Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous county 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.

In Numbers

- **1,335 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **US$ 371,300** cash-based transfers made
- **114,933 people assisted** in December 2021

Operational Updates

Climate Change Adaptation

- The Green Climate Fund approved the effectiveness of the joint WFP project focusing on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction among vulnerable communities prone to natural disasters. The project was already formally endorsed by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic earlier this year. However, final clarifications were required due to changes in institutional organization. WFP will begin the extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders for the project inception phase.

Nutrition for Growth

- The Kyrgyz Republic delivered its renewed policy and programmatic commitments to end malnutrition in the country at the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G) held in Tokyo on December 8th, 2021. N4G is a global pledging movement to drive greater action towards ending malnutrition. The country committed to prioritise nutrition by integrating it into the primary health care, strengthening the policy environment for food fortification and fighting malnutrition by reducing anaemia among pregnant women.

Smallholder support and cash transfers

- WFP successfully completed the cash-based transfer projects realized with the generous assistance from the Government of Switzerland and internal funding. Over 21,326 vulnerable families (141,596 beneficiaries) participated in various cash-for-asset and cash-for-training community projects across 23 urban and peri-urban locations. Just in December beneficiaries received USD 371,300 as a cash assistance. The total amount of cash transfers from WFP to vulnerable families to improve local infrastructure and capacity building by learning livelihood skills reached USD 2,131,748 during the project period. Through the above-mentioned project activities, WFP has become the largest provider of cash-based transfers in the country and supported the national response to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on low-income families. All project activities were carried out jointly with the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration and Local administrations.
WFP Country Strategy

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68.63 m</td>
<td>44.71 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (December 2021 – May 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.43 m</td>
<td>3.83 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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 strengthened 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 Result 2: Food systems are sustainable

**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 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

**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 4: Food systems are sustainable

**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

### Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**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

### School meals

- WFP continued to support schools that launched hot and nutritious meals in 2021, including regular monitoring, coaching on safety, quality and efficiency of organizing nutritious and diverse meals for primary schoolchildren. Additionally, 42 schools from Chui, Talas and Naryn provinces received 37.7 metric tons of fortified wheat flour that will be used for school meals in January-March 2022. The delivery was organized with the support of Government counterparts.

- WFP discussed the 2022 Work Plan and activities with its key technical cooperating partner Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI). The Work Plan was endorsed and key strategic programme aspects, including achievement and lessons learned were discussed. Additionally, WFP explored the approaches to continue supporting hot meals in the next Country Strategic Plan.

### Partnerships

- The ‘Migration, Food Security and Nutrition in the Kyrgyz Republic’ report was published and disseminated among partners. This is the first joint publication between WFP and International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Kyrgyz Republic and the result of a strong inter-agency collaboration. The brief illustrates the linkages between migration, food security and nutrition by highlighting the importance of remittances in relieving poverty and food insecurity and the impact on nutrition. In response to the socio-economic effects of the pandemic, IOM and WFP see opportunities for cooperation to improve food security of migrants and their families and lift them out of poverty.

- WFP management held several high-level meetings with the government counterparts, including a discussion with the Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic. The minister explained the functional responsibilities and strategic priorities of the new Ministry, while the Interim Country Director informed the minister on the WFP joint activities with other government institutions regarding the digitalization process. In additionally, the Country Office informed the Ministry on the development of the new Country Strategic Plan and raised potential synergies related to the use of digital solutions to strengthen shock-responsive social protection and safety nets.

### Donors

Russian Federation, Switzerland, Japan and private sector donors.

Photo: Beneficiaries in Sary-Mogol village, Osh province have received food commodities for participating in Food-for training modality. © WFP/Photo gallery.