



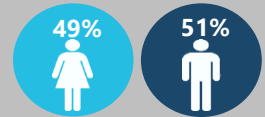
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief October 2020

In Numbers



53,451 people assisted
in October 2020

897.4 mt of food assistance distributed

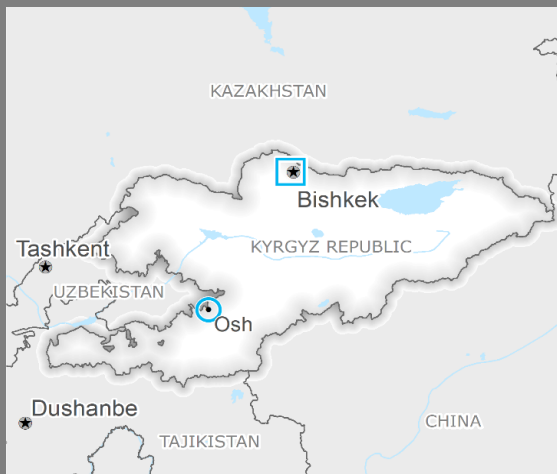
US\$0 cash-based transfers made

Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a land-locked, mountainous country located at the centre of the Eurasian continent with a territory of 199,000 sq. km. The country borders China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Two-thirds of the country's multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. 22.4 percent of the population live below the poverty line and according to the "2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity in the total population is 23.9 percent (2016-2018).

The country's high dependency on imported basic food items, particularly wheat, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable food-insecure households who spend over half of their household income on food-related expenses. Poor food diversification can lead to malnutrition. This translates into 13 percent of children aged 2 to 5 years suffering from stunting. Anaemia prevalence is high, women – 38 percent, children – 43 percent.

The WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018–2022, approved in November 2017 by the Executive Board, focuses on four Strategic Outcomes (SO): providing hot school meals for primary school-aged children (SO1); supporting vulnerable and food-insecure smallholders to enhance their livelihoods (SO2); strengthening resilience to shocks and climate change for vulnerable communities (SO3); and capacity-strengthening of government institutions for a comprehensive food security and nutrition management system (SO4).



Population: **6.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **122 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2018 Gender Inequality Index: **87 out of 189**

Operational Updates

- After parliamentary elections on 4 October 2020, the country experienced several days of civil unrest including the rioting of protesters in the central square of the capital of Bishkek and across other major cities in reaction to the elections' results. During violent clashes between the protesters and law enforcement, around 600 people were injured, and one person suffered fatal injuries. On 13 October, President issued a state of emergency in Bishkek with military forces stationed around the city. On 14 October, the parliament gathered and finally approved Sadyr Japarov as the Prime Minister and endorsed a government plan and the new cabinet. On 16 October, the President Sooronbai Jeenbekov officially resigned and as a result, Japarov became Acting President and Prime Minister.
- In October, the epidemiological situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic worsened with a daily rise in registered cases over 500.
- Following the political unrest and the increase of COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has given the authority for each primary school to individually decide their modality of schooling (online or offline or combined). Considering this arrangement, it was agreed with the MoES that school meals will be provided as usual to the schoolchildren who are observing the in-school education modality. The unused food will be distributed as take-home rations at the end of the second quarter of the academic year to these vulnerable schoolchildren.
- With the support of Good Neighbors International, WFP is establishing a greenhouse at one of the schools in Issyk-Kul province. This project will provide fresh greens and vegetables and will generate additional income for the school in order to contribute to the diversification of the school meals menu and school feeding sustainability in the given school. Within this project, the first round of training on greenhouse construction techniques for relevant school staff and community members took place from 27-29 October 2020. The next rounds of the training session will be conducted throughout November. It's expected that in December 2020 the greenhouse will be ready for planting.
- More than 26,000 insecure smallholder women and men farmers received close to 856mt of food in the target districts of Talas, Naryn, Osh, Batken and Jalal-Abad provinces through a funding from the Russian Federation. All distribution points were equipped with sanitation packages and leaflets in accordance with WFP's personal safety procedures.

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Photo Caption: Beneficiaries of WFP drinking water project in Achi village, Osh province- *WFP Photo/Lilia Akhmetshina.*

launch the Optimized School Feeding Programme for the 2020-2021 academic year and to discuss future plans with local authorities.

- To assess compliance with the targeting criteria under Strategic Outcome 2, 17 pre-selected households, identified through field project activities, were visited before the start of implementation. This included the random verification of eligibility requirements for households that were pre-selected by the project committees. All households were confirmed to be eligible for participation in WFP projects. In addition, 100 monitoring visits were conducted to verify the implementation status of ongoing infrastructure projects and any completed works.
- 93 project proposals have been submitted to the District Project Committees (DPC). As part of the project selection process, WFP reviews the quality and potential impact of proposed field-level activities for the benefit of vulnerable communities in 56 rural municipalities.

Partnerships

- Following the political unrest, the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU) was activated. The Inter Agency contingency plan was developed. WFP leading the Food Security and Logistics Sectors has coordinated the drafting for these specific areas.
- On 14 October, WFP Country Director Andrea Bagnoli met with Director of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), to discuss expediting the signing of the Subsidiary Agreement of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project between the Government and WFP Country Office.
- On 15 October, WFP had a meeting with the representatives of State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the functionalities of the Sanarip Aimak System, which are related to the collection and application of food security data at a sub-district level.
- On 21 October, WFP made a presentation on the Food Security Atlas (FSA) system for the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan. The heads of eight various departments of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan expressed an interest in learning about this joint project between WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic on strengthening this online system for monitoring the food security situation in the country.

Donors

Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
59 m		37 m
2020 Requirements	2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2020 - April 2021)
13 m	12 m	1.7 m

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

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 4: 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

Monitoring

- WFP continued its implementation of field activities and monitoring, contingent to health security measures. For Strategic Outcome 1 of the Country Strategic Plan, 90 monitoring visits to new pilot schools were carried out in October. These schools were visited to assess their capacity to