



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief December 2023



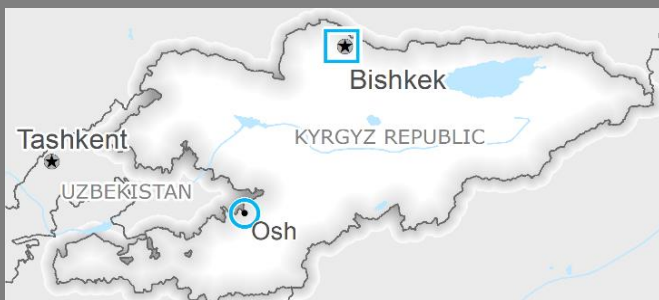
WFP Representative and Country Director, Kojiro Nakai and the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration, Gulnara Baatyrova signing the technical agreement.

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 November 2023, remittances decreased by 22 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 (December 2023), 10 percent of households were acutely food insecure, while 50 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**

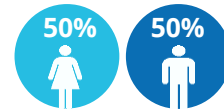
In Numbers

39,582 people assisted

804 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$232,197 of cash assistance distributed

US\$3.1 million six-month net funding requirements (January - June 2024)



Operational Updates

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- WFP, with its focus on resilience and preparedness, introduced its innovative index-based climate risk insurance and anticipatory action pilots to development partners. As a key partner to the Kyrgyz Government, WFP engaged in extensive discussions with International Financial Institutions to collaborate on shock-responsive and adaptive social protection activities. Additionally, steering committee meetings were convened with stakeholders of Green Climate Fund and Swiss projects, while the Kyrgyz Hydromet and Ministry of Emergency Situations presented WFP-supported activities at the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP28. 2024 will witness the refinement of the methodology for localised disaster risk assessment, with the involvement of UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction/Joint Research Centre INFORM experts.

Partnerships

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision and United Nations Development Programme has conducted a technical national consultation, evaluating the key achievements in 2023 and planning for 2024. WFP serves as co-chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Priority III, addressing climate, environment, energy, and disaster risk management. The aim was to facilitate a coordinated dialogue among representatives from government bodies, UN agencies, civil society, academia, the private sector, and other UN partners.
- WFP, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), hosted the second workshop on food systems, food security, and nutrition for the Centre for Development of Parliament and Democracy under the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. This workshop was a continuation of the collective efforts of WFP, FAO, and WHO to enhance awareness of food security and nutrition issues for Members of Parliament and within the country. The seminar delved into various aspects of food security, encompassing issues such as food availability, quality, agricultural insurance, salt reduction, elimination of trans fats, breastfeeding, and other nutrition-related concerns in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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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\$)
100.13 m	27.6 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jan 2023 - June 2024)
24.7 m	3.1 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, WFP, and UN

Enhanced access to employment and income opportunities

- WFP supported approximately 16,000 beneficiaries with 4,448 mt of food commodities across all provinces. This effort involved completing 667 community asset creation projects aimed at enhancing food security and resilience among low-income families. The projects bore the following results:
 - construction of 147 drinking water pipelines to provide access to clean water
 - restoration and construction of around 116 small-scale irrigation canals for improved agricultural productivity
 - reinforcement of riverbanks with gabion nets to mitigate natural disaster risks.
- Additionally, WFP conducted 138 practical skills-based training sessions, , empowering communities with valuable livelihood skills. Through these initiatives, 31,144 hectares of agricultural land benefited from enhanced irrigation networks and 22 hectares of land were protected from possible natural disasters.
- Notably, WFP's innovative solutions included supporting the Association of the Pastures in creating an artificial glacier and enhancing the drip irrigation system in specific locations, with plans for replication in 2024. These initiatives collectively contribute to fostering sustainable development, addressing immediate needs, and building resilience within these communities.
- WFP and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration signed a Technical Agreement that outlines the engagement of experts who will play a crucial role in supporting various aspects, including enhancing the poverty graduation Social Contract project, digital social passport implementation, active labour market policy, and analysis of the social services provided by the Government. Over the six-month period, these experts will conduct monitoring visits and organize capacity strengthening seminars to Ministry staff located in rural areas.

School Meals and Healthy Diets

- WFP, in collaboration with its cooperating partner, conducted awareness-raising and capacity-building activities across 46 schools, engaging 923 parents on the significance of healthy eating and diversified diets, with a specific focus on community support to enhance the school menu. The sessions highlighted Article 28 of the New Education Law, emphasizing the involvement of various parties in providing hot meals. The main objective of awareness-raising activities was to empower schools to improve menus by incorporating more diverse and nutritious food, mitigating the impact of rising prices for food products used in school meals.
- WFP provided guidelines for the effective development of diversified school menus for District Education Departments, City Education Departments, and WFP-assisted schools, taking into account factors such as market prices, local dish preferences, the size of parental contributions, and the utilization of products/funds from school gardens.