



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

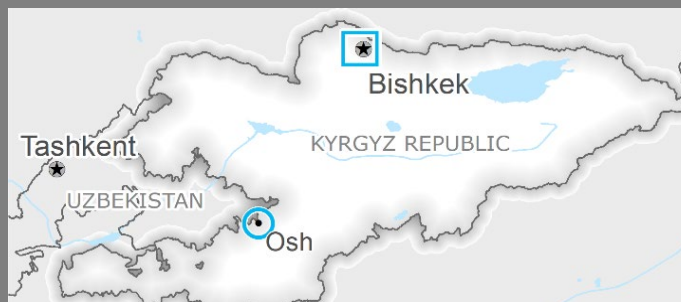
August 2021



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.



Population: **6.6 million**

2020 Human Development Index:
120 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

2020 Gender Inequality Index:
82 out of 189

Highlights

- In preparation of publications on poverty, food security and nutrition, with analysis also feeding into the ongoing Common Country Analysis, WFP intensified its collaboration with the National Statistics Office and worked with experts in WFP Headquarters to update the [Cost of the Diet/Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis](#) that identifies barriers faced by the most vulnerable to accessing and consuming healthy and nutritious foods: Actively looking into food systems solutions for the healthy Kyrgyz people and a healthy planet, WFP continues to support the Kyrgyz commitments to be announced in the Food Systems, COP26 and the Nutrition4Growth (N4G) Summits.

Operational Updates

- WFP continued technical support for the rehabilitation of school canteens and the delivery of modern kitchen equipment to 61 schools, ahead of the new school year 2021/2022. As of August, the majority of schools (88 percent) have finalized construction and renovation works in school kitchens and canteens. Since 2013, WFP has supported over 700 schools in organizing the provision of hot school meals to primary school children.
- In August, WFP supported more than 4,500 beneficiaries with 306 mt of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil as an incentive for participation in Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food Assistance for Training (FFT) activities in the most remote areas of the country. In addition, WFP distributed cash-based transfers (CBT) to more than 2,400 vulnerable and food insecure women and men affected by COVID-19 for participation in WFP projects on the ground.
- WFP, jointly with cooperating and national partners, continued awareness raising and capacity building activities for WFP-assisted schools and parents of primary schoolchildren on the importance of healthy eating and diversified diets with a focus on increasing community support to improve the school menus planned for August-September 2021. It is expected that schools will enhance their menus with more diverse and nutritious food thanks to additional parental contributions starting from September 2021, which will mitigate the adverse effects of increasing prices for food products used in school meals. Moreover, WFP jointly with partners provided guidelines on effective development of diversified school menus for the District Educational Departments of the Ministry of Education and Science and WFP-assisted schools, taking into account market prices, preferences for dishes, the size of parental contributions, and the ability to use products from the school gardens. WFP also conducted regular trainings for parents, where they discussed the school feeding program and its advantages. To ensure the sustainability of the school feeding program, active parental involvement is essential. Parents can take part not only in financial matters, but also participate in the oversight of the quality of food and ensure the development of school meals in their communities to improve the nutrition of their children.

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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\$) (September 2021 – February 2022)
16.12 m	2.06 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

- Fifteen women self-help groups received equipment for mini businesses opened earlier. The new equipment will allow the villagers to launch income-generating activities, including sewing shops, bakeries, incubators for raising chickens and a workshop for packing dried fruits.

Monitoring

- In total, 65 monitoring visits were conducted by WFP field monitoring assistants and engineers to prepare the launch of the next round of implementation schools to join the School Meals Programme for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- To assess compliance with targeting criteria under Outcomes 2 and 3, 23 households selected for project activities were visited by staff before project start. The visits included random verification of eligibility for households that were pre-selected by the project committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible to participate in WFP projects. Additionally, 111 monitoring visits were conducted in order to check the necessity of the project, the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects, and the status of completed works.
- The independent evaluation team performing the [evaluation of the CSP 2018-2022](#) were supported during the Inception phase, as was the ongoing UNDAF evaluation.
- In August, 79 project proposals from District Project Committees have been submitted. WFP will review the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in eight towns and seven rural areas.

Partnerships

- On 12 August, WFP team headed by the Deputy Country Director Ms. Hilke David had a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr. Azamat Mukashev, the Director of State Enterprise "Aylmaalymat" Mr. Semetei Turusbekov and the new head of the Food Security Department under the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Mr. Daniyar Januzakov. Several areas of joint activities were discussed, including strengthening the food availability data collection and use of Food Security Atlas (created by WFP), support for the MoA Digitalization Strategy, and implementation of Skills, Knowledge and Practice (SKaP) component of the WFP-Green Climate Fund (GCF) project. The MoA representatives informed WFP regarding new projects requiring support from international partners, such as the Anti-Crisis Stabilization Fund, the Carbon Hub and the Development Plan for Batken province.
- Preparations with focal point nominations have been ongoing to start the inception phase of WFP's GCF project [Climate services and diversification of climate sensitive livelihoods to empower food insecure and vulnerable communities in the Kyrgyz Republic](#).

Donors

Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.

Photo page 1: A participant of WFP disaster risk reduction project. © WFP/Photo gallery.