



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief August 2020

## In Numbers



11,077 people assisted  
in August 2020

271 mt of food assistance distributed

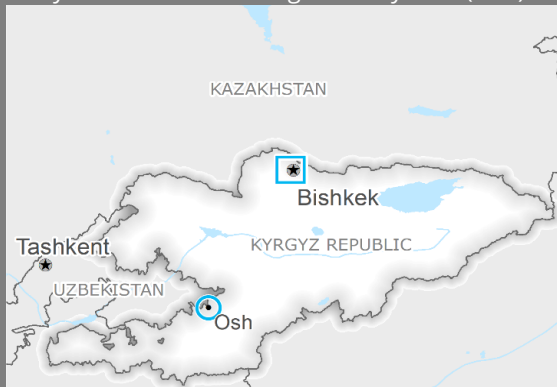
US\$0 cash-based transfers made

## 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

- In August, the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic has developed the fourth clinical protocol for the treatment of COVID-19. After the July peak went down, the capital Bishkek has removed some of the restrictions and public transport was allowed on weekends. Meanwhile, the Government tightened control and oversight over holding mass celebrations, i.e. weddings, funerals, etc.
- WFP Kyrgyzstan School Feeding Programme has developed a contingency plan to ensure that the Programme will be flexible to respond to the several scenarios of how schools will function in the first half-year of the academic year 2020-2021. This plan includes a School Meals at Home campaign with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI). There will also be awareness raising and social behaviour change materials related to child health and nutrition. The parents and children will receive weekly information materials on nutrition, tips for healthy but easily accessible cooking, recipes and menu examples.
- Due to COVID-19 and distant modality of schooling in the first quarter of the upcoming school year, except for the first graders, WFP, in cooperation with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), has been adjusting programme activities to online modality. The training for cooks was implemented online, which allowed the cooks to follow the sessions via YouTube from their homes, due to safety considerations. They also had a chance to discuss and ask questions in interactive WhatsApp sessions with the trainer.
- WFP continued to distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to all WFP staff members for usage while present in the office premises. Security guards and those working in WFP warehouses also received PPE and infrared thermometers from WFP.
- WFP and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) launched the second stage of the joint project "Information Analysis and Management System for the Crisis Management Centre" to strengthen the capacity of the Government in disaster risk management.
- The Food Security Monitoring Bulletin (at province level) is issued on bi-weekly basis to inform national stakeholders and partners on food security management.

**Photo Caption:** Participants of short-term trainings on the preservation of vegetables and fruits at home supported by WFP are applying the knowledge gained in practice.  
WFP Photo/Gulsana Kuvakova

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**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>59 m</b>	<b>37 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2020 - March 2021)
<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

- WFP continues implementation of field activities and monitoring, contingent to health security measures. Therefore, for the Strategic Outcome 1, 29 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools were carried out in August. 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 the Strategic Outcome 2 of the Country Strategic Plan, 99 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, 64 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.
- The WFP hotline received one call in August. The caller inquired regarding the time of food delivery. WFP Field Monitors provided the required information.

**Partnerships**

- In August, WFP has been engaged in finalizing the UN Framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 UN Country Team (UNCT) Kyrgyzstan. WFP is leading the Pillar 3 “Economic Response and Recovery: Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers”. The Matrix of activities and allocated budgets were consolidated.
- WFP has joined the Secretariat of the UN Communications Group to carry out a national three-month information campaign on COVID-19 prevention in partnership with UN Country Team, the Kyrgyz Government and other development partners.
- In the framework of the WFP Aviation Global Passenger Service, four flights (10, 12, 24 and 26 August 2020) from the designated hub in Sharjah, UAE to Manas International Airport were scheduled. WFP was in contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Aviation Agency on the subject and regularly updated WFP Aviation on the status of flight clearance.

**Donors**

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