



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## April 2023



Logistics Centre opening in Kadamjai. © WFP/Photo Library

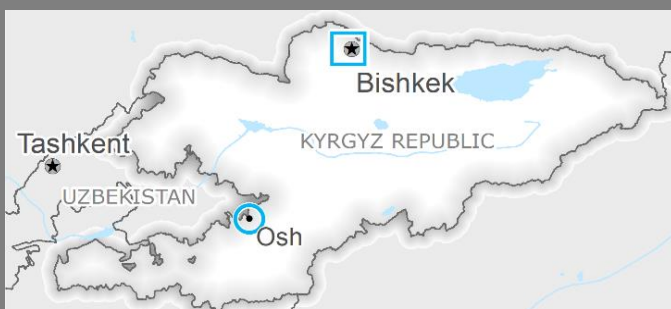
### Operational Context

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, 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-February 2023, compared to the same period in 2022, remittances decreased by 34 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 70 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

**31.2 mt** of food assistance distributed

**24,662 people** assisted

**US\$2.88 million** six-month net funding requirements (May-October 2023)



## Operational Updates

Enhanced access to employment, income opportunities and human capital development

- WFP started collecting project proposals from targeted communities for asset creation and livelihood skills projects. To date, more than 100 project proposals were endorsed by local project implementation committees and WFP. The projects aim to improve irrigation and access to drinking water systems and address the immediate needs of vulnerable families and improve their long-term food security and resilience. In 2023, WFP plans to support over 300 community-based livelihoods projects for 70,000 people from low-income families.

### School meals and healthy diets

- WFP, in collaboration with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute, established the Logistics Centre in Kadamjai, Batken Province. The Centre aims to enhance the linkages between schools and local smallholder farmers for the National School Meal Programme (NSMP). The Centre will enhance the self-sufficiency of the NSMP by optimizing the use of resources through centralized procurement of locally produced products. It will also support local farmers by providing them with better access to markets for their products. The Centre opening ceremony was organized by WFP and attended by donors, government partners and media. The Centre may become the model that can be extended to other regions of the country.

### Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management (CCA and DRM)

- WFP organized a training on the basics of agricultural insurance under the initiative to pilot and integrate innovative insurance products to help smallholders mitigate climate-related shocks. The training was attended by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Financial Supervision Authority, consulting companies, insurance companies and other stakeholders. The participants also learned about WFP-developed weather index-based livestock insurance products to be piloted in Naryn Province in May-October 2023. The pilot is expected to support 4,100 small pastoralists in accessing fodder when availability decreases or when pastures are unavailable or unproductive due to extreme weather events.

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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>16.2 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May-October 2023)
<b>23.7 m</b>	<b>2.88 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

- WFP started collecting project proposals from the targeted communities to implement CCA and DRM community development projects. In April, more than 30 project proposals were endorsed by the established local project implementation committees and WFP. The projects will address the immediate food needs of vulnerable families living in remote/disaster-prone areas with cash transfers while improving the long-term food security and resilience of communities through asset creation. In 2023, WFP plans to carry out CCA and DRM projects supporting up to 200,000 people from low-income families.
- WFP provided training to the Hydrometeorological Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations on the R-Instat software to analyse climate data, using "Partial Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture" methodology. The training was carried out in collaboration with the University of Reading under the Green Climate Fund project. The participants gained in-depth knowledge and skills in using the software to help them in climate data validation, clean-up, analysis, and visualization.

### Partnerships

- WFP and the German Agency for International Cooperation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation, complement interventions, and enhance joint capacities to improve the livelihoods and resilience of people vulnerable to food insecurity, including rural communities prone to extreme weather events. It also entails promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, building a green economy, and implementing Agenda 2030. The parties committed to supporting each other, proactively and effectively sharing skills and knowledge, and working together to improve livelihoods of people most vulnerable to food insecurity.
- WFP, with support from the Chinese academic partner, conducted a feasibility study to investigate modern smart farming technologies and innovative solutions. WFP, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, held a meeting with key agricultural experts to share China's smart farming experience and the feasibility study findings. The parties discussed key recommendations, including promotion of fertigation and geospatial analysis as well as improving access of the smallholders, most vulnerable to food insecurity, to the technologies. This study can serve as a basis for building cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and China, as well as to empower smallholder farmers to apply smarter choices in land use and climate resilient practices for improved agricultural productivity. Additionally, the findings from the Chinese expert were presented to the Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### Donors

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