



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

November 2023



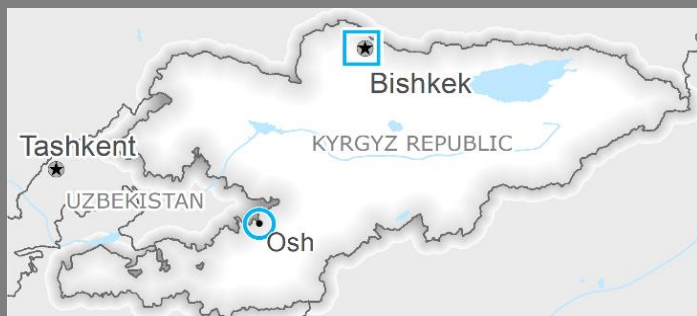
The first Commonwealth of Independent States School Meals Forum at the Presidential Residence. © WFP/Photo Library

Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous country with a population of 7 million people. Two-thirds of its multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. In recent years, the global food and cost of living crisis has exacerbated stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which eroded the resilience of the most vulnerable households. Poverty increased from 20 percent in 2019 to 33 percent in 2022, with an additional 7 percent living close to the poverty line. This highlights the need for nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection.

From January to September 2023, remittances decreased by 25 percent compared to the same period in 2022. Considering that remittances make up over 30 percent of the gross domestic product and contribute greatly to poverty reduction, this could negatively affect household incomes and contribute to a further increase in poverty. According to WFP's latest mobile food security monitoring (September 2023), 10 percent of households were acutely food insecure, while 56 percent of the population remained marginally food secure.

According to the National Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey (2022), micronutrient deficiencies continue to have lifelong consequences for children and women in the country. Only 2 percent of households adequately consume fortified flour and only 26 percent of children from 6-59 months achieve minimal dietary diversity. Anaemia is considered a severe public health problem with high prevalence among pregnant women (49 percent) and children from 6-59 months (30 percent).



Population: **7 million**

2021/2022 Human Development Index: **118 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

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

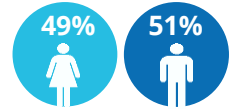
In Numbers

31,711 people assisted

448 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$182,027 of cash assistance distributed

US\$2.6 million six-month net funding requirements (December 2023 - May 2024)



Operational Updates

School Meals and Healthy Diets

- WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science successfully organised the first Commonwealth of Independent States School Meals Forum to share best practices in the effective implementation of school meals programmes. This includes providing hot, diverse, and nutritious meals to schoolchildren. The President of the Kyrgyz Republic launched this initiative, which allowed parties to discuss and develop answers to the challenges in providing efficient and quality nourishment for schoolchildren, including engagement with parents and the private sector. Following the Forum, a joint Declaration was signed turning it into an annual platform for dialogue and exchange of the best practices. With the assistance of WFP and other partners, the country's National School Meals Programme has provided hot meals to over 75 percent of schools and reached approximately 500,000 primary schoolchildren.
- Engineering assessments were conducted at 65 schools to evaluate canteen infrastructure, including water supply, sewerage, electricity, ventilation, heating, and storage facilities. The results will inform individual technical designs and recommendations for schools to enhance their canteen infrastructure, enabling technical support and preparation for the launch of hot meals in September 2024. The final list of schools to be assisted in 2024 will be proposed based on this assessment, followed by joint discussions and endorsement through Ministry of Education and Science. Additionally, WFP has continued its awareness and capacity building initiatives across 49 schools, including with the parents of primary schoolchildren. During the discussions, the importance of healthy eating, diversified diets, and community support to enhance school menus was promoted.

Partnerships

- To promote regional development across the country, the Cabinet of Ministers held the National Development Forum on Poverty and Inequality. WFP co-chaired the session on equality and inclusive rural development, emphasising the essential role of civil society and the concept of "Leave No One Behind" in decreasing poverty and reaching the most vulnerable communities. A WFP project participant presented a model of private sector collaboration with vulnerable families to develop livelihood skills and generate additional income.

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Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyz-republic>

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
90.9 m	24.6 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec 2023 - May 2024)
24.7 m	2.2 m

SDG target 2.1: Access to food

Strategic outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

CSP Outcome 1: By 2027, food-insecure and vulnerable populations in the Kyrgyz Republic have enhanced access to diversified employment, income opportunities and human capital development

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide resource transfers, knowledge and technical assistance to the most vulnerable and the Government through more inclusive social protection systems and active labour market programmes

Strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

CSP outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in crisis-affected areas in the Kyrgyz Republic can meet their food and nutrition needs, enabling their early recovery during and in the aftermath of crises

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide emergency food assistance to shock-affected vulnerable populations

SDG target 2.4: Sustainable food system

Strategic outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

CSP outcome 3: By 2027, vulnerable communities in the Kyrgyz Republic exposed to the impacts of climate variability and change are better able to cope with shocks and benefit from more resilient food systems

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide resource transfers, knowledge and technical assistance to the most vulnerable and the Government in order to enhance climate change adaptation and disaster risk management capacity at the central and local levels

SDG target 17.9: Capacity building

Strategic outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened

CSP outcome 4: By 2027, schools in the Kyrgyz Republic have strengthened capacity to provide healthy meals to children and create sustainable school feeding solutions for improved health, nutrition, education and food security outcomes

Focus area: Root causes, Nutrition-sensitive

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to national partners to institutionalize national school-based programmes and improve their sustainability

Donors

Green Climate Fund, Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Private Sector, Russian Federation, Switzerland, WFP, and UN

Partnerships (continued)

- WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific met with the Deputy Chairperson of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Education and Science and development partners and discussed the Government's commitment to and progress towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. WFP reaffirmed its commitment to decreasing poverty and inequality, as well as enhancing food security and nutrition by collaborating on national projects such as the Social Contract and School Meals Programme. WFP will continue supporting the Government by using its global and regional expertise in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, while also advocating for the increase of national budgetary allocations for school meals.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- WFP, with support from the Government of Switzerland, has completed the first Weather Index-Based Insurance Pilot Project supporting 4,500 families. The results and lessons learnt from the pilot project were presented at a workshop in Bishkek, where experts discussed the potential for the pilot's expansion. During the pilot period, a pay-out was triggered in one of the districts where pastures were impacted by drought during the summer. Consequently, 792 families received 26.3 mt of fodder barley, enhancing their ability to sustain livestock during the winter. Additionally, it was recommended to carry out more in-depth training sessions on agrotechnical methods and accompany them with practical consultations to train pastoralists on modern methods of fodder harvesting. The project, aimed at strengthening the resilience of rural communities to extreme weather-related risks and shocks, was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and other line ministries in three districts of Naryn province known for its mountainous terrain and high exposure to drought and extended winter.
- WFP and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support vulnerable households through collaboration on disaster risk response and climate adaptation strategies, as well as sustainable natural resources management. The MoU was endorsed by the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Technical Supervision.
- In collaboration with the North-Eurasian Climate Centre of the World Meteorological Organization, WFP conducted a training session for KyrgyzHydromet specialists. The training covered the fundamentals of climate forecasting, providing participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to assess the impact of meteorological anomalies on various sectors. It focused on long-term forecasting and the delivery of seasonal and inter-seasonal forecasts, aligning with a project financed by the Green Climate Fund.
- WFP organised a 5-day training for the specialists of the Ministry of Emergency Situations on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). International experts led the training, focusing on modern DRR principles and the effective application of geo-information technologies. This theoretical course will be followed by practical training modules.