



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## February 2024



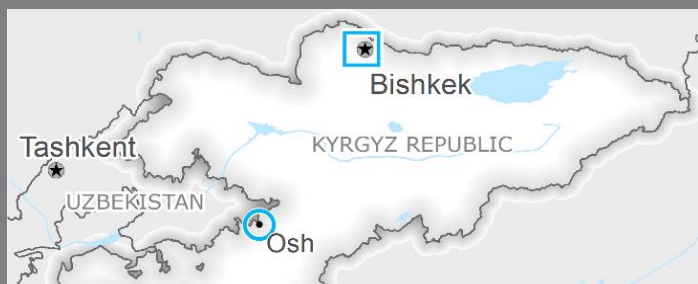
WFP Kyrgyz Republic Deputy Country Director Hilke David at the Anticipatory Action pilot project hay and feed handover ceremony in Naryn province. © WFP/Photo Library

### 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 2023 remittance flows declined particularly along the Russian Federation corridor to the Kyrgyz Republic due to the depreciation of the ruble against the U.S. dollar. Since the Kyrgyz Republic is one of the five recipient countries in the world based on the ratio of remittances to GDP, this decline could contribute to a further increase in poverty. 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**

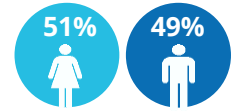
### In Numbers

**30 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$134,550** of cash assistance distributed

**US\$0.86 million** six-month net funding requirements (March 2024 - August 2024)

**22,424 people** assisted in February



### Operational Updates

#### Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- WFP jointly handed over with the Ministry of Emergency Situations the hay and mixed feed to local authorities to support vulnerable pastoralists in remote and mountainous villages located in livestock-intensive and low-density population areas of Naryn province. Thirteen villages across two municipalities were identified to host a pilot for testing anticipatory actions. The pilot aims to protect livelihoods of 458 vulnerable pastoralist households from the adverse impacts of climate change, namely cold and extended winters. Through this new scheme, local authorities and the Ministry of Emergency Situations have been implementing effectively and timely disaster preparedness actions.
- WFP conducted a training on the use of one of software within the framework of the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) methodology for KyrgyzHydromet. During the training, participants acquired knowledge on error detection in large data sets, data analysis, and processing, as well as the presentation of easy-to-understand data for farmers using different types of graphs.

#### Partnerships

- WFP co-organized the UN Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) working group meeting together with FAO, WHO and UNICEF ahead of the SUN Global Gathering in Rwanda scheduled in June 2024. The working group members discussed the challenges of implementing the findings of the Joint Annual Assessment report. The participating agencies also briefed on their nutrition activities and related events in 2024, and agreed on joint fundraising initiatives, as well as conducting trainings on the importance of nutrition for Members of Parliament.

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>100.3 m</b>	<b>49.64 m</b>
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Mar 2024 - Aug 2024)
<b>11.36 m</b>	<b>0.86 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

#### Donors

Green Climate Fund, Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Private Sector, Russian Federation, Switzerland, World Bank/GAFSP, WFP, and UN

- The Russian Federation continues its long-term support in enhancing the School Meals Programme and assisting vulnerable populations through resilience-building projects in the country. In February, WFP facilitated field visits to operation sites:
  - WFP conducted a field visit to two schools in Chuy province with the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to showcase the successful and sustainable implementation of the Optimised School Meals Programme (OSMP) and meet beneficiaries.
  - A field visit was also conducted in Osh province with the General Consul of the Russian Federation to get acquainted with the selection and implementation of asset creation and human capacity development projects, as well as the OSMP.
- In 2023, the Russian Federation allocated USD 15 million for the OSMP for 2023-2027, aiming to enable around 300 schools to transition from 'bun and tea' to offering nutritious and diverse hot meals. In addition, the Russian Federation has provided USD 8 million for 2023 and 2024, allowing WFP to complement the Government's social protection system for vulnerable families with Social Passports. WFP will distribute food rations for participants in community-based projects.

### Story from the Field



Meet Tatyana Chernikova, the lead specialist of KyrgyzHydromet, responsible for climate data analysis. In February, [Tatyana attended the WFP-conducted](#) training on the usage of R-Instat software, with a focus on providing easy to use climate information. During the training, KyrgyzHydromet staff learned to analyse historical climate data using new methods. Mountainous Kyrgyz Republic is prone to climate related natural hazards such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts. Since agricultural production is highly sensitive to climate conditions, WFP is working jointly with key stakeholders such as KyrgyzHydromet to enhance climate information dissemination, supporting food-insecure smallholders.