Further information:

Country Brief

WFP Kyrgyz Republic

January 2022

In Numbers

33 mt of food assistance distributed

42,492 people assisted

in January 2022

Operational Updates

Climate Change Adaptation

- Under the framework of the Green Climate Fund project, WFP launched a series of regular coordination discussions with executive implementing agencies. The coordination platform will play an important role in updating and finalizing the scope and scale of activities to be deployed in the targeted districts. WFP has also initiated a comprehensive climate change-related assessment to gain insight on best practices available amongst community members and to build interventions based on these existing practices. Additionally, this assessment will advance the uptake of new practices and approaches focused on climate change adaptation.

Social Protection

- The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration together with WFP has selected 100 low-income families for the innovative Social Contract Pilot Project in Kadamjai and Jumgal districts. The project aims to empower and assist poor families to start income-generating activities, while also strengthening links between vulnerable citizens and national institutions. The initiative will target households living below the national poverty line with seed assets, sound business ideas and basic knowledge of the business proposed by them, such as livestock breeding, selling dairy products, sewing services, construction of greenhouses and other activities. The pilot project is accompanied with M&E and formative learning to inform future replication.

Smallholder support and cash transfers

- The WFP programme team analysed the 2021 lessons learned and planned for the Community Level Consultations (CLC) that will be held across all districts of the Kyrgyz Republic in February 2022. During the CLC, programme staff will meet with local partners and residents, including women and youth, to plan and select community projects for the year ahead and ensure community participation in decision-making processes.

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 diets. There is a need to take appropriate measures targeting especially children and adolescents, given the growing concerns around the prevalence of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases.

In Numbers

Population: 6.6 million

Income Level: Lower-middle

2020 Human Development Index: 120 out of 189

2020 Gender Inequality Index: 82 out of 189

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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>43.96 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 Requirements (in US$)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$) (February 2022 – July 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.43 m</td>
<td>1.37 m</td>
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</tbody>
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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 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

Healthy diets, nutrition and WASH

- WFP continued to support partners schools that launched hot and nutritious meals between 2018-2021, including with regular monitoring, coaching on safety, quality and efficiency of organizing varied nutritious meals for primary schoolchildren. Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Science issued an official order to employ cooks and canteen staff for schools that launched hot meals with WFP assistance in 2021 (schools of the 9th implementation round). The kitchen and canteen staff of these schools will receive their salaries from the state budget.

- With the continued support of the Swiss Government, WFP will expand its assistance to the Social Inpatient Institutions (SII) during the COVID-19 recovery period to improve the well-being of the people living in the SIIs across the country, while also addressing the root causes of their vulnerability. Additionally, the assistance will ensure that institutions are better prepared and more resilient to the future health shocks and emergencies. WFP and the Swiss Embassy selected eight SIIs to initiate an in-depth engineering assessment for the rehabilitation of kitchens and ensuring access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. WFP will enhance the SII employees' knowledge and skills on nutrition management to support an improved food and nutrition security of residents of the institutions.

Partnerships

- WFP met with the representatives of the Institute of Public Policy and Administration (IPPA) and Mountains Societies Research Institute (MSRI) — part of the University of Central Asia and Aga-Khan Development Network — to discuss possible partnerships in the areas of food security and climate change adaptation. Both parties agreed to draw on expertise from the University of Central Asia for the Green Climate Fund project implementation, including for conducting thematic research to assist in evidence-based decision making.

Donors

Russian Federation, Switzerland, Japan and private sector donors.

Photo: Beneficiaries in Sarytash village, Osh province have received food commodities for participating in asset creation and human capital building projects. © WFP/Photo gallery.