



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief June 2023



Community asset creation project to rehabilitate 1,350 m of irrigation canals and improve agricultural productivity, Kadamzhai District. © WFP/Photo Library

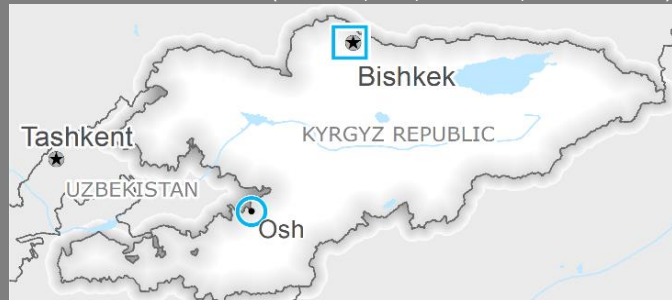
## Operational Context

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 address 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 May 2023, annual inflation reached 11.3 percent, the second highest in the Eurasian Economic Union Region. According to the latest WFP's mobile food security monitoring conducted in June 2023, 10 percent of households were acutely food-insecure, while 51 percent of the population remain only marginally food secure.

In January-April 2023, remittances decreased by 26 percent compared to the same period in 2022. Considering that remittances account for 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 accounts for 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 consume adequately fortified flour. Only 26 percent of children aged 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**

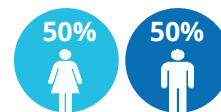
2020 Gender Inequality Index: **82 out of 189**

## In Numbers

**1,881 mt** of food distributed

**42,881 people** assisted

**US\$11.6 million** six-month net funding requirements (July-December 2023)



## Operational Updates

### Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management

- WFP participated in a meeting with the National Steering Committee on strengthening national capacity in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) through WFP projects. The meeting was chaired by the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Ecology, Natural Resources and Technical Supervision, and attended by the Embassy of Switzerland, and representatives of other line ministries, civil society, academia, and development partners. The Committee reviewed the project implementation and its plans for the rest of 2023 and discussed piloting Weather Index-Based Livestock Insurance Scheme, integrating food safety policies, upgrading emergency food rations and applying "Leave No One Behind" approach.
- WFP joined UN and environmental activists in celebrating the World Environment Day (5 June) through a public event "Together for a Sustainable Future". During the event, WFP and its national counterpart for the Green Climate Fund project, the Agency for Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations, disseminated information about the importance of climate information for vulnerable communities living in disaster-prone areas.
- WFP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and other line ministries, launched the Weather Index-Based Insurance Pilot Project in three districts of the mountainous Naryn Province. The pilot will insure local governments against drought for a maximum amount of approximately US\$1.2 million, with a premium of US\$200,000. The insurance coverage will protect 4,500 vulnerable livestock smallholders from extreme drought by helping them prepare ahead of low fodder availability in pastures and the high price of fodder.
- WFP hosted an expert mission to develop activities for its ongoing projects on strengthening national capacities in DRM and CCA. The mission experts met with national partners and developed action plans to introduce digital climate risk monitoring system 'Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring' (PRISM) and improve agrometeorological services and advisories for rural communities. The mission identified the need in organizing training on Numerical Weather Prediction and Seasonal Forecasting for partners.

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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\$) (July-December 2023)
<b>23.7 m</b>	<b>11.6 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

## School meals and healthy diets

- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health, developed the Methodological Guidelines for organizing hot school meals. The Guidelines were approved by the joint order of the ministries. The document will provide schools and programme stakeholders with necessary information about preparing high-quality nutritious meals in schools, including (i) sanitary and hygiene requirements, (ii) menu development and nutrition standards, (iii) school gardens/farms development, (iv) healthy eating campaigns, (v) roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and (vi) monitoring principles. The Guidelines will be distributed among schools, districts departments, and other stakeholders in 2023.

## Enhanced access to employment and income opportunities

- WFP has completed 192 community asset creation projects to improve food security and resilience of low-income families in vulnerable communities. The projects enabled more than 190 rural communities to restore/construct drinking water pipelines, providing access to clean drinking water, and restore/construct irrigational canals, improving irrigation and agricultural productivity. Other critical community facilities constructed to mitigate the risks of natural hazards include dams, drainage canals, reinforced riverbanks, and bridges. Furthermore, vulnerable community members participated in 85 income generating projects to improve livelihood skills. As a result, 40,521 beneficiaries received 1,867 tons of food (fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil) to address their immediate food needs. Additionally, 2,360 residents of Social Inpatient Institutions benefited from unconditional transfer of 14 tons of food.

## Partnerships

- WFP signed a Cooperation Agreement with Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the University of Central Asia (UCA) to enhance joint activities aimed at strengthening national and community capacities in DRM and CCA. Under this agreement, WFP, AKF and UCA will foster joint research collaboration and strengthen cooperation on capacity building of national research institutes and government officials in food security, nutrition, social protection, disaster risk reduction, climate-smart agriculture, natural resources management, and community resilience building.
- WFP, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF), held a workshop to parliamentarians (Jogorku Kenesh) on food systems and value chains. The participants gained a better understanding how food systems influence community dietary patterns and food security in the country. They also discussed complexity of food systems and the role of value chains in the context of the global food crisis, climate change and conflict. This help parliamentarians develop effective policies and programmes to reform food systems and ensure access to adequate diet for all.

## Donors

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