



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## March 2024



WFP Representative and CD, Ambassador of Japan and Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration at the signing ceremony for the Japanese contribution. © 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

**21,257 people** assisted

**24 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$88,350** of cash assistance distributed

**US\$1.46 million** six-month net funding requirements (April 2024 - September 2024)



### Operational Updates

#### Enhanced Access to Employment and Income Opportunities

- The Government of Japan contributed US\$3.5 million to promote self-reliance among vulnerable people in the Kyrgyz Republic. With this contribution, WFP will collaborate with the Government to build community resilience and foster sustainable prosperity in country. This will be achieved by improving basic infrastructure in rural areas, skills development for additional income generation, and promoting climate-smart agriculture methods.
- The Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration recently held a training session on the "Social Contract" project for local, district and national government bodies. The training focused on developing livelihood skills and promoting financial inclusion, with an emphasis on supporting profitable business sectors like beekeeping, poultry farming, horticulture, sewing production, and strawberry and raspberry cultivation. WFP continues to assist the Government in implementing this project nationwide, which was initially piloted by WFP in 2021.

#### School Meals and Healthy Diet

- WFP, together with Members of Parliament, Deputy Ministers of Education, Health, and Culture, as well as local government members visited WFP-supported schools in Jalal-Abad province. The visit raised public awareness of the importance of nutrition, supporting the advocacy effort to increase national budget allocation for school meals. During the visit, the delegation received an overview of programme implementation and policy development and met with parents and teachers to gain an understanding of how different entities are working together to ensure a sustainable school meals programme.

## WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>100.13 m</b>	<b>53.15 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Apr 2024 - Sep 2024)
<b>11 m</b>	<b>1.46 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, World Bank/GAFSP, WFP, and UN

## Partnerships

- WFP's Representative and Country Director in the Kyrgyz Republic, Kojiro Nakai, met with Mr. Edil Baisalov, the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Ministers, and discussed WFP's contributions to the Government's initiatives and development programmes. Mr. Baisalov requested WFP's support in refining the "Social Contract" project by promoting social entrepreneurship and innovative ideas, including support to agricultural cooperatives to promote a fair-trade approach.
- WFP's Country Directors in Tajikistan and in the Kyrgyz Republic jointly held meetings with regional bodies based in Almaty, including the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), and the Islamic Development Bank, as well as key partners in the Kyrgyz Republic. The meetings aimed to promote WFP's regional approach in the areas of climate change, social protection, and food security, amongst other key areas.

## Story from the Field



Meet Jipariza Omurkanova, a Social Affairs specialist in Kurtka village. She has been working with WFP for over 10 years, supporting low-income families in the Togolok Moldo local government. Last year, her local government participated in the country's first Climate Risk Insurance pilot project. The aim of this project is to enhance the resilience of rural communities to extreme weather-related risks. During the pilot period in 2023, a payout was triggered due to summer drought, and 792 vulnerable families received 26.3 metric tons of barley. This support sustains their livestock during the harsh winter months. Additionally, villagers received training on climate change adaptation and insurance.