



# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

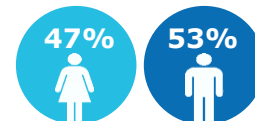
July 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## In Numbers



39.5 mt of food distributed

US\$94,400 cash-based transfers disbursed

12,288 people assisted

## Operational Updates

### Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction

- WFP, in collaboration with UNDP, supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in conducting a mid-term evaluation of the national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategic document - the Concept on protection of the population and territories from emergencies for 2018-2030. The national partners evaluated the implementation of the DRR measures under the national Action Plan 2018-2022 and provided recommendations to improve efficiency for emergency response, disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning. This informed the development of the national Action Plan 2023-2026 for implementation of the second phase of the national DRR strategy, which will serve as a basis for future strategic DRR-related actions of national and development partners, including WFP and other UN agencies.
- WFP continues to support the MES in strengthening the national system for monitoring and forecasting emergency situations. In July, WFP and the MES held a working meeting to discuss potential introduction of WFP's climate hazard monitoring system 'Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring' (PRISM) into the national disaster risk monitoring system. The potential role of PRISM in streamlining risk information was outlined for effective disaster risk management. The parties also discussed potential synergies between PRISM and the Green Climate Fund project. The MES experts indicated a high potential for utilizing PRISM to increase the effectiveness of DRR measures in the country. The MES will share an official request for technical assistance from WFP to support introduction of the PRISM.
- As a member of the Disaster Risk Coordination Council Unit, WFP continues to provide technical support to the MES and other governmental bodies in the revision of the DRR legislation. This entails reviewing and updating of the national laws on international humanitarian assistance, civil protection and relevant legal documents. Improved DRR legislation will help increase operational efficiency of DRR activities at the national and local levels, reducing communities' vulnerability to climate risks and disasters.

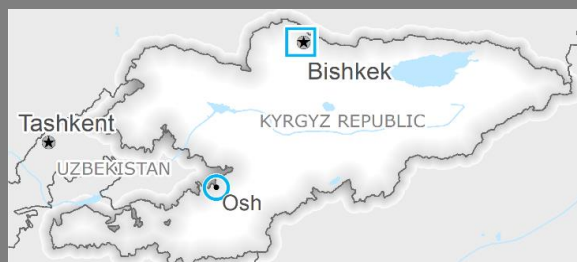
### Operational Context

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. One-third (33 percent) of the population lived below the poverty line in 2021 compared to one-fifth (20 percent) in 2019. Additional 10 percent are at risk of poverty, which increases the need for nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection to a larger portion of the population.

The global food crisis is exacerbating existing stresses following the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which had already eroded the resilience of the most vulnerable households. In June 2022, inflation remained high at 13.1 percent compared with June 2021, the highest in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) countries, and food inflation for staple commodities is nearing 20 percent (Jan-Jun 2022 compared with the same period last year).

The Kyrgyz economy is highly dependent on remittances, which made up 31 percent of the country's economy 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 foods (30 percent for wheat, 84 percent for vegetable oil and 37 percent for sugar) 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

## 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\$) August 2022 – January 2023
<b>20.5 m</b>	<b>7.35 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

### Support to smallholders

- WFP, in cooperation with local authorities and private sector partner, established a processing workshop for the production of essential oils and dried herbs in At-Bashy District of Naryn Province, for which the Ambassador of Japan and the WFP Representative joined the opening ceremony. The initiative supports the most vulnerable smallholders through engaging them in the value chain processes for essential oil production. Over 1,000 food-insecure smallholders had an opportunity to improve their livelihoods by growing and supplying a wide variety of herbs to the workshop. The smallholders were trained in agricultural techniques for herbs-growing and received cash incentives to purchase seedlings and necessary instruments. The workshop was also provided with the necessary processing equipment, furniture and training on processing technologies, food safety and marketing. For the organically-produced, quality oil products used in cosmetics, food, and pharmaceutical industries, WFP will also support the workshop in exploring local and international market opportunities.

### Partnerships

- UN Women and WFP signed a partnership agreement to implement a project that aims at strengthening capacities of the Government, local authorities and communities to apply effective gender-transformative disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation practices. The initiative will support (i) understanding the impact of disasters and climate variability on communities, especially women, (ii) analysing gender equality in climate adaptation measures applied by the communities, (iii) reviewing relevant policy documents from gender equality lens, and (iv) developing and testing innovative gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive climate change adaptation plans and disaster risk mitigation programmes for 11 selected communities of Batken, Naryn and Osh provinces. The project results will inform the preparation of a policy brief for further promotion of gender-transformative adaptation measures.
- To strengthen national capacities in the use of digital technologies and data, FAO and WFP jointly equipped the National Statistical Committee staff with smartphones to improve collection and timely processing of market data, including prices of food commodities, fuel and fertilizers. FAO and WFP will use this data to monitor food market developments and provide national and development partners with the most up-to-date market data. This will inform programme adjustments to the needs of the most vulnerable people.

### Donors

Germany, Green Climate Fund, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, the private sector, amongst other donors.

*Photo: Herbal oil production workshop procuring herbs from around 1,000 food-insecure smallholders in At-Bashy district of Naryn province. © WFP/Photo gallery.*