



World Food Programme

SAVING
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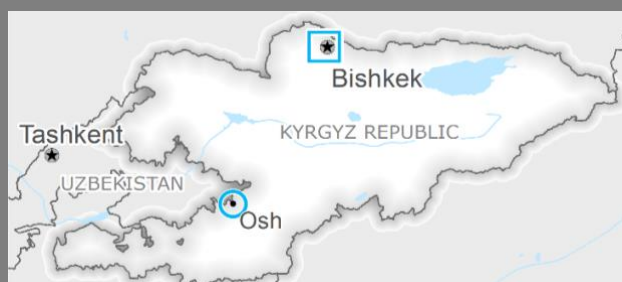
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief February 2022



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 live below the poverty line with an additional 8 percent being at risk of poverty (2020); the estimate likely to reach 35 percent by the 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 the result of poor and non-diverse diets caused by the unaffordability of nutritious foods and limited knowledge around nutrition and healthy diets. There is a need to take appropriate measures targeting especially children and adolescents, given growing concerns around the prevalence of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases.



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

49 mt of food assistance distributed

43,316 people assisted
in February 2022



Operational Updates

Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP has launched feasibility studies aimed at strengthening and enhancing risk management systems in the country. The studies will cover various thematic areas, including food safety within disaster risk reduction, emergency response systems, monitoring the assessment of risks and mechanisms for developing and deploying mitigation interventions. This exercise will be completed in April 2022 and discussed with a range of stakeholders.

Social Protection

- The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration, together with WFP, successfully launched an innovative Social Contract pilot project in Kadamjai and Jumgal districts to support 100 low-income families start income generating activities. The Head of the Cabinet of Ministers and other high level government officials participated in the launch event and met with the project participants to further strengthen links between vulnerable citizens and national institutions. WFP complemented the start-up grant with training on business planning and other related support. Project participants were also able to purchase the necessary assets to start their small businesses.

Smallholder support and cash transfers

- WFP has successfully completed Community Level Consultations (CLC) across 27 districts of the Kyrgyz Republic. Heads of village and district administrations, community leaders, social workers, civil society members and residents participated in the CLCs to discuss both community challenges in sustaining livelihoods and food security, as well as best-practice solutions. Local partners provided practical recommendations to rehabilitate community assets based on local development plans and voiced their development priorities for 2022. This feedback informed WFP's support to asset creation and human capital building projects to provide food assistance to the vulnerable community members.

Photo: Beneficiaries who started a bakery business in Kadamjai town of Batken province at the Social Contract Pilot Project launch. © 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	43.96 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (March 2022 – August 2022)
13.43 m	2.62 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

Healthy diets, nutrition and WASH

- The Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic has endorsed a list of 50 schools that will be supported by WFP in 2022. These schools will receive technical support, including engineering guidance for school kitchen and canteen renovations, to install modern kitchen equipment, and to support capacity strengthening activities for local and district level authorities to ensure coherent management of the programme prior to the launch of hot and nutritious meals in these target schools in September 2022.
- In February 2022, WFP together with NGO World Share launched nutritious hot meals in five schools (two in Talas, two in Issyk-Kul, and one in Osh province). World Share procured modern kitchen equipment for the schools, while WFP provided necessary technical support and counselling, including capacity building training for school administrators and cooks and guidelines for school menu development for nutritious and diverse hot dishes.
- WFP together with UNICEF supported the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) platform to conduct a Joint Annual Assessment and reflect on the progress and challenges the country is facing on nutrition. Additionally, through this exercise SUN stakeholders identified country priorities for 2022, including the development of an advocacy strategy for the multisectoral SUN platform, strengthening laws on food fortification and development of food-based dietary guidelines.

Partnerships

- In February 2022, the United Nations Country Team conducted a Strategic Prioritization Retreat with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to formulate the outcomes and outputs of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. WFP took an active part in developing UNSDCF outcomes and facilitated the discussion group on the “Enhanced prosperity and resilience of the population to challenges through inclusive green socio-economic development” priority area. The UNSDCF outcomes and outputs were presented to the Government for endorsement.
- WFP co-chaired the Development Partners Coordination Council working group meetings on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition and Social Protection. During the meetings, WFP updated the Council on the socio-economic, food security and nutrition situation in the country; social protection system responses; and presented the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) Evaluation results and lessons learnt.

Donors

Russian Federation, Switzerland, Japan, Germany (SRAC) and private sector donors.