



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
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LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief May 2022



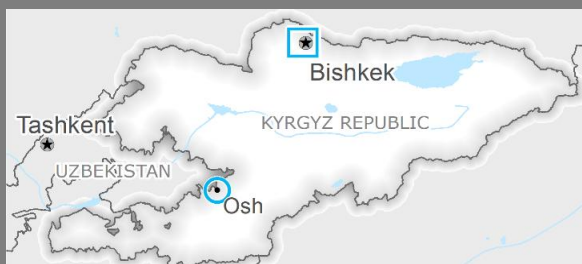
Schoolchildren participating in the campaign on healthy eating timed to celebrate International Family Day ©WFP/Photo gallery.

## 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 sanctions on the Russian Federation, 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 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 diet-related non-communicable diseases.



Population: **6.7 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

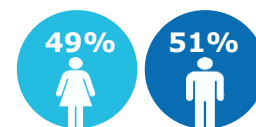
2020 Gender Inequality Index:  
**82 out of 189**

## In Numbers

**583 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 46,300** cash-based transfers made

**64,790 people assisted**  
in May 2022



## Operational Updates

### Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP organized a workshop on the development of integrated and sustainable micro-insurance products as effective tools to help rural communities adapt to climate change, improve their financial resilience and food security. The main stakeholders of the insurance sector discussed the demand and importance of insurance among the rural population, the viability of insurance products for smallholder farmers and identified existing opportunities, related earlier lessons-learned and suitable schemes to introduce micro-insurance products that reduce the vulnerabilities of the rural communities to climate-related risks and shocks.

### School meals and healthy diets

- Under the Optimized School Meals Programme (OSMP) that currently covers more than 60 percent of schools in the country, WFP, together with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) have successfully completed a two-week long campaign on the importance of healthy eating and diversified diets for primary schoolchildren and their parents in six schools to celebrate the International Family Day (15 May). The campaign included interactive activities in schools and an online challenge on social media that aimed to inform families on healthy eating choices, sought wider community support to enhance school meals and promoted MoES' website on the school meals and healthy diets for families ([tamakash.edu.gov.kg](http://tamakash.edu.gov.kg)). Additionally, WFP and SIFI initiated the annual nationwide School Cooks Contest to celebrate their work and raise awareness of the public on the importance of nutritious meals for children's health, education and well-being.
- WFP held a working meeting with the State Agency for Architecture, Construction, Housing and Communal Services under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic to present and discuss WFP's recommendations to ensure the design and construction of canteens in newly constructed schools is compliant with the national sanitary norms. The parties agreed on a set of actions to ensure that new school canteens have sufficient space, premises and technological kitchen equipment that guarantees provision of school meals in a safe and hygienic environment.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>68.6 m</b>	<b>43.1 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June – November 2022)
<b>13.4 m</b>	<b>8.4 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

## Social protection

- WFP together with the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM), World Bank, UNICEF and ILO initiated an assessment of the national social protection system. The assessment aims to review the existing social protection programmes and benefits, to provide recommendations to align the system with international standards and to develop new shock-responsive digital social protection solutions. The results of the assessment will serve as a basis for developing the next national social protection strategy document.
- WFP together with the Ministry of Agriculture continue to produce regular Price Monitoring Bulletins to provide partners with the most updated market data for food commodities, fertilizers and fuel. This up-to-date data helps inform programme adjustments to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. This is critical to change the socio-economic situation caused by COVID-19, the crisis in Ukraine and border tensions in the region.
- Following the piloting of the innovative Social Contract project, MLSSM and WFP organized a seminar to discuss lessons-learned plus the methodologies, instructions and necessary forms for the nationwide replication of the initiative. The foreseen scale-up intends to empower and assist poor families to purchase the necessary assets to start income generating activities.

## Partnerships

- WFP held a meeting with the new Minister of Education to discuss the main areas of cooperation, OSMP as a priority direction under the next WFP Country Strategic Plan 2023-2027, which foresees the nationwide rollout of nutritious school meals to primary schoolchildren and potential expansion to pre-school level, further transitioning of the programme management functions to Government, acknowledging budgetary requirements and the need for indexation, establishment of school meals sector under MoES as well as improvement of the state procurement system for school meals.
- WFP participated in the World Forestry Congress organized by the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) in Seoul, which resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WFP and AFoCO. The MoU outlines the main partnership objectives and joint initiatives in the areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, sustainable forest management, food security, and nutrition. The signing ceremony was attended by the Minister of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, who expressed support for the future joint initiatives of the organizations. Additionally, WFP held a series of meetings with Green Climate Fund, Good Neighbors, KOICA and the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to discuss potential partnerships.

## Donors

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