



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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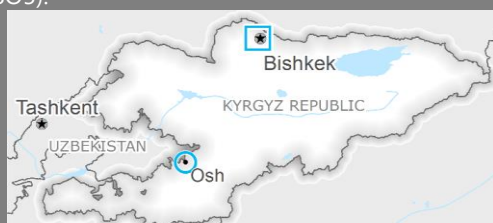
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief June 2021



Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous country with a territory of 199,000 square kilometres. The country borders China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Two-thirds of its multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. Over 30 percent of the population lives below the poverty line (2020), the estimate likely to reach 35 percent by end of 2021. Together with rising unemployment, reduced purchasing power due to increased prices (+17 percent for staple food) and the depreciation of the national currency (over -21 percent), the reduction or loss of income experienced by more than half of the population is jeopardizing the food security of vulnerable households. 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. While the prevalence of stunting, wasting and undernutrition has fallen among children and adolescents, overweight and obesity have increased. Given this and the growing concerns around prevalence of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases among adults, there is the need to take appropriate measures targeting school-age children. These conditions are often a result of poor and non-diverse diets caused by the non-affordability of nutritious foods and the limited knowledge around nutrition.

The WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018–2022 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: **6.6 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **120 out of 189**

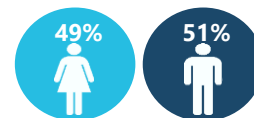
Income Level: **Lower-middle**

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

In Numbers

13,020 people assisted
in June 2021

343 mt of food assistance distributed



Operational Updates

- In June, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) jointly with WFP and the Ministry of Health and Social Development (MHSD) held six province-level meetings to plan the launch of Optimizing School Meals Programme in 60 schools starting from September 2021. More than 230 representatives of the MoES, MHSD, District Education Departments, district authorities, heads of local municipalities, school directors and other stakeholders participated in the event. During the meetings, the stakeholders discussed the organisation of the school meals for 2021-2022 academic year, including funding allocations for canteen repair/rehabilitation works, engineering recommendations to rehabilitate school canteens, food safety control and all necessary sanitary and hygienic requirements to organize hot school meals.
- On 10 June, WFP facilitated the participation of the Food Systems national Dialogue Convener in the "Asia Pacific Regional Food Systems Dialogue". The event was organized to prepare for the Food Systems Summit (FFS) which will take place in September 2021. The purpose of the meetings was to share insights from the national dialogues that are being convened on the five action tracks and to identify opportunities for regional and sub-regional collaboration.
- WFP distributed 343 mt of food to more than 13,000 vulnerable beneficiaries in June. Also in June, WFP received 365 tons of fortified vegetable oil from the Russian Federation to support poor and food insecure households in Kyrgyzstan. This assistance will support more than 27,000 families living below the poverty line throughout the country. Representatives of the Russian Embassy were present when the vegetable oil was delivered to the warehouses in Osh and Bishkek, showing the steadfast and continuous support from the donor.
- WFP will plant 1,800 acacia trees in Osh province together with Japanese partners DM Solutions and IBS Association Cooperative and the Osh Forestry Department. The acacia trees will be planted in Kyzyl-Tuu village to improve the soil quality and increase the sustainability of the region and to provide economic opportunities to the local farmers. Acacia trees can benefit farmers by nourishing the soil, fixing nitrogen levels and restoring fertility. The project participants will receive an additional five hectares of land to cultivate hay for livestock, honey production and for other agricultural use, which in turn will improve the food security and nutrition of the local populations.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
68.63 m	40.93 m
2021 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July- December 2021)
16.12 m	2.15 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), 65 monitoring visits were conducted by WFP field monitoring assistants and cooperating partners 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, a sample of 93 pre-selected households (5 percent of total number of beneficiaries) from field project activities were visited before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility for households that were pre-selected by the project committees. Two households were found not eligible and were excluded from the project. In addition, 76 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.
- In total, 58 project proposals from the District Project Committees have been submitted for consideration. WFP reviewed the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities across 21 rural areas.

Partnerships

- On 17 June, celebration of National Rural Women's Day and the conclusion of the "Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" (RWE) joint program (implemented by WFP, FAO, IFAD and UN WOMEN) took place in Bishkek to showcase the achievements of women of Kyrgyzstan and their success for its seven years of implementation. Representatives of the Government, private sector, local partners, and donor community attended the event centred around businesswomen, women farmers, women activists from rural Kyrgyzstan.
- On 2 June, WFP organized and facilitated the meeting of the Development Partners Coordination Council Working Group on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition. The working group discussed a number of issues, including the presentation of the Disaster Risk Coordination Unit's assessment findings, updates from the partners on the planned activities in Batken province and an update from the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) about planned activities by the Ministry of Agriculture and UN agencies in support of the Food Systems Summit 2021.
- On 18 June, in preparation for the Food System Summit 2021, WFP and the RCO supported the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University in planning and organizing the Scientific-Practical Conference "Food and biological security in the Kyrgyz Republic: Challenges and prospects for increasing resilience to external impacts, shocks and stresses". More than 160 academics, postgraduates and students from more than 10 universities in Kyrgyzstan participated in the conference. The conference was organized as an independent dialogue within the academic community to increase awareness of the scientific community and create a platform for active discussion on the global issues of food security.

Donors

Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.

Photo page 1: Acacia tree planting. © Photo/Aichurek Zhunusova