



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief January 2024



Community level consultations conducted by WFP staff in Toktogul 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. In recent years, the global food and cost of living crisis has exacerbated stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which 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 January – December 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 10 percent for staple foods, 13 percent for non-food items and 10 percent for services compared to January – December 2022. Consumer price growth was witnessed in all regions of the country.

According to WFP's latest mobile food security monitoring (December 2023), 10 percent of households were acutely food insecure, while 50 percent of the population remained marginally food secure.

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).



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**

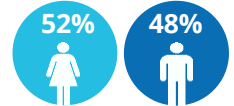
## In Numbers

**21,122 people** assisted

**28 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$87,900** of cash assistance distributed

**US\$1.12 million** six-month net funding requirements (February 2024 - July 2024)



## Operational Updates

### Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- Following the successful Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) Pilot by WFP in three districts of Naryn province in 2023, WFP Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan Country Offices plan to adopt a regional approach to further develop and expand new residual risk management and transfer products in Central Asia. The Tajikistan Country Office intends to use Kyrgyz Republic's experience and lessons learnt from the CRI pilot. The Country Offices plan to extend the pilot project by including crops and disaster insurance. This initiative aims to support local governments in assisting vulnerable households in mitigating the impact of extreme weather events.

### Partnerships

- WFP was given a certificate of appreciation by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers recognizing its support in the successful organization of the first Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) School Meals Forum by the Ministry of Education and Science and CIS Secretariat aimed to share best practices in the effective implementation of school meals programmes in the region. The School Meals Forum, initiated by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, allowed stakeholders to discuss and develop answers to the challenges in providing efficient and quality nourishment for schoolchildren, including engagement with parents and the private sector. At the Forum, a joint Declaration was signed, turning it into an annual platform for dialogue and exchange of best practices. With the assistance of WFP and other partners, the country's National School Meals Programme has covered the provision of hot meals to over 75 percent of schools.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>100.13 m</b>	<b>48.04 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Feb 2024 - July 2024)
<b>19.4 m</b>	<b>1.12 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

## Enhanced Access to Employment and Income Opportunities

- WFP has initiated a series of Community Level Consultations (CLCs) across all regions of the country, employing a Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) approach at the district level. This method adopts a joint planning approach from the grassroots level, ensuring that communities have a significant voice in setting priorities for their socio-economic development plans. These consultations aim to establish a consistent pathway for WFP support, facilitating communities in moving towards poverty alleviation. By ensuring community ownership, tailored multi-sectoral plans to local priorities will be accumulated throughout January and February and an implementation plan drafted for projects related to improved access to employment and income opportunities, as well as climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.

## School Meals and Healthy Diets

- In January, CLCs were held with key partners to review the National School Meals Programme's achievements, challenges encountered, and their solutions, while also raising awareness about WFP values and principles that should be integrated into programme delivery. Stakeholders including district state administrations, local governments, District Education Departments, and directors from schools that will be supported this year in Batken, Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Talas provinces were engaged in the CLCs.

## Story from the Field



Meet Manzuura Ibraimova, a school cook with over 40 years of experience at Amirkulov School in the mountainous Kara-Kulja district.

Thanks to the valuable support from donors, the school launched hot, nutritious meals for 156 primary schoolchildren in 2023 through the provision of kitchen equipment and training in meal organization and hygiene standards for cooks like Manzuura. Micronutrient deficiencies are a pressing issue in the Kyrgyz Republic, while schoolchildren face rising rates of overweight and obesity. The provision of healthy and diverse school meals plays a crucial role in preventing malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, promoting the overall health of the younger generation.