



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## September 2023



School meals provided to primary schoolchildren, Boarding School named after N. Isanov, Jalalabad Province.  
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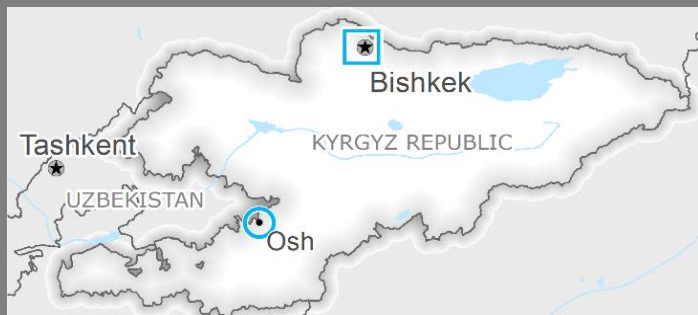
### Operational Context

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 August 2023, annual inflation reached 9.5 percent, the second highest in the Eurasian Economic Union region. According to WFP's latest mobile food security monitoring (June 2023), 10 percent of households were acutely food insecure, while 51 percent of the population remained marginally food secure.

From January to July 2023, remittances decreased by 32 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**

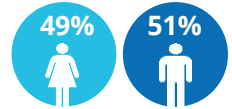
### In Numbers

**462 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$30,900** of cash assistance distributed

**23,232 people** assisted

**US\$3.1 million** six-month net funding requirements (October 2023 - March 2024)



### Operational Updates

#### School Meals and Healthy Diets

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) and other civil society partners, supported 33 schools to replace a menu consisting of a bun and tea with hot, diverse, and healthy meals. WFP and partners provided modern kitchen equipment, fortified wheat flour and training for school cooks in the schools that rehabilitated canteens and kitchens with support from local authorities. These schools started providing healthy dishes consisting of soups, porridges, fresh bread, salads, and vitamin-rich drinks to primary schoolchildren in a hygienic environment. This contributed to the Government's efforts to increase the number of schools that serve high-quality hot meals to primary schoolchildren in compliance with the new [Law on Education](#).
- WFP and SIFI organized a Healthy Eating campaign in eight schools of Batken and Chui provinces to promote diversified and nutritious diets among communities. More than 1,000 primary schoolchildren and their parents took part in interactive games, seminars and festivals centred around healthy eating and lifestyle.
- The Logistics Centre, established in Kadamjai in April 2023 with the support of WFP and partners, was selected on a competitive basis to supply vegetable products to 55 schools and seven kindergartens. Over 13,000 children will receive meals made from locally grown vegetables supplied by local smallholder farmers through the Centre. The centralized procurement of locally produced products will help schools optimize the use of resources and provide local farmers with better access to markets for their products.

#### Support to Social Inpatient Institutions

- Following the 'leave no one behind' principle, WFP provided unconditional support to the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society residing in social inpatient institutions (SIIs), including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and orphans. Every month, over 2,000 SII residents receive 24 mt of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil to meet their basic food and nutrition needs. Through this, WFP aims to support government efforts in providing an integrated package of livelihood and social protection interventions to people with differentiated productive capacities and vulnerabilities.

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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\$)
<b>90.9 m</b>	<b>24.55 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (October 2023-March 2024)
<b>23.7 m</b>	<b>1.87 m</b>

#### 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

## Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- WFP has implemented over 120 disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation projects in 98 rural settlements of Batken, Jalalabad, Naryn, and Osh Provinces. As a result, the disaster risk-prone communities created and/or restored critical community assets, including mudflow protection dams and irrigational canals, and strengthened riverbanks with gabion nets. These protective and climate-resilient assets will protect 15,770 residential houses from disaster risks and improve irrigation of 21,000 hectares of agricultural land. Additionally, 11,849 households obtained access to drinking water. In exchange for participating in the projects, over 2,000 food insecure people received cash (US\$150) to address their food needs. Cash was distributed through e-wallets to increase financial inclusion and literacy of rural communities. Through these projects, WFP also supported the national programme of Special Preventive Liquidation Measures for disaster prevention.
- WFP organized [training](#) on Inclusive Disaster Risk Management for the representatives of the Monitoring and Emergency Forecasting Department of the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The participants of the training improved their understanding of how various vulnerable and marginalized groups can be impacted by disasters and discussed delivering inclusive services, organizing inclusive monitoring and evaluation, and developing inclusive disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response measures and policies.

## Partnerships

- WFP's Country Director accompanied the Minister of Agriculture to the first China-Central Asia Agriculture Ministers Meeting held in Yangling, China. The Minister presented the main challenges and opportunities of the country's agricultural sector and emphasized the importance of regional and global cooperation to improve food security. A key outcome of the meeting is the Joint Statement of Intent on China-Central Asia Agreement on Strengthening Agricultural Investment and Trade Cooperation to Promote Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development. Additionally, WFP and the Kyrgyz delegation met with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China to express their appreciation for the support through the joint project in exploring smart farming technologies, as well as their willingness to expand cooperation in this area.
- WFP and the Kyrgyz delegation, including the Director of the Kyrgyz Scientific Research Institute for Farming, also attended the 30th China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair, the 17th China Yangling Agricultural Science Forum, and the 2023 Global Soil Health Forum. The representatives of the delegation delivered keynote speeches emphasizing the importance of improving soil quality, forming larger agricultural cooperatives, and expanding the use of machinery to boost agricultural productivity in the country. Furthermore, a meeting was held with the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University of China, at which the parties agreed to expand cooperation through knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening on smart agriculture with innovative technology.