



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief October 2022



Fortified wheat flour provided to the Ministry of Emergency Situations under the emergency response in Batken. © WFP/Photo

Operational Context

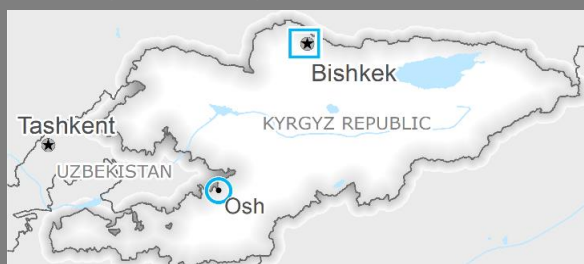
The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous country with a territory of 199,000 square kilometres. Two-thirds of its multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. Poverty increased from 20 percent in 2019 to 33 percent in 2021, with an additional 10 percent at risk of poverty. This highlights the need for nutrition sensitive and shock-responsive social protection to the rising needs.

The global food crisis is exacerbating existing stresses following the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which had already eroded the resilience of the most vulnerable households. In September 2022, inflation remained high at 15.5 percent compared with September 2021, one of the highest in Central Asia. According to WFP's food security assessment (August 2022), 21 percent of households, or more than 1.3 million people, are food insecure and around a fifth of households are not consuming an adequate diet.

The Kyrgyz economy is highly dependent on remittances, which made up 31 percent of the country's economy in 2020. Remittances are an important contributor to reducing the national poverty rate: without remittances, poverty would have reached 43 percent and extreme poverty would have reached 17 percent in 2021. The country's high dependency on imported basic foods (30 percent for wheat, 84 percent for vegetable oil and 37 percent for sugar) continues to negatively affect the most vulnerable households for which food makes up 65 percent of their expenses.

According to the recently finalized National Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey, micronutrient deficiencies continue to have lifelong consequences for children and women in the country. Only 2 percent of households consume adequately fortified flour. Only 26 percent of children from 6-59 months achieve minimal dietary diversity. Anaemia can be 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.).

In mid-September 2022, an armed conflict on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border resulted in casualties and damage to infrastructure, as well as 142,000 internally displaced people (IDPs). Now, majority of IDPs have returned to the places of their permanent residence.



Population: **6.7 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

124 mt of food distributed

US\$20,600 cash-based transfers made

US\$9.2 million six-month net funding requirements
(November 2022 – April 2023)

31,050 people assisted

49%

51%

Operational Updates

Emergency response

- WFP, in coordination with the Government, planned to provide emergency food assistance to the internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities affected by the escalation of violence along the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in mid-September 2022. In addition to the funds made available through the Central Emergency Response Fund, WFP received additional resources from the governments of Japan and Switzerland to scale up the life-saving support to the affected communities in Batken and Osh provinces. The choice of transfer modalities and activities are being closely coordinated with the Government, donors, UN Country Team and humanitarian partners to ensure full alignment with a joint Emergency Response Plan.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

- WFP, with development partners, supported the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) in carrying out a scientific and practical consultations dedicated to the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction. The consultations focused on core challenges and opportunities within the national disaster risk management system. These were attended by the representatives of the National Security Council, the Cabinet of Ministers, development partners, civil society organizations and structural divisions of the MES. During the event, joint plans to integrate WFP's climate hazard monitoring system PRISM (Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring) into the national disaster risk management system was discussed.
- WFP and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision entered into the implementation phase of the first WFP and Green Climate Fund joint project in the Kyrgyz Republic, "Climate services and diversification of climate sensitive livelihoods to empower food insecure and vulnerable communities". The project will be implemented from 2022 to 2025 in 8 districts of Batken, Naryn and Osh provinces with an aim to support the Government in reducing vulnerability to climate change and increasing the adaptive capacity of rural communities. The event was attended by key government bodies, civil society organizations and academia. The stakeholders agreed on effective implementation arrangements and partnerships. Additionally, Project Steering Committee and Technical Working Group were established to manage the project.

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

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
75.7 m	51.1 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Nov 2022-Apr 2023)
20.5 m	9.2 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
- Provide short-term food assistance to vulnerable populations, including schoolchildren and people in social institutions, to meet their basic food needs during and in the aftermath of emergencies

Strategic Outcome 5: Vulnerable populations in the Kyrgyz Republic are supported to meet their food security and nutrition needs to enable their early recovery during and in the aftermath of crisis

Focus area: *Emergency Support and Early Recovery*

Activities:

- Provide emergency food assistance to shock-affected vulnerable populations

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 5: 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

Support to Social Inpatient Institutions

- WFP and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration (MLSSM) presented Methodological Guidelines on Organizing Meals in the Social Inpatient Institutions (SIIs) to stakeholders of the project supported by the Government of Switzerland. The guidelines, developed by WFP, the National Medical Academy and Sanitary- epidemiological Department under the MLSSM, were designed to improve the quality of meals, which currently do not meet the dietary needs of SII residents. The guidelines include the revised food basket and daily norms for the consumption of essential foods that satisfy physiological requirements of elderly, persons with disabilities and orphans receiving services in SIIs. The updated norms will diversify the menus with nutrient-rich dishes and improve nutrition of SII residents.

Partnerships

- WFP held a technical consultation with national stakeholders to present WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027. The meeting was attended by representatives of line ministries, international and civil society organizations, academia, private sector and UN agencies. The partners discussed CSP's alignment with the national priorities and agreed on joint actions to implement the Plan. CSP will be presented to the WFP Executive Board for endorsement in November 2022.
- WFP, with key partners supporting the national school meals programme (including Food and Agriculture Organization and Mercy Corps), organized a visit for Members of Parliament (MPs) and government authorities to WFP-assisted schools in Chui Province. During the visit, schools demonstrated the meal preparation process and raised issues on the impact of record-high food prices on the quality of school meals. MPs learned that considerable additional resources are critically needed to ensure diverse and nutrient-rich dishes for primary schoolchildren. The government representatives expressed their willingness to promote a two-fold increase in allocations from the Government in 2023.
- In honour of celebrating the World Food Day, WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic and FAO, organized an agricultural fair and exhibition at the main square in the capital Bishkek. The event raised public awareness on the issues of food security and nutrition, as well as efforts required for agri-food systems to be sustainable and inclusive. The main theme of the World Food Day in 2022 was "Leave No One Behind". The fair provided an opportunity for the public to familiarize and buy organic products of local farmers, including beneficiaries of WFP projects.

Donors

Germany, Green Climate Fund, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, the private sector, amongst other donors.