



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief September 2020

In Numbers



51,381 people assisted
in September 2020

77mt of food assistance distributed

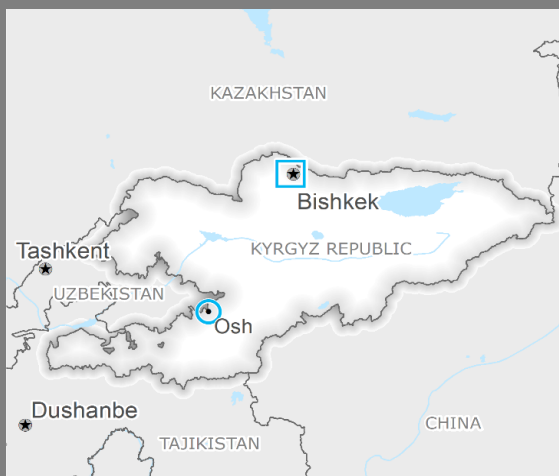
US\$0 cash-based transfers made

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 September, the situation with COVID-19 remained relatively stable with an increasing trend of confirmed cases (the greatest concentrations in Batken, Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces). Bishkek city has the fourth greatest concentration. Despite the situation, WFP continues its operations to support the most vulnerable.
- On 22 September 2020, "the decree on the approval of the regulation on the organization of school meals for schoolchildren in 1-4 grades", prepared by the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) with technical support from WFP, was endorsed by the Kyrgyz Government. The regulation outlines the main objectives of the Optimizing School Meals Programme (OSMP), its financing mechanism, organizational principles, safety and quality monitoring, and the responsibilities of programme stakeholders. It represents another achievement in the programme's institutionalization being the main implementation tool for the School Meals Law ratified by the Parliament last year.
- Under the Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEEM) Project, WFP completed community mobilization in 34 pilot villages and collected project proposals aiming to train 840 vulnerable rural women to gain skills on various topics, such as sewing, greenhouse farming, dairy processing and fish farming. Participants who are vulnerable households will receive food to address their food needs. After completion of these thematic trainings, all participants will be trained on basic business planning and financial literacy. The participants will then have an opportunity to submit business plans for project ideas to apply for grants for mini-processing equipment.
- On 24 September 2020, WFP handed over the [Food Security Atlas](#), a unique online instrument to map food security and nutrition situations across the country, to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industries and Melioration (MoAFIM) of the Kyrgyz Republic. The handover concludes a two-year partnership to digitize food security data collection, analysis, and dissemination for planning food security interventions at district-level. The online FSA collects and analyses a massive amount of real-time data on over 70 food security and nutrition indicators, providing a comprehensive and real-time analysis of food availability, access, utilization and stability at province and district-levels. This tool will support policymakers at national level and local authorities in the field to determine shocks related to food insecurity.

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

Photo Caption: Conservation process in "Bereke" workshop in Padagan village, Kara-Suu district, which was opened with the support of WFP. *WFP Photo/Nurlan Zhumbai*

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m		37 m
2020 Requirements	2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2020 - March 2021)
13 m	12 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 (Unclear.)

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 its implementation of field activities and monitoring, contingent to health security measures. Therefore, for Strategic Outcome of the Country Strategic Plan, 1, 295 monitoring visits to new pilot schools were carried out in September. 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 local authorities. District specialists of the Ministry of Education and Science conducted 276 visits to schools of the previous rounds.
- To assess compliance with the targeting criteria under Strategic Outcome 2, 31 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, 159 monitoring visits were conducted to verify the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects and any completed works.

Partnerships

- Due to the re-opening of the airspace of the Kyrgyz Republic for commercial flights and with international flights being operated by carriers such as Aeroflot, FlyDubai and Turkish Airlines to destinations as the Russian Federation, Turkey, UAE and Uzbekistan, WFP Aviation Global Passenger Service flights from Sharjah, UAE to Manas International Airport were suspended.
- On 30 September 2020, a regular Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) Working Group meeting on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition took place and was chaired by WFP. WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit presented WFP's role in monitoring the food market (prices and availability) in the Kyrgyz Republic during the COVID-19 pandemic through its bi-weekly issues of the Price Monitoring Bulletin, alongside other presentations such as using satellite earth observation data for better pasture management in the country by Mercy Corps, and initial findings from a satisfaction survey conducted among the beneficiaries in the livestock sector of the project "Small Business and Income Creation Programme Phase II (Bai-Alai)" implemented by Helvetas and Aga Khan Foundation.
- WFP continues close partnership and capacity strengthening of the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) on the national and district level for the programme management and monitoring as part of the handover strategy. As a part of this process, WFP provided 56 smartphones to the district focal points to ensure the MoES has technical capacity to implement the school meals programme monitoring activities.

Donors

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