



World Food Programme



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief June 2020

## In Numbers



**2,786 people assisted**  
in June 2020

**34 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. The population living below the poverty line is 20.1 percent (2019) and according to the "2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, the 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, that 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**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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

### Operational Updates

- The acceleration of the coronavirus outbreak continued upwards over the course of the month, including increased infections in Bishkek and amongst health workers. On 30 June, a record number of cases spiked at 279 for a total 5,596 cases across the country.
- In June, as part of a contribution from the Embassy of Switzerland, WFP together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development completed distribution of the last 34 MT of emergency food assistance benefitting 2,786 beneficiaries to social inpatient institutions (SII) in the country.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WFP School Feeding Programme and its cooperating partner, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), are developing an online training module for cooks of the eighth round of programme schools that will launch school feeding in September 2020. The new format of cooks training will be a livestreamed training resource that will ensure interactions between the school cooks and the trainers.
- On 17 June, WFP coordinated and facilitated an online meeting with 61 specialists of District Education Departments (DED) responsible for school meals, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, WFP and ADI staff. Participants of the meeting discussed the preparedness of 89 schools for the launch of hot school meals in September 2020 and a draft of monitoring guidelines for the 61 specialists of DED.
- During a 10-day field trip from 15-24 June, the Hydrometeorology Agency (Kyrgyzhydromet) (including 4 experts) jointly with WFP staff selected eight sites in the south for the installation of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS). Together they determined the optimal geolocations for the installation of the AWSs (according to requirements of WMO, with access to electricity, security, etc.), received permission for the allocation of these sites from local authorities and received the corresponding land certificates from the State Registration Service.
- Preparatory work by WFP related to the launch of the Green Climate Fund project in Kyrgyzstan is on-going.

**Contact info:** Daniyar Alymkulov ([Daniyar.alymkulov@wfp.org](mailto:Daniyar.alymkulov@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Andrea Bagnoli  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan)

**Photo Caption:** Participant of a WFP-supported income-generation project for poultry breeding. *WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova*

## WFP Country Strategy

### 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\$) (June - November 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

- Under Outcome 1, 50 monitoring visits to social institutions and more than 85 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools were carried out in June. The new pilot schools were visited to assess their capacity to launch the Optimized School Feeding

Programme for the 2020-2021 academic year and to discuss future plans with the local authorities.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Outcome 2 of the Country Strategic Plan, 78 pre-selected households from field project activities were visited before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility for households by the Project Implementation Committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in the WFP projects. In addition, 124 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the usefulness and necessity of starting the projects, the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects and the completed works. All required recommendations were provided at each step of monitoring. Remote post-food distribution monitoring surveyed 655 households across all projects where food was delivered without WFP Field Monitors during June. Food was delivered to 57 percent of households while 43 percent of beneficiaries collected food from distribution points. All project participants received food, did not face any problems at the distribution points and were fully satisfied with the project and the quality of food.
- District Project Committees submitted 106 project proposals. WFP reviewed the quality and potential impact of the proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 49 rural municipalities.
- The WFP hotline received two calls in June. The callers inquired about food rations and the timeline of food delivery. WFP Field Monitors provided the required information.

## Partnerships

- In June, WFP engaged in developing the UN Framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 within the UN Country Team. WFP leads Pillar 4 "Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers" and also continues to lead the Food Security and Logistics sectors of the Disaster Risk Coordination Council (DRCU). The DRCU Sector-based Action Plans are being finalized in coordination with all stakeholders.
- On 10 June, WFP conducted a follow up discussion with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Basic Agreement. WFP Country Director and the First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also discussed the operations related to the COVID-19 response and recovery plan.
- All food distribution was organized through the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Education and Science, and local Heads of sub-districts and villages. WFP also provided all necessary PPE items for WFP-related food distributions.

## Donors

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