



# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## April 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

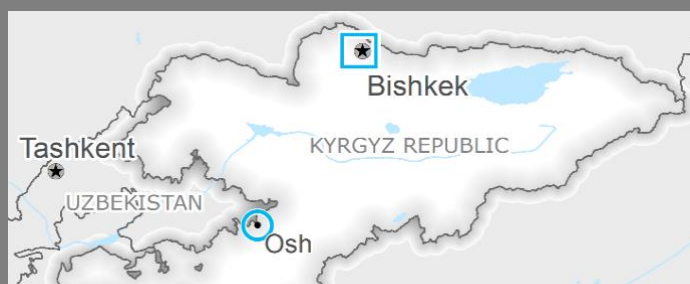


### Operational Context

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 38 percent by the end of 2022.

As the economy of the country has yet to recover from the pandemic, the continuous threat from COVID-19, together with a rise in food (+ 15 percent for staples in Jan-Mar 2022 compared to Jan-Mar 2021) and fuel prices (+ 61 percent) and heightened geopolitical risks in the region, are further negatively affecting the recovery. Due to the recent financial restrictions on Russia, remittances to the Kyrgyz Republic are likely to decline and many Kyrgyz citizens may return home. As remittances are almost entirely spent on immediate consumption, a reduction will jeopardize households' capacities to meet their essential needs. The country's high dependency on imported basic food items, particularly wheat, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable food insecure households whose 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 diet-related non-communicable diseases.



Population: **6.6 million**

2020 Human Development Index:  
**120 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

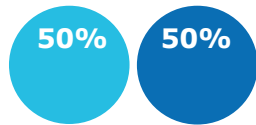
2020 Gender Inequality Index:  
**82 out of 189**

### In Numbers

**501 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 52,000** cash assistance provided

**64,241 people assisted**  
in April 2022



### Operational Updates

#### Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, has finalized a series of disaster risk reduction (DRR) related feasibility studies to inform strengthening of the national disaster risk management system. The studies produced a comprehensive assessment of the national mechanisms for disaster risk monitoring, vulnerability mapping and analysis, implementation of the DRR tree planting projects, disaster preparedness training programmes for the population, integration of DRR-related microinsurance products and other thematic issues. Mid-term assessment of the national DRR strategy were also completed with partners. The results of the studies were presented to a wide range of stakeholders during the workshop held on 26 April 2022. The outcomes of these studies will be further finalised into a set of coherent measures to be implemented by the MES and partners.

#### Smallholder support and cash transfers

- WFP continued supporting the food-insecure and vulnerable smallholders, especially women, through the asset creation and human capital building projects in target communities. In April, more than 4,000 food insecure families from over 70 rural settlements benefited from the projects by receiving food or cash assistance to address their immediate food needs. The smallholders also gained practical knowledge and skills through on-the-job training on various agricultural, food processing and marketing techniques as well as on emergency preparedness and safety standards with the purpose to enhance their food security and nutrition through improved productivity, better livelihoods, and community resilience to shocks.

#### Social protection

- WFP handed over 75 sets of office equipment and multi-functional units to the national partners - Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and Migration (MLSSM) and State Agency for Civil Service and Local Self-Government Affairs to facilitate the process of digitalization of the national Social Passport system. The equipment will be used by the regional district representatives of the partners to develop a digital database of vulnerable low-income families that will improve data security and targeting of low-income families.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>68.6 m</b>	<b>42.6 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May 2022 – October 2022)
<b>13.4 m</b>	<b>8.8 m</b>

#### 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

- WFP, together with Korean NGO Good Neighbours and local authorities, established a greenhouse in Nurgaziev School (Jalal-Abad province) with the aim of diversifying school menus with locally grown fresh vegetables, as well as to provide additional income for the school to enrich the school menus. The new greenhouse was built using modern and eco-friendly technologies. The greenhouse is heated mainly on solar energy and equipped with a drip irrigation system for better water management. Based on the positive results from this pilot initiative, similar facilities will be launched in other schools across the country. Additionally, WFP organized an agricultural training for 20 schools with the objective to increase schools' capacities to effectively operate school gardens, increase produce outputs and supply healthy fresh products to school canteens, and contribute to the sustainability of the national school meals programme.

## Partnerships

- WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have conducted a joint analysis on the impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on the food security and nutrition situation in the Kyrgyz Republic. The analysis was presented at a UNCT level meeting and the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) Working Group on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition. The analysis will support relevant stakeholders in evidence-based decision making and the development of mitigation actions to address the negative impacts of the conflict on food security in the country. The DPCC working group also discussed other food security related issues including an update by the Department on Cluster Development of the Ministry of Agriculture on the national agro-industry cluster development policy.
- On April 25, WFP, with the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) – the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and FAO, held a joint retreat to strengthen RBA collaboration and develop the Joint Action Plan for 2022. The agencies agreed to further strengthen knowledge sharing and cooperation in the areas of food security/nutrition, climate change/disaster risk management, social protection, as well as assessment, advocacy and fund-raising.

## Donors

Russian Federation, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Japan, Germany, and private sector donors.

*Photo: Participants of the 'Food for assets' project in Yusupov village that aims to provide 50 households with access to irrigation water. © WFP/Photo gallery.*