**Operational Context**

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous country with a territory of 199,000 square kilometres. Two-thirds of its multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. Poverty increased from 20 percent in 2019 to 33 percent in 2021, with an additional 10 percent at risk of poverty. This highlights the need for nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection to the rising needs.

The global food crisis is exacerbating existing stresses from the COVID-19 pandemic, which had already eroded the resilience of the most vulnerable households. In July 2022, inflation remained high at 13.8 percent compared with July 2021, one of the highest in Central Asia. Year-on-year inflation for staple food commodities stood at 16.3 percent.

The Kyrgyz economy is highly dependent on remittances, which made up 31 percent of the country’s GDP in 2020. Due to the recent economic instability in the region, a significant drop of remittances is predicted for 2022. This will jeopardize households’ capacities to meet their essential food needs. Meanwhile, 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 due to the unaffordability of nutritious foods and limited knowledge on nutrition and healthy diets. There is a need to scale up nutrition education, targeting especially children and adolescents, given growing concerns around the prevalence of diet-related non-communicable diseases.

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**In Numbers**

- 457.2 mt of food assistance distributed
- US$ 112,589 cash-based transfers made
- 22,239 people assisted

**Operational Updates**

**Climate Change Adaptation/Disaster Risk Reduction**

- The inception phase of the first WFP and Green Climate Fund joint project in the Kyrgyz Republic – “Climate services and diversification of climate sensitive livelihoods to empower food insecure and vulnerable communities” – is near completion. During the community-level consultations in Osh and Batken provinces, project stakeholders, including local governments, sub-divisions of the state agencies, agricultural extension services and private sector partners were sensitized on the objectives, components and implementation of the project. The stakeholders highlighted the importance and relevance of the project for the communities and agreed on partnership schemes and collaboration networks in support of the Project Steering Committee at the national level. The results of the consultations will inform design of the planned project activities.

**School meals and healthy diets**

- WFP and its cooperating partners organised nine training sessions to 137 cooks and kitchen workers recruited locally to support the provision of hot meals in 59 schools starting from September. The training aimed to improve knowledge and skills of school cooks on school meals preparation techniques, safety rules, sanitary norms, nutrition standards, menu development principles and other aspects of effective school meals organization. On-the-job coaching for school cooks and staff will continue throughout 2022-2023 school year with technical support from WFP, District Educational Departments and Sanitary Epidemiological Services. This ensures that nutritionally balanced and diverse meals are prepared for schoolchildren in safe and hygienic conditions.

- WFP, along with key partners supporting the national school meals programme (including the Food and Agriculture Organization, Mercy Corps and Aga Khan Development Network), held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science to outline strategic actions for the development of the national school meals programme. The discussion focused on the sustainability of the programme through (i) increasing parental contributions; (ii) advocating for increased republican budget for school meals; (iii) organising public events in support of school meals; (iv) improving the procurement process, (v) introducing digital solutions, among others. Partners agreed to submit a joint action plan to the Ministry of Education and Science to further improve the national school meals programme.
**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>Requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Requirements</strong></td>
<td>75.7 m</td>
<td>50.2 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2022 Requirements</strong></td>
<td>21.76 m</td>
<td>8.63 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Result 2: 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 organized a training session on the implementation and scale-up of the [Social Contract initiative](https://www.wfp.org/social-contract) piloted by WFP and partners in March 2022. Participants included district representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration and local governmental authorities. The training covered the methodologies and necessary documents for the nationwide scale-up. Programme details including beneficiary inclusion, approval, verification and monitoring procedures were discussed. The 'Social Contract' provides low-income families with financial support to purchase the necessary assets, as well as social services and training for income-generating activities.

**Partnerships**

- The WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. John Aylieff visited the Kyrgyz Republic on a mission to observe the main results and achievements of WFP's current operations. As part of the mission, WFP Regional Director attended a meeting with the Deputy Head of Cabinet of Ministers, Mr. Edil Baisalov, and the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration, Mr. Kudaibergen Bazarbaev, to discuss strategic collaboration on the implementation of the upcoming WFP Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027). The Government expressed their willingness to strengthen cooperation with WFP to further improve food security and nutrition in the country.

- WFP, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), supported a rapid landscape analysis on flour fortification and organized a round table to discuss the preliminary results. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration; Fund of State Material Reserves of the Ministry of Emergency Situation; Ministry of Economy and Commerce; Tax Service and private sector stakeholders. The participants reviewed and discussed the findings of the analysis, including gaps and barriers in the legislation, roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders and other aspects related to access to fortified wheat flour. The results and recommendations will serve as a basis for developing and promoting appropriate policies on flour fortification.

**Donors**

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

*Photo: WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Director attended a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic to discuss strategic collaboration between WFP and the Government.* ©WFP/Photo Library