



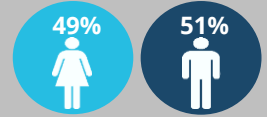
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief January 2021

## In Numbers



**90,593 people assisted**  
in January 2021

**117 mt** of food distributed

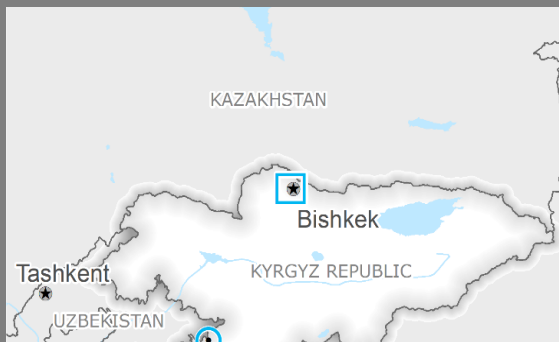
**US\$ 305,100** cash-based transfers made

### 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 "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 65 percent 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 five 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); capacity-strengthening of government institutions for a comprehensive food security and nutrition management system (SO4); and emergency support and early recovery (SO5).



Population: **6.5 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2020 Gender Inequality Index:  
**82 out of 189**

### Operational Updates

- The pandemic situation in the country is slowly improving, with less than 200 cases of COVID-19 registered every day in the past month. On 10 January, a constitutional referendum on choosing the form of governance and early elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic were conducted. According to the Central Election Commission, Sadyr Japarov won presidential elections with around 80 percent of all votes. The inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President was held on 28 January in the capital city of Bishkek.
- In January, 89 schools of the eighth round (that previously provided "bun and tea") started organizing hot, diverse and safe school meals thanks to rehabilitated school canteens, modern kitchen equipment and training for school cooks from WFP. In addition, WFP continued technical support and provision of fortified wheat flour to WFP-assisted schools of the sixth to eighth rounds that launched the Optimizing Primary School Meals Programme (OSMP) in 2018-2020 across the country. Primary schoolchildren of 249 WFP-assisted schools received 200 mt of fortified wheat flour for the period January-March 2021 to support hot school meals that satisfy basic nutritional needs.
- Due to the surge of COVID-19 cases in 2020, WFP, in cooperation with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute and the Ministry of Education and Science, adapted a number of programme activities to an online modality and developed an online course, "Basics of Healthy Eating and Lifestyles" for fourth grade schoolchildren with the aim to promote healthy nutrition and lifestyles. The online course was endorsed by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education.
- During January, under its emergency support and early recovery activities, WFP distributed US\$ 305,000 of cash-based transfers (CBT) to more than 3,000 vulnerable families for their participation in various community development projects. WFP also contracted a second financial service provider. To date, WFP has assisted more than 4,600 families (23,000 beneficiaries) and distributed a total of US\$ 465,000 to support the most vulnerable in overcoming crises and the harsh winter in Kyrgyzstan. With two strong financial partners now, WFP plans to cover more than 55,000 vulnerable beneficiaries with CBT emergency support until May 2021. Additionally, with a recent US\$ 2 million Swiss contribution, WFP plans to reach 100,000 beneficiaries of the vulnerable population by the end of 2021.

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## WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>61.87 m</b>	<b>40.74 m</b>
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February - July 2021)
<b>12.69 m</b>	<b>0.62 m</b>

### 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
- Provide short-term food assistance to vulnerable populations, including schoolchildren and people in social institutions, to meet their basic food needs during and in the aftermath of emergencies

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Vulnerable populations in Kyrgyzstan are supported to meet their food security and nutrition needs to enable their early recovery during and in the aftermath of crisis

**Focus area:** *Emergency Support and Early Recovery*

**Activities:**

- Provide emergency food assistance to shock-affected vulnerable populations

### 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 5: 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 started to use the new data collection system 'MoDa' in January 2021. WFP trained all its field staff, as well as implementing partners and government partners in its use.
- For Strategic Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP field monitoring assistants and cooperating partners conducted 95 monitoring visits to schools included in the school meals programme for the 2020-2021 academic year. During these visits, WFP checked the menus and canteen conditions, among other criteria. In total, 376 visits were conducted by district specialists of the Ministry of Education and Science to schools of the first five implementation rounds of programme schools.
- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Strategic Outcomes 2, 3 and 5 of the CSP, WFP visited a sample of pre-selected households from field project activities before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility for households that had been pre-selected by the project committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. In addition, WFP conducted 18 monitoring visits in order to verify 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.
- Eight calls were received by the WFP hotline in January. The main reason for the calls were due to delays in the distribution of CBTs. WFP field monitors responded to these individuals ensuring swift delivery of assistance.

## Partnerships

- Between 26-27 January, core staff members of the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) – the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP – met in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to develop the Collaboration Action Plan for 2021. The agencies also began the dialogue envisioned for country support for the Food Systems Summit 2021.
- On 28 January, WFP facilitated the internal meeting among UN agencies and members of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Pillar 1: "By 2022, inclusive and sustainable industrial, agricultural and rural development contribute to economic growth, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition, especially among women and vulnerable groups". The group has agreed on the process of developing the Joint Working Plan 2021-2022.

## Donors

Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.