



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

February 2023



Community level consultations to inform GCF project design and implementation in 9 districts of Jalalabad, Osh and Batken provinces. © WFP/Photo Library

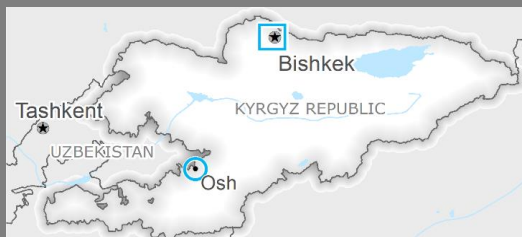
Operational Context

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. 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 also exacerbating existing stresses following the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which had already eroded the resilience of the most vulnerable households. In February 2023, inflation reached 16 percent compared to February 2022, second highest in the Eurasian Economic Union region. According to WFP's mobile food security monitoring conducted in December 2022, from 15 percent of households, or more than 1 million people were acutely food insecure while 54 percent of the population remain only marginally food secure.

In January 2023, compared to the same period in 2022, remittances decreased by 38 percent. Considering that remittances make up over 30 percent of the GDP and contributes greatly to poverty reduction, this fall in remittances may negatively affect household incomes and overall economic performance and contribute to 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 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 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**

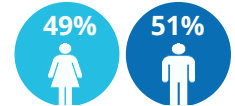
In Numbers

31 mt of food assistance distributed

24,108 people assisted

US\$6.9 million six-month net funding requirements (March-August 2023)

Operational Updates



School meals and healthy diets

- WFP has completed assessment of the school meals programme in 33 schools that currently serve bun and tea to primary school children. The assessment identified the needs of the schools for capacity strengthening (recruitment of cooks, school menu development, safety standards and procurement procedures) and infrastructure rehabilitation (water supply, sewerage, electricity, ventilation, heating and storage facilities). The results of the assessment will inform preparatory activities of WFP and partners to upgrade the school menu from serving bun and tea to hot, diverse and nutritious meals for primary schoolchildren starting from September 2023.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management

- WFP carried out Community Level Consultations (CLC) in nine districts of Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces to inform the first Green Climate Fund (GCF) project in the Kyrgyz Republic to be implemented by WFP. The CLCs enabled to (i) identify the socioeconomic and environmental priorities of the districts; (ii) define ongoing community development projects and existing employment growth strategies; (iii) assess the relevance of the project activities to the needs of the communities; and (iv) identify potential partners. Based on the CLC results, representatives of the communities will prepare project proposals that will be presented to the established Local Project Implementation Committees for approval.
- WFP held several meetings with the line ministries, government and civil society organizations, including the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES), the Water Resources Service and the Union of Water Users Association, to plan joint activities on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. The joint work plans were developed to implement projects aimed to protect communities and their livelihoods from risks of extreme weather events, through restoring or constructing climate-resilient assets, such as mudflow protection dams and drainage systems. Additionally, WFP and the MES agreed to implement a number of projects planned under the national programme "Special Preventive Liquidation Measures for Disaster Prevention".

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
91.0 m	16.2 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (March-Aug 2023)
23.7 m	6.9 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
Nutrition-sensitive

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 (HIS-1.7: Household and individual skill and livelihood creation)

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 (URT-1.2: Unconditional resource transfer)

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
Nutrition-sensitive

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 (CAR-1.9: Actions to protect against climate shocks)

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 (SMP-1.5: School based programmes)

Enhanced food access to vulnerable population

- WFP reviewed the 2022 lessons learned on the implementation of asset creation and livelihood skills projects and prepared CLC that will be held across all districts of the Kyrgyz Republic in March 2022. WFP will meet with local partners and residents, including women and youth, to ensure community participation in the decision making and design of projects. CLCs will identify local development priorities to inform the design of community development projects planned for 2023 to improve food security and nutrition, complement national social protection system and strengthen the food systems. Leave No One Behind Approach will be promoted during CLCs for comprehensive and coherent targeting process and design of the programmatic activities.

Evidence-based analysis

- WFP, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, continues to produce monthly Price Monitoring Bulletins to provide partners with the most updated market data for food commodities, fertilizers and fuel to inform programme adjustments and policy decision making. This month, the Bulletins have been transferred to the online [Dashboard format](#).

Partnerships

- WFP hosted the second meeting of the Development Partner Coordination Council (DPCC) Nutrition Sub-group, which was created in 2023 to coordinate the efforts of development partners on promotion of nutrition and healthy eating. The nutrition sub-group includes representatives of the Ministry of Health, UN agencies (WFP & UNICEF) and other development partners (USAID, Mercy Corps, Aga Khan Development Network, etc.). The participants discussed the development of the joint communication campaign, promotion of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and organization of district-level meetings to raise awareness on nutrition-related topics, including micronutrient intake and daily rations. As a result, the parties identified key priorities and areas for cooperation and agreed to develop a joint work plan. The next meeting will take place in April.
- WFP held a meeting with the Department of Social Protection (DSP) under the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration and the Ministry of Education and Science to discuss lessons learned from 2022 and plans to organize joint activities in 2023, including in-land transportation of food from WFP central warehouses to project sites across the country. As a result of the meeting, the parties agreed to sign an agreement that defines the responsibilities and obligations of WFP, DSP and local authorities on implementation of joint projects aimed at active measures of social support for low-income families envisaged under the CSP 2023-2027.

Donors

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