



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief July 2020

In Numbers



27,610 people assisted
in July 2020

598 mt of food assistance distributed

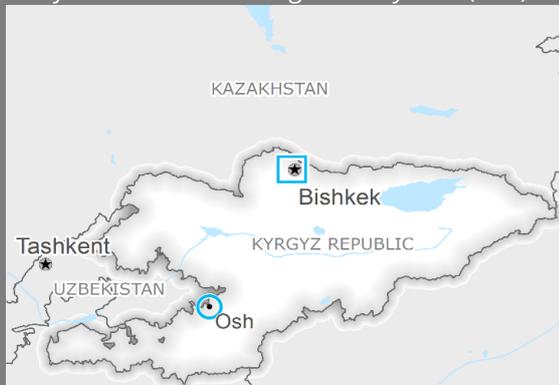
US\$0 cash-based transfers made

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

- Due to the dramatic increase of COVID-19 cases in Kyrgyzstan, with cases spiking to a high of 1,264 a day in mid-July, project implementation was greatly impacted and only critical field trips were allowed from July 13-31.
- The WFP School Feeding Programme, in cooperation with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), developed online video training materials for school cooks to be disseminated in August. Seminars on procurement and budget planning were also conducted online for local governments, regional departments of the Ministry of Education, local partners and parental committees in Dzheti-Oguz, At-Bashy and Kadamjai districts.
- Educational materials on healthy nutrition and lifestyles were also developed by SIFI for grades 3-4 for use at primary schools in the country, transformed from hard copy to an online format. The materials received endorsement from the Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Online training was conducted for WFP-supported agriculture processing workshops. The training sessions covered Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) standards, production hygiene and safety, as well as the release of new types of products, branding, marketing and the improvement of technological processes, including adapting to current public health conditions.
- WFP and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) launched the second stage of their joint project, "Information Analysis and Management System for the Crisis Management Centre" to strengthen the capacity building of the Government in disaster risk management.
- WFP and Kyrgyz Hydrometeorology Agency undertook a field trip to Naryn province to select the locations for the installation of the automatic weather stations.
- WFP and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have signed a Funding Activity Agreement for the implementation of the GCF-funded project in Kyrgyzstan. WFP will follow up on signing a country agreement with the host government.
- In July, WFP transferred most of food-for-training project activities to online platforms such as Skype, WhatsApp and Zoom in order to encourage social distancing and reduce the spread of infection.

Photo Caption: Participants of the WFP-supported project of fencing a new fruit tree plantation to protect from animals. WFP Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova

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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\$) (September 2020 - February 2021)
13 m	0 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

Monitoring

- WFP continues implementation of field activities contingent to health security measures and monitoring. Therefore, for

Outcome 1, 18 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools were carried out in July. These 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, 93 pre-selected households, identified through field project activities, were visited before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility requirements for households that were pre-selected by the project committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. In addition, 73 monitoring visits were conducted in order to verify the usefulness and necessity of starting the projects, the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects and any completed works. All recommendations that were required were provided at each step of monitoring.
- District Project Committees have submitted 33 project proposals. WFP reviewed the quality and potential impact of the proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 12 rural municipalities.
- The WFP hotline received one call in July. The caller inquired regarding the criteria to be included into list of beneficiaries. WFP Field Monitors provided the required information.

Partnerships

- WFP continued to lead the Food Security and Logistics sectors of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit and Development Partners Coordination Council to coordinate the development of the response and recovery plan for social protection as well as for food security and nutrition.
- On July 21, a planning session of the 'COVID-19 Recovery: Stakeholder Forum for a Resilient Kyrgyzstan' took place to discuss the focus, purpose and timeline of the Forum planned for late August. The coordination committee is led by UNDP, WFP, DFID, ADB, Ministry of Economy and the Soros Foundation.
- WFP has joined a national secretariat of the national 3-month information campaign on COVID-19 prevention in partnership with UNCT, Kyrgyz Government and development partners.
- On July 22, a regular Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) Working Group meeting on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition took place (the working group is co-chaired by WFP, FAO and the World Bank). The meeting was co-chaired with the new FAO Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr Adnan Quereshi. WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit presented on the existing food security challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Swiss Development Cooperation confirmed a contribution of CHF 500,000 to Kyrgyzstan to support the COVID-19 response.

Donors

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