



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

October 2023



WFP staff explaining the main objectives and achievements of WFP's activities at the Agriculture Fair in celebration of the World Food Day. © WFP/Photo Library

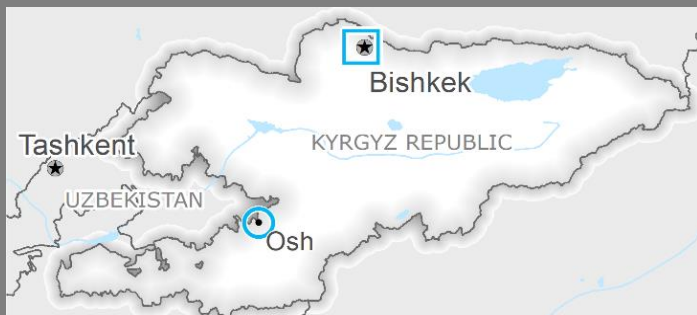
Operational Context

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 been exacerbating existing stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already 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.

In October 2023, annual inflation reached 9.2 percent, the second highest in the Eurasian Economic Union region. 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.

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 decline in remittances could negatively affect household incomes and overall economic performance and contribute to a further increase in poverty. The country's high dependency on imported basic foods, mainly from the Russian Federation, continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable households, for which food makes up 70 percent of their expenses.

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). A large proportion of children and adolescent girls have multiple micronutrient deficiencies (folic acid, iron, vitamin D, vitamin A etc.).



Population: **7 million**

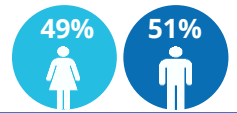
2021/2022 Human Development Index: **118 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

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

In Numbers

30,742 people assisted



706 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$22,350 of cash assistance distributed

US\$2.1 million six-month net funding requirements (November 2023 - April 2024)

Operational Updates

School Meals and Healthy Diets

- WFP organised a Members of Parliament visit to schools in remote areas of Jalal-Abad Province to demonstrate the importance of hot and nutritious meals to children, and advocate for the increase of government funding allocated to the National School Meals Programme. During the visit, Members of Parliament observed the differences between schools that have launched hot meals to children from grades 1-4 and schools that continue to provide 'bun and tea'. Since 2013, WFP, together with partners, has been implementing school feeding programme in the Kyrgyz Republic, providing over 232,000 schoolchildren with healthy hot meals every day.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- WFP supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations in organising the third international scientific and practical conference on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the national DRR month campaign. The annual campaign deliberates on scientific and practical aspects of DRR, aiming to enhance the awareness of affected communities on climate events. WFP in collaboration with the Government and partners strengthens the national capacities and frameworks for DRR and climate change adaptation, supporting communities susceptible to climate change and disaster risks.
- WFP has presented its Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) pilot project to Members of Parliament launched in June 2023. The CRI product is a weather index-based livestock insurance solution covering the lack of feedstock availability due to extreme drought or extreme winter conditions resulting in late onset of spring. With the insurance solution, livestock farmers affected by climate change will obtain financial resources to purchase fodder, increase financial sustainability and stimulate faster recovery by preventing them from selling assets.
- WFP conducted an advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training to KyrgyzHydromet staff to improve their skills of processing Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station (CHIRP) satellite data on precipitation and vegetation indicators. The training will enable KyrgyzHydromet personnel to re-analyse hazardous incidents, identify dependencies and correlations, and apply the knowledge in forecasting to prevent potential hazards.

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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	25.1 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Nov 2023 - April 2024)
23.7 m	2.1 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, and UN

Enhanced access to employment and income opportunities

- To maintain the sustainability of mini processing workshops established in previous years and support food insecure farmers, WFP has continued to enhance its longstanding partnership with the "One Village One Product" unit (OVOP) supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). WFP and OVOP will introduce innovative practices and new recipes for three workshops located in Osh and Talas provinces, using raw materials purchased from local farmers. OVOP will provide technical support on packaging, labelling and marketing for these workshops, including promoting the products through their network of shops.

Food Security Advocacy Campaigns

- To celebrate the World Food Day and raise public awareness on food security, WFP together with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture organised an art exhibition to showcase the development of the agriculture sector, the significance of food systems, and to encourage dialogue among relevant stakeholders on rational management of water resources. Additionally, WFP joined the Ministry of Agriculture in organising an agriculture fair to support smallholder farmers. During the event, WFP staff presented on the objectives and positive impact of WFP interventions to the public, governmental bodies and non-profit organizations.
- To mark the 78th anniversary of the United Nations (UN), WFP participated in organising a concert performed by young Kyrgyz talents on topics of peace, unity and shared values of respect, solidarity and compassion. In addition, WFP staff participated in the clean-up of the UN park in Osh City to raise public awareness on the role of peace, inclusion, equality, social cohesion, and the principle of 'Leave No One Behind'.

Partnerships

- WFP Representative and Country Director held a meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Labour, Social Security, and Migration to review ongoing joint projects, including the social contract project, the preparation of the Social Contract Forum, integration of active labour markets with WFP programmes, and joint digitalization efforts.
- Another meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Education and Science was organized to discuss the preparations for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) School Meals Forum scheduled on 23-24 November, where WFP plays an active role to support the Forum Committee, and joint projects, including opportunities to link smallholder farmers to the school feeding programme.
- Moreover, WFP Country Director attended a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision to discuss WFP's ongoing initiatives, providing updates on the Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded and the Swiss Government-funded projects, and preparations for the upcoming COP28.