



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

April 2021

In Numbers



78,210 people assisted
in April 2021

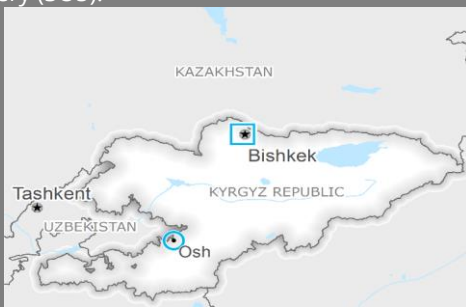
74 mt of food distributed

Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, 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. Over 20 percent of the population lived below the poverty line prior to the pandemic - this estimate is likely to have reached over 30-35 percent at the end of 2020. Together with rising unemployment, reduced purchasing power due to increased prices (+17.3 percent for staple foods) and depreciation of the national currency (over -21 percent), the reduction or loss of income experienced by more than half of the population jeopardizes the food security of vulnerable households and increases their risk of falling into poverty.

The country's high dependency on imported basic food items, particularly wheat, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable food insecure households that spend 70 percent of their household income on food-related expenses. Anaemia prevalence is high, with women at 38 percent and children at 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**

2020 Human Development Index:
120 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

2020 Gender Inequality Index:
82 out of 189

Situation Updates

- Tensions at the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan related to a water distribution point escalated on 28-29 April, leading to 36 people dead, many facilities destroyed, and an estimated 49,000 internally displaced in Kyrgyzstan. Two schools under WFP's school feeding programme were reported to be looted. The Kyrgyz Government requested support from development partners for the recovery phase. The Disaster Response Coordination Unit organized a mission, co-led by WFP and ACTED, with several UN agencies to assess the requirements of different sectors in the affected districts.
- On 11 April, a referendum on amendments to the Constitution of Kyrgyzstan was held in the country.

Operational Updates

- WFP conducted an annual exercise of community-level consultations to hear from beneficiaries and local partners. WFP met with several hundred participants, including community leaders, women's groups, heads of village councils, representatives of district departments, district education departments, sanitary epidemiological stations (SES) and municipal services across 17 districts. These consultations are an important mechanism of WFP's community-based participatory planning approach to ensure practical feedback on the quality of implemented food security and nutrition projects as well as to establish and strengthen partnerships with local institutions and other stakeholders. This year, the local consultations were also an opportunity to organize specific focus group discussions to collect community proposals for a more sustainable and inclusive food system. This initiative is part of the national initiatives in preparation for participation in the Global Food Systems Summit in September 2021.
- WFP in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) started a joint initiative aimed at planting orchard trees in more than 30 schools that implement WFP's Optimising School Meals Programme. Additionally, a series of training sessions on agronomy for WFP-assisted schools in Issyk-Kul province were held from 26 April to 1 May 2021. The schools have been trained on effective management of school gardens as an additional income generating activity. During the sessions, participants were also sensitized on the benefits of the recently endorsed government decree on school gardens, which has been included within the School Meals Law.

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

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
61.87 m	40.93 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May- October 2021)
12.69 m	2.34 m

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

- For Strategic Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022), WFP's field monitoring assistants and cooperating partners conducted 147 monitoring visits to schools included in the Optimising School Meals Programme for the 2020-2021 academic year. The aim of the visits was to review school menus, canteen conditions and to provide engineering assessments.
- To assess compliance with the targeting criteria under Strategic Outcomes 2 and 3, WFP visited a sample of 191 pre-selected households from field project activities before the start of implementation. This included the 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, WFP conducted 25 monitoring visits 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.
- In total, 191 project proposals from the District Project Committees have been submitted for consideration. WFP reviews the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities across 78 rural areas.

Partnerships

- On 28 April, the Minister of Emergency Situations on behalf of the Kyrgyz Government, and WFP's Country Director on behalf of WFP, signed the Subsidiary Agreement establishing the implementation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project approved in 2018. The agreement will secure an additional US\$ 8.6 million to support the three provinces of Kyrgyzstan most vulnerable to climate change through various climate adaptation and resilience building activities.
- In April, WFP management had high-level meetings with the Ministry of Emergency Situations to analyse the results and prospects of their mutual strategic cooperation to effectively collaborate for disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and to clarify the necessary joint steps for the launch of WFP's GCF Project.
- On 30 April, WFP and UNICEF representatives met with the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development. The purpose was to discuss governance and coordination on food security and nutrition, including the necessity of appointing a Technical Coordinator for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Multi-Sectorial Platform and the implementation of a joint action plan for the Food Systems Summit and Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.
- The Member State Dialogue Convener responsible for organizing the Food Systems Summit Dialogues programme in their country has been nominated. The Rome-based Agencies, with facilitation support from the UN Resident Coordinator, offered their support in the dialogues leading up to the summits in Rome and New York.
- WFP is closely engaged in the coordination of its upcoming Country Strategic Plan evaluation, aligning it with the United Nations Development Assistance Forum (UNDAF) and other UN Agencies' country programme evaluations.

Donors

Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.
Photo page 1: Rural Women Economic Empowerment project participant. © WFP/Aichurek Zhunusova