



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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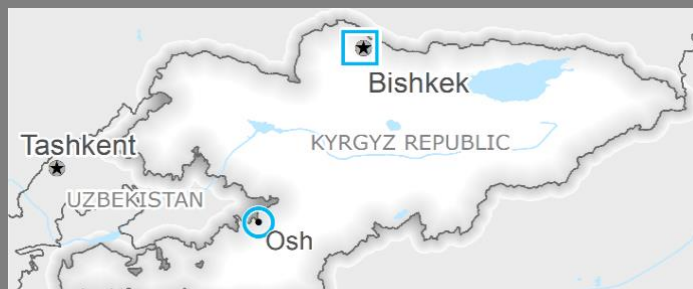
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief September 2021



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 25 percent of the population lives below the poverty line with an additional 8 percent being at risk of poverty (2020), the estimate likely to reach 35 percent by end of 2021.

Together with rising unemployment, reduced purchasing power due to increased prices (19 percent for staple food) and the depreciation of the national currency (21 percent compared to pre-COVID), 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 for which food make up 65 percent of their expenses. While the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight has fallen among children and adolescents, overweight and obesity have increased. 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 and healthy diet. 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 children and adolescents.



Population: **6.6 million**

2020 Human Development Index:
120 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

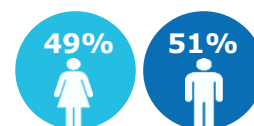
2020 Gender Inequality Index:
82 out of 189

In Numbers

706 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 317,000 cash based transfers made

68,672 people assisted
in September 2021



Operational Updates

Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit

- Ahead of the N4G Summit hosted by the Government of Japan in December 2021, WFP in partnership with UNICEF organized a roundtable discussion in Bishkek focused on commitment-making, which is at the heart of the Summit. The roundtable brought together representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture Water Resources and Regional Development, the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry of Education and Science, civil society, private sector, academia, donors, other UN agencies and stakeholders to reflect on nutritional priorities and challenges, as well as agree on key areas of focus for the country commitments.

Food Systems Summit (FSS)

- On 29 September, WFP organized a press-breakfast with media representatives to raise awareness on the FSS and its key objectives. It brought together experts on nutrition and food systems, government officials and representatives of the UN agencies. The meeting was an opportunity to raise awareness among the public and the stakeholders about the FSS, mobilize people through mass media and follow up on recommendations made during the national dialogues conducted in June-July 2021.

Partnerships

- On 16 September, WFP met with the Minister of Health and Social Development (MHSD), the Deputy Ministers and the Heads of Departments to discuss the socio-economic situation in the country and future collaboration. The Minister pointed out that according to the government prognosis the upcoming nine months will be extremely difficult. They expect a COVID-19 fourth wave, electricity shortages, drought and food security related challenges. WFP and MHSD agreed to continue their close cooperation, including providing assistance to the targeted food insecure people.
- WFP arranged a donor visit to Osh city for the Swiss Embassy to showcase assistance to vulnerable people in urban and peri-urban areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants received cash transfers as an incentive for creating community assets and participating in skills training sessions for better job prospects and enhanced income opportunities.
- On 27 September, the Government with support from WFP conducted a round table on the draft of the Mid-term Development Programme (2021-2026). The national consultation was an opportunity for development partners to share feedback and propose recommendations.

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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\$) (October 2021 – March 2022)
16.12 m	1.68 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 the Kyrgyz Republic 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

School Feeding

- WFP organized six trainings for school directors, local authorities, accountants of schools, focal points from the District Educational Departments/City Educational Departments (DED/CED) in four provinces to inform them of the benefits of school gardens and to identify plans to strengthen the business models for school gardens as income generating activities.
- Before the start of the school year in September, 147 WFP assisted schools received 84 mt of fortified wheat flour that will be used to provide hot school meals during September-November 2021. The delivery of WFP food was organized with the support of MHSD.
- WFP jointly with the Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance (DGSEN) under MHSD initiated work to strengthen regular monitoring of the quality, safety and efficiency of hot meals for primary school children. WFP and DGSEN visited 17 schools with the aim to strengthen school menu development activities, compliance with sanitary minimums for school cooks and cooperation of schools with DEDs and DGSEN on district level. Based on the results of these visits, WFP and DGSEN will develop appropriate measures to increase the capacity of DGSEN staff on district level on the school feeding monitoring.

Smallholder support and cash transfers

- WFP supported more than 24,000 beneficiaries with 706 mt of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil as an incentive to participate in projects in remote areas of the country. In addition, WFP distributed cash transfers to more than 18,000 vulnerable and food insecure women and men affected by COVID-19. This initiative will enable early recovery in the aftermath of a crisis, strengthen employability, as well as build assets for the community.
- WFP held several technical level meetings with key UN agencies involved in cash programmes in the country. The meetings produced a joint agreement on improving the coordination of cash programmes.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP is actively engaging in stakeholder mapping and consultations to build effective and long-standing synergies with development partners and national stakeholders for the Green Climate Fund. The established technical collaboration platforms will discuss a variety of issues ranging from climate change adaptation measures, disaster preparedness and community mobilisation. Meanwhile, WFP has supported the Government's initiative on building public awareness on Disaster Risk Reduction through an awareness building campaign under the coordination of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and in collaboration with other development partners.

Donors

Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.

Photo page 1: WFP works to ensure food security and nutrition of all citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. © WFP/Photo gallery.