



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

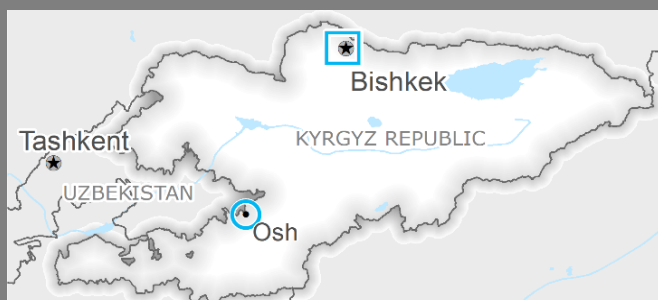
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief November 2021



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 makes 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 unaffordability 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



DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



In Numbers

712 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 270,500 cash-based transfers made

313,644 people assisted
in November 2021

49%



51%



Operational Updates

Politics

- Parliamentary elections were held on 28th of November. As past elections have attracted protests, violence, and political unrest, WFP and other UN agencies halted all field operations two weeks prior to voting, including food distributions to avoid the risk of politicisation. After vote counting was complete, some parties held rallies demanding a re-run of the elections, however the EU, US and OSCE recognised the results as free and fair. Field operations have since resumed in line with SMT recommendations.

Disaster Risk Reduction

- As part of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Month, WFP together with the Ministry of Emergency Services (MoES) conducted awareness campaigns to public on the tools available to mitigate hazards and prevent disasters. WFP through its social media pages launched a series of publications dedicated to its DRR activities in the most disaster-prone areas of the country. Practical information was disseminated on ways to conserve the environment and rehabilitate degraded ecosystems. The social media posts reached 60,000 people and over 200 people participated in a quiz about natural disasters. WFP achievements in DRR were acknowledged by MoES, with WFP and several staff receiving recognition awards.

Partnerships

- WFP held several meetings with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), an international intergovernmental organization aiming to contribute to the global goals of increasing forest cover and implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change. AFoCO plans to strengthen collaboration and to expand their operations to Central Asia and is interested in developing joint projects with WFP in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan on climate change adaptation.

Photo: Women in Samarkandek village, Batken province have started their bakery business with WFP provided equipment under the "Rural Women Economic Empowerment" project. © WFP/Photo gallery.

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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\$) (December 2021 – May 2022)
16.12 m	2.61 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

Nutrition Advocacy

- Kyrgyz State Television Channel (KTRK) aired a series of videos free of charge on the importance of diverse nutrition prepared by WFP and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) throughout November. The series titled “Secret Kitchen” advocates for healthy and diverse diets in a non-technical language which can be easily understood by children and their parents.

School meals

- WFP together with the Ministry of Education and Science and the SIFI organized a nationwide competition for school cooks to find the best school cook in the country for 2021. Nearly 60 schools from all regions participated in the competition. The winner was selected based on replicability of the recipe, its nutritional value, and taste. WFP provides high-quality nutritious meals to around 220,000 primary school children in more than 800 schools across the country.
- In November, WFP signed a MoU with World Share – an international NGO, to jointly launch nutritious hot meals in five schools (two in Talas, two in Issyk-Kul, and one in Osh province). World Share will procure and supply modern kitchen equipment for WFP partner schools in November and December to ensure primary school children receive access to hot and diverse meals that meet their basic nutritional needs. WFP has already provided technical support and counselling to the schools, including training for school administration and cooks, guidelines for school menu development with nutritious diverse hot dishes.

Smallholder support and cash transfers

- The [“Poverty, Food Security and Nutrition Analysis in the context of COVID-19 and the role of Social Protection in the Kyrgyz Republic”](#) report was published and disseminated among partners, interested stakeholders and journalists. Other than food price monitoring, this report is the first joint publication by WFP and the National Statistics Committee in several years. The report aims to shed light on the linkages between poverty, food security and nutrition by highlighting their interconnectedness and the role of social protection in addressing these challenges. The analysis was presented at the “Central Asian Sustainable Development Forum”, where academia from Central Asian countries and other partners participated. The report received wide local media coverage and interest from donors, think tanks, and the public.

Donors

Japan, Russian Federation, and Switzerland.