



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

March 2022

World Food Programme

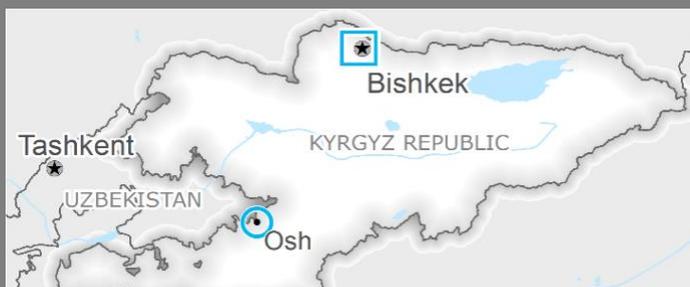
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 is 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**

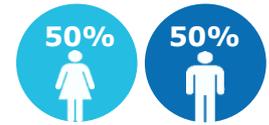
Income Level: **Lower-middle**

2020 Gender Inequality Index: **82 out of 189**

In Numbers

34 mt of food assistance distributed

43,858 people assisted
in March 2022



Operational Updates

Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP and other UN agencies participated in the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) diagnosis of the Kyrgyz Republic aimed at multi-sectoral analysis of existing capacities, needs and gaps of the Disaster Risk Reduction systems in the country. The CADRI exercise will help to identify actionable recommendations that will be integrated into national policies, programmes and plans. The findings of the assessment and recommendations will be provided to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in April 2022.

Smallholder support and cash transfers

- Following the Community Level Consultations held in February 2022, WFP began implementing the livelihoods and resilience programmes in target communities. WFP will address the immediate food needs of vulnerable families with cash or food transfers while improving the long-term food security and resilience of communities through asset creation and human capital building. In 2022, WFP plans to support over 800 community-based projects involving over 24,000 low-income families (120,500 beneficiaries) in remote and vulnerable communities.

Healthy diets, nutrition and WASH

- The Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, together with WFP and implementing partner, Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute have organized a month-long campaign on the importance of healthy eating and healthy lifestyle for schoolchildren in grades 1-4, timed to coincide with the International School Meals Day on 10 March 2022. The campaign included events for primary school students and their parents in online and offline formats, including theatrical performances by high school students in 35 schools across the country, an online quest "Find the Healthy Storehouse", and seminars for parents "Talking about Healthy Eating" to support them in their efforts to encourage healthy diets among their children. The campaign aims to raise the awareness of parents and children on healthy lifestyles and to inspire them to adhere to these principles with the whole family.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
68.63 m	42.62 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April 2022 – September 2022)
13.43 m	9.86 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

Social Protection

- Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM), jointly with WFP, held a series of seminars across the country for regional ministry and local administration staff responsible for the implementation of the digital Social Passports for families living below the poverty line. Through the digitalization of Social Passports, poor families will be able to register in the Government database and receive certain benefits through medical and educational institutions, while the MLSSM will improve targeting and establish a unified database of low-income families. In addition, the digital Social Passport system will be integrated to the Government information System “Tunduk” to ensure effective information exchange and timely update of data. Currently, the Social Passport (individual profiles of poor households) registry is paper based, which limits its usage and analysis of beneficiary data.
- WFP, together with UNICEF, met with the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration to initiate the joint assessment of the social protection system through the Core Diagnostic Instrument. The assessment will analyse the Social Protection system performance against international standards, identify ways to improve system performance, strengthen the capacity for system analysis and ensure that it complies with international standards. The assessment is planned to be completed by the end of 2022 and feed into the formulation of the National Social Protection Strategy.

Partnerships

- WFP facilitated national consultations with civil society for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the green economy and food systems priority areas. The Cooperation Framework guides the country level programme cycle, implementation and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The UN Country Team is currently developing the UNSDCF for 2023-2027. Four strategic outcome areas have been agreed with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The UN will validate these outcomes with other key stakeholders, including civil society.

Donors

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

Photo: High school students performing an experiment during the theatrical show for primary schoolchildren on the importance of healthy eating and healthy lifestyle in school number 17, Osh city. ©