development completed distribution of 1,033 MT of food rations to 33,135 beneficiaries for their participation in various WFP community projects. The unified ration distributed was 150 KG of fortified wheat flour and 15 litres of vegetable oil per family.
- For resilience strengthening of vulnerable communities, under Strategic Outcome 3, in April WFP reviewed and approved 45 disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects to create and rehabilitate 55 community assets. These projects will benefit close to 4,000 vulnerable beneficiaries.
- WFP has assumed the leading role in coordinating the Food Security sectorial working groups on behalf of development partners in support of the Government. In this capacity, WFP continues to advocate for the food security needs and priorities related to COVID-19 response in the country.
- WFP continues to provide assistance to government and partners in monitoring the food security situation, through regular price monitoring, household poverty surveys, update of the socio-economic situation with focus on food security and nutrition in order to inform the response interventions.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP food distribution in Bishkek city. WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>59 m</b>	<b>36 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May - October 2020)
<b>13 m</b>	<b>0 m</b>

*\*While the overall 6-months net funding requirement is zero (US\$), the CO still requires US\$1.5 million for SO3 and US\$0.4 million for SO4*

### 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

- Despite the challenges of the lockdown in the country, and movement restrictions, WFP continues field monitoring where possible to support and sustain critical assistance activities countrywide. The number of monitoring visits decreased due to

the COVID-19 situation. Nevertheless, more than 90 monitoring visits to the new schools under the Optimizing School Meals Programme (Strategic Outcome 1) were carried out in April by WFP Field Monitoring Assistants.

- WFP conducted a verification exercise for its field project activities under SO 2. Pre-selected households for field project activities were visited to assess compliance with targeting criteria before the start of the implementation phase. The visits, conducted at random, included eligibility verification of households that were pre-selected by the District Project Committees (DPC). All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in the WFP projects. In addition, more than 50 monitoring visits to new project areas were conducted in order to check the necessity and viability of proposed infrastructure projects and to provide recommendations. All required recommendations were provided at each step of monitoring. Only critical projects where access was permitted to the area were monitored physically. Remote monitoring took place at 51 food distribution points.
- The DPCs submitted 53 project proposals. WFP reviewed the quality and potential impact of the proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 20 rural municipalities.
- In April, the WFP hotline received 26 calls where 24 households asked for food support and 2 respondents expressed interest in WFP targeting criteria. WFP contacted all 26 calling persons and provided the requested information.

## Partnerships

- Activated due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) prioritizes and channels its support to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic under six defined priority sectors: early recovery, education, food security and logistics, health, protection, and joint sector for water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and non-food items (NFI). The DRCU, comprised of heads of UN agencies, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, international organizations and NGOs and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, has been meeting regularly to draft and carry out the coordinated COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan.
- WFP assisted the DRCU in drafting the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan. The plan supports the Government's provision of access to multi-sectoral assistance and critical services for the most vulnerable people. It envisages six priority lines of action coordinated by the respective priority sectors and implemented through Operational Delivery Plans (ODP), where one plan exists for each sector.
- After an analysis was conducted by the DRCU on the short and long-term impact of this crisis, an ODP for the Food Security and Logistics Sector was proposed that will target 500,000 people with a budget requirement of USD 13,429,000.

## Donors

[Japan](#), [Norway](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Russian Federation](#), and [Sweden](#).