



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## April 2024



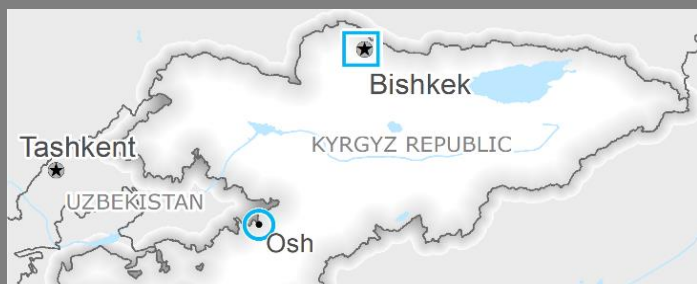
Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic introduced WFP-supported school meals programme to school principals of the new round. © WFP/Photo Library

### 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**

2022 Human Development Index: **0.701 (117th out of 193 countries)**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

2022 Gender Inequality Index: **0.345**

### In Numbers

**15,720 people** assisted

**24 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$0.33 million** six-month net funding requirements (May - October 2024)



### Operational Updates

#### Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- WFP in collaboration with local partners has developed climate risk profiles in targeted districts of Osh, Batken, and Naryn provinces as part of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-supported project. By applying these risk profiles, local governments are empowered to help farmers adjust their cropping practices to climate change, thereby enhancing value chain production. This initiative aims to contribute to reducing vulnerability to climate change and enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural communities.
- Under the same GCF project, WFP hosted a workshop to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information on the provision of digital services in agriculture and the development of climate services in the Kyrgyz Republic. Representatives from the Government, agricultural extension services, international organizations and WFP's partners discussed climate services.
- WFP conducted a series of training sessions on Cash-based Transfers (CBT) for cooperating partners and local social workers in three provinces. The sessions aimed to update participants on the process and procedures related to cash assistance, deepen understanding of e-wallets within WFP's CBT projects, and ensure data privacy to protect beneficiaries. Supported by Kompanion Bank, a leading financial institution in the Kyrgyz Republic, WFP plans to extend this training to partners in other regions of the country.

#### School Meals and Healthy Diet

- WFP met with school directors from the north and south regions of the country to discuss the renovation of school canteen infrastructure, delivery of equipment and food, and menu development. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic provided insight into the Education Law, while the Ministry of Health outlined sanitary norms and requirements. Over 150 participants at district, city and provincial levels attended the meeting.

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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>100.13 m</b>	<b>53.25 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (May 2024 - Oct 2024)
<b>10.65 m</b>	<b>0.33 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 Advancing Food Systems

- WFP Representative and Country Director, Kojiro Nakai, met with Mr. Bakyt Torobaev, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry. WFP presented an overview of its agricultural projects, including the initiative to promote climate-smart agriculture funded by Japan and the Global Agriculture & Food Security Program (GAFSP)-supported project focusing on strengthening agricultural cooperatives to promote a more resilient food system in the Batken region. Mr. Torobaev expressed appreciation for WFP's long-term support and outlined the ministry's priorities for the coming years. Both parties agreed to work together to advance food security and nutrition in the country.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, assisted the Parliament with a roundtable focused on national food security in the Kyrgyz Republic. Attended by members of the Parliament, ministry officials, and independent experts, the event discussed issues related to food security in the country and the establishment of an appropriate regulatory framework with the involvement of key stakeholders. By continuing to support the Parliament, WFP is contributing to strengthening the institutional capacity of national actors.

## Story from the Field



**These young learners are immersed in the awareness raising campaign on healthy diets led by WFP and its partner.**

A series of events, workshops and activities for primary school children and their parents are held in schools across the country to promote healthy eating habits and educate parents on the principles of balanced nutrition for the whole family. The campaign also aims to make adults and children aware of the importance of school meals and their positive impact on the quality of education and health.