



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



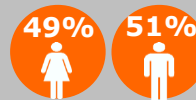
## WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief November 2020

## In Numbers

WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

637.2 mt of food assistance distributed

40,493 people (19,842 women and 20,651 men) assisted in November 2020

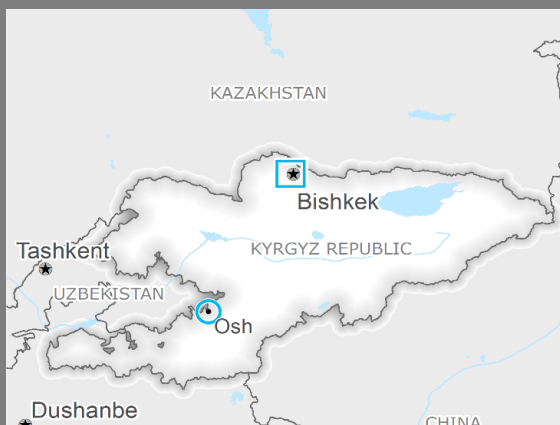


### Operational Context

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 "2020 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in the total population is 6.3 percent (2017-2019).

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: 6.5 million

2019 Human Development Index: 120 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

2020 Gender Inequality Index: 82 out of 189

### Operational Updates

- Between 2-6 November, WFP conducted online and offline training sessions on school meals preparation for 60 cooks of the 8th round schools in selected schools of the country. The trainings covered school feeding implementation, including food procurement, hygiene and safety, cooking techniques as well as the practical lessons to prepare nutritious meals.
- On 3 November, as part of WFP support in the digitalization efforts of the Ministry of Education and Science work, WFP provided 56 smartphones to district-level education departments for the monitoring and collection of regular programme data. These digitalization efforts are especially vital at district level for the education processes happening virtually due to the pandemic.
- On 20 November, the Ministry of Education and Science in partnership with WFP and the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) organized the finale of the School Cooks Competition 2020. Five finalists from different parts of the country competed for the country's Best School Cook 2020 Award.
- On 25 November, WFP Country Director Andrea Bagnoli hosted a ceremony with the Russian Ambassador to the Kyrgyzstan, N.N. Udovichenko, to celebrate the contribution from the Russian Federation allocated to support vulnerable food insecure households severely affected by socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2020-2021 period. During the ceremony, there was a handover of food assistance to support many rural families living below the poverty line.

### Monitoring

- Although the number of daily cases is decreasing, Kyrgyzstan still faces strong socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with approximately 400 positive cases per day. The political situation also remains unstable due to the delayed parliamentary elections, concerns for the upcoming presidential elections, and the proposed constitutional amendments.
- With respect to the school-feeding activity, 103 monitoring visits to the new pilot schools were carried out in November to assess their capacity to launch the Optimized School Feeding Programme in the 2021-2022 academic year and to discuss future plans with the local authorities. Also, 73 monitoring visits were conducted by WFP field monitoring assistants and implementing partners to schools included in the School

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan)

Photo Caption: WFP supports food security of families in rural areas.

Tuz village, Kochkor district, Naryn province.

WFP Photo/Danil Usmanov

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>59 m</b>	<b>38 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January - June 2021)
<b>12 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

Meals Programme in the 2020-2021 academic year in order to check the menus and canteen conditions, among other criteria.

- To assess compliance with targeting criteria in the areas covering school feeding, support to smallholders and in response to crises and emergencies, the 902 pre-selected

households from field project activities were visited before the start of implementation. This included random verification of eligibility for households that were pre-selected by the project committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. In addition, 152 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the usefulness and necessity of starting the project, the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects, and the completed works. All required recommendations were provided at each step of monitoring.

- No calls were received by WFP hotline in November.

**Partnerships**

- WFP Country Director Andrea Bagnoli met with Tilek Toktogaziev, the new Minister of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration (MoAFIM). During the meeting, Mr. Bagnoli congratulated the Minister on his appointment, briefed him on WFP activities in the country, and noted the importance of the cooperation in the areas of price monitoring, availability and access to food, the Food Security Atlas initiative and the promotion of climate-smart agriculture. The Minister congratulated on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, on receiving the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize and assured that the Ministry would continue its cooperation with WFP. His Excellency outlined three priority areas of cooperation: consolidation and development of the processing industry (deep processing), digitalization of the agriculture industry, and support for local wheat production.
- WFP Representative held a meeting with Almazbek Beishenaliev, the newly appointed Minister of Education and Science. During the meeting, the achievements and results of the joint work within the Optimised School Meals Programme were discussed. The Minister thanked WFP for the shared success of the programme and its support in improving the standards and nutritional value of the food, building modern kitchen and canteen infrastructure, establishing the Centre of Competence, and both sides confirmed their commitment to cover all primary schools in the country until 2022.
- WFP team conducted a meeting with Ms. Davlatsulton Dorgabekova, the new CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic. During the meeting, the parties informed each other about their respective established areas of activity in the Kyrgyz Republic and agreed to discuss joint cooperation and projects in Naryn and in the southern part of the country.

**Donors**

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