



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

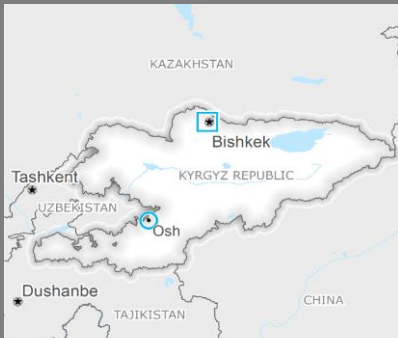
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief May 2020

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**

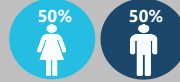
2019 Human Development Index: **122 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

79,840 people assisted
in May 2020



1,028 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$0 cash-based transfers made

Operational Updates

- In May, alarming coronavirus outbreaks have been seen across health facilities. Due to the economic shutdown during the quarantine period, more than 700,000 Kyrgyzstanis have lost their jobs. On 10 May, the Government announced the end of the state of emergency, but that the emergency situation would continue. On May 25, public transport resumed in Bishkek city.
- More than 38,500 primary school children around the country received on average 4kg and maximum 9kg of wheat flour as a take-home ration, from WFP. To support rural families in the face of the crisis, the Ministry of Education and Science distributed the food stocks previously provided by WFP to schools, which were unused due to school closures.
- On 13 May, the Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kyrgyz Republic, the WFP Country Director and the representatives of Ministry of Labour and Social Development took part in the provision of emergency food assistance to the Centre for Elderly and People with Disabilities in Nizhnaia Serafimovka village in Chui province. This was part of food assistance under the Swiss-funded project allocated to 22 social inpatient institutions in the country.
- For these social inpatient institutions, WFP also prepared and organized the dissemination of COVID-19 informational and educational materials on safety and protection procedures to patients and staff of the institutions as well as distributing informational brochures developed by WHO.
- WFP and the Social and Industrial Food Service Institute (SIFI) launched a [website](#) for parents on the Optimized School Meals Programme and healthy nutrition and handed it over to the Ministry of Education and Science.
- Under Strategic Outcomes 2 and 3, WFP together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has completed distribution of 1,008 MT of food benefitting more than 38,000 beneficiaries with a food ration of 150 kg of wheat flour and 15 litres of vegetable oil per household.
- WFP continues to assist the Government and partners in assessing the food security situation. This is done through regular price monitoring, household poverty surveys and updates of the socio-economic situation – all focusing on food security and nutrition in order to inform response interventions.

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Photo Caption: WFP Country Director and Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kyrgyz Republic during food distribution in an elderly house in Chui province. WFP Photo/Elizabeth Zalkind

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m	36 m
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July 2020 - December 2020)
13 m	6.1 m

**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

the COVID-19 situation. Nevertheless, 46 monitoring visits to social inpatient institutions under Strategic Outcome 1 were carried out in May by WFP Field Monitoring Assistants. There were 70 visits conducted by the district specialists of the Ministry of Education and Science to schools where the remaining food was distributed to the families of schoolchildren.

- WFP conducted a verification exercise for its field project activities under Strategic Outcome 2. Thirty-three pre-selected households for field project activities were visited to assess compliance with targeting criteria before the start of the implementation phase. In addition, field visits have gradually resumed and more than 50 visits were conducted to accessible areas. The distribution of food took place in 20 closed areas and were monitored remotely. Remote post-food distribution monitoring surveyed 20 percent of beneficiaries in all projects where food was delivered without WFP Field Monitors. Per the survey results, all project participants received the full amount of food, did not face any problems related to food distribution and were fully satisfied with the project and the food quality.
- The District Project Committees submitted 149 project proposals. WFP reviewed the quality and potential impact of the proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 54 rural municipalities.
- The WFP hotline received 14 calls in May with 5 calls inquiring about food assistance. WFP Field Monitors provided the callers with information on eligibility criteria. Several calls were received from participants of a project in Ak-Talaa district.

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Partnerships

- WFP continues to lead the Food Security and Logistics Sectors of the Disaster Risk Coordination Council (DRCC).
- On 12 May, WFP conducted a meeting of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) Working Group on Food Security with the participation of the Minister of Labour and Social Development Mr. Kochkorov. The minister presented an overview of the support provided for vulnerable groups of the population during the COVID-19 breakout.
- On 14 May, the meeting of the working groups on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition was conducted. WFP provided two presentations - "Briefing on Working Group 2 on Food Security Work with the Government" and on the initial findings of the Rapid Food Security Assessment.
- On 19 May, the regular meeting of the DPCC Working Group on Social Protection was conducted under the coordination of UNICEF and WFP. Recent studies related to the COVID-19 impacts on poverty, child poverty and food security conducted by the World Bank, UNICEF and WFP, respectively, were presented during the meeting.

Donors

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

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