



World Food Programme

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# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief June 2022



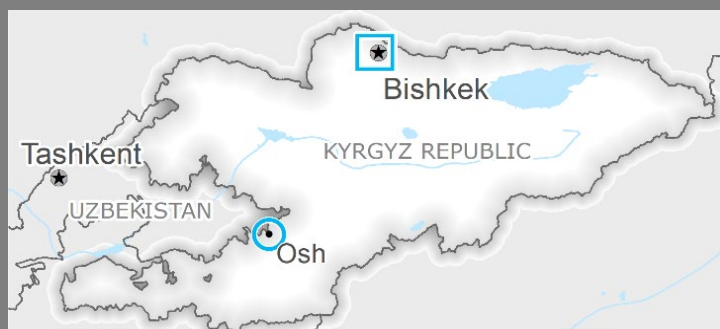
## Operational Context

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. The World Bank estimates that poverty will rise from 25 percent to 38 percent by the end of 2022, increasing the need for social protection for a larger portion of the population.

The recovery of the country's economy from the pandemic is being negatively affected by a rise in staple food prices (+ 20 percent in Jan-May 2022 compared with the same period last year) and fuel prices (+ 61 percent) as well as heightened geopolitical risks in the region.

The Kyrgyz economy is highly dependent on remittances, which made up 31 percent of the country's economy (GDP) in 2020. Due to the recent economic instability in the region, a significant drop of remittances to the Kyrgyz Republic is predicted for 2022. As remittances are almost entirely spent on immediate consumption, a reduction will jeopardize households' capacities to meet their essential food needs. The country's high dependency on imported basic food items, particularly wheat, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable 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 nutrition education, 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: June

**824.3 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 105,600** cash-based transfers made

**75,104** people assisted



## Operational Updates

### Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP and the Embassy of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic have signed an agreement to build the resilience of vulnerable rural communities prone to disasters and climate change impacts in Osh, Batken and Naryn provinces. The US\$ 2.2 million contribution from the Government of Switzerland will allow WFP to expand its activities and support approximately 50,000 vulnerable households through gender- and nutrition-sensitive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives. The vulnerable households will be able to address their immediate food needs, benefit from the rehabilitated community assets and protect their livelihoods against extreme weather, such as droughts, mudflows and floods. WFP will also support targeted local authorities and national institutions to introduce private sector-led disaster risk insurance programmes and to develop timely assessments on disaster risks to inform policy-makers and the local community.

### Support to smallholders

- In the first half of 2022, WFP supported approximately 40,000 vulnerable people through community asset creation projects. Through these projects, participants rehabilitated 177 km of drinking water pipelines and enabled access to clean drinking water for 57 rural communities, including for schools and kindergartens. About 100 km of rehabilitated irrigation canals improved irrigation for 72,600 hectares of land, reduced water losses and improved productivity. Additionally, 214 irrigational water distribution facilities were rehabilitated in 24 rural communities, 2,550 fruit trees were planted, and 32 public facilities (bridges, waste collection points, medical service points) were renovated. Over 1,500 vulnerable families participated in human capital building projects to acquire important livelihoods skills in beekeeping, fish-farming, bio-fertilizer production, sewing, plumbing and welding.
- In cooperation with local emergency departments, WFP supported 25 rural communities to strengthen mountain slopes by planting 89,800 seedlings for better protection from landslides. More than 4,000 families were trained on frost-drought resistant farming, drip irrigation, pest control and energy saving technologies. Additionally, WFP supported 29 villages through various mudflow protection and riverbank reinforcement projects to strengthen climate change adaptation and climate-resilient development for rural communities.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>75.7 m</b>	<b>49.6 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July – December 2022)
<b>20.5 m</b>	<b>6.9 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

## School meals and healthy diets

- As part of WFP's efforts towards ensuring a sustainable, high quality and national school meals programme, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic has officially taken up functions to monitor the quality and efficiency of hot meals for primary schoolchildren in 163 WFP-assisted schools. Following three years of capacity strengthening by WFP, the schools have received a graduation package that included various methodological guidelines on hot school meals organization. The Ministry's District/City Educational Departments are now responsible for the control over hot meals organization in these schools as per the Ministry's order. To date, 70 percent of WFP-assisted schools have been transferred to Ministry coordination. WFP will further continue the handover process of strengthening national capacities and technical support for a high-quality school-based health and nutrition package.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, has presented the results of the 'Fill the Nutrient Gap' analysis to the national stakeholders, including relevant ministries, development partners and civil society organizations. These results inform a minimum cost of a nutritious diet for different groups of people, as well as local drivers affecting the availability, cost, and affordability of nutritious diets. Additionally, the analysis identified barriers to an adequate nutritious diet. The analysis will contribute to building a solid evidence base to inform national nutrition strategies/programmes and partners' interventions aimed at improving access to nutritious diets for vulnerable communities.

## Partnerships

- WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF, provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic in organizing an annual forum of the 'Scaling Up Nutrition' Multistakeholder Platform (SUN Platform) on Food Security and Nutrition in the Kyrgyz Republic. This platform brings together government authorities, civil society organizations, UN agencies, business structures and academia to coordinate collective efforts on the implementation of national commitments to improve food security and nutrition. The participants exchanged information on the recent developments in nutrition, including outcomes of the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, implementation status of the national Food Security and Nutrition Programme 2019-2023, school meals organization barriers and more. As a result of the discussion, the stakeholders developed national and regional level work plans of the SUN Platform and agreed on the development of a new national Food Security and Nutrition Programme beyond 2023.

## Donors

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

*Photo: Participant of the 'Social Contract' project, who received a grant to purchase equipment and opened a welding workshop, Jumgal district, Naryn Province © WFP/Photo gallery.*

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan)