



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

May 2024



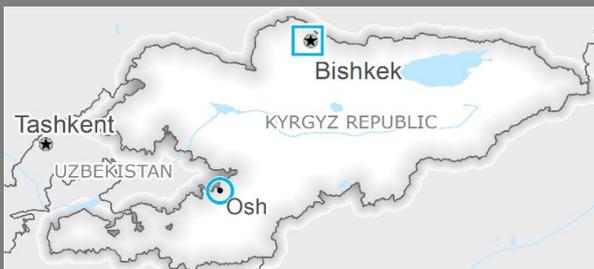
Training on gardening for smallholder farmers to diversify production and increase income. Nookat district, Osh province. © WFP/Photo Library

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 the stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, eroding 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 top five recipient countries in the world in terms of the remittances to GDP ratio, 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 half 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: **117 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

2022 Gender Inequality Index: **81 out of 193 countries**

In Numbers

27,554 people assisted

543 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$0 million six-month net funding requirements (May 2024 - October 2024)



Operational Updates

Active Labour Market Programmes

- WFP participated in the nationwide conference "Jany Kadam" on social mobilization, which was hosted by the President. Over 800 participants of the government poverty graduation programme "Social Contract," which WFP has been supporting since 2022, attended the event. During his speech, WFP Country Director expressed his willingness to continue technical support to the Ministry of Labor, Social Services, and Migration in upgrading the programme, and in establishing a stronger shock-responsive social protection system in the country.

School Meals as a Safety Net

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science and Mercy Corps, has conducted a study to evaluate the sustainability of the school meals programme (SMP) in the Kyrgyz Republic. According to the study, the SMP (i) has a positive impact on children's health and education; (ii) requires continued support from the Government to procure food products and maintain kitchen infrastructure and equipment; and (iii) needs better integration with local agriculture. The findings of the study will be used to inform the development of the national school meals sustainability strategy.
- WFP and Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute organized a healthy eating campaign in 10 schools to promote nutritious diets among communities. More than 1,000 primary schoolchildren and their parents took part in interactive games and events centred around healthy eating.

Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (CCA and DRM)

- WFP participated in the first session of the Central Asia Inclusive DRR Network dedicated to fostering inclusive approaches to CCA and DRM. This event explored how regional variations impact DRM and CCA programmes, highlighting the importance of these differences in developing inclusive and equitable DRR policies.
- WFP participated in the Central Asian Climate Change Conference organized by the Regional Environmental Centre of Central Asia in Almaty. WFP presented its approach to building resilient communities, improving risk assessment practices and sustaining regional cooperation in CCA and DRM.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
100.3 m	54 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jun 2024 - Nov 2024)
19.4 m	0 m

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

Evidence-based analysis for national institutions

- Findings from WFP's latest remote household food security showed that 10 percent of the population is food insecure while half are marginally food secure. Majority of the households (72 percent) are resorting to negative coping strategies (such as dipping into savings, reducing expenses on education, and/or selling livestock) to meet their food needs. These findings help inform programmes and policy decisions related to food security, nutrition, and social protection.

Partnerships for Advancing Food Systems

- The Ambassador of Finland to Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist, accompanied by WFP Country Director, visited WFP project sites in the Osh province. During the visit, the ambassador spoke with project participants, including women working at the lemon juice workshop and children eating nutritious school meals at a boarding school. WFP will continue to cultivate relationships with Finland and other partners.
- WFP Deputy Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific (DRD), Mr. Samir Wanmali, visited the Kyrgyz Republic where he met with key ministries, local governments, and international financial institutions. The DRD also attended WFP's dialogue with partners joined by over 30 participants from local embassies and development partners to discuss social protection and resilience programming and to identify areas of enhanced collaboration in future.
- WFP co-chaired the bi-annual meeting of the Development Partners Coordination Council Working Group on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition, together with the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry (MoWRAPI) hosted the meeting where participating agencies presented their activities and agreed on joint actions to foster farmer associations, promote large-scale commodity production, and encourage public-private partnerships for resilient food systems.
- WFP, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development organized a meeting to strengthen collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies (RBA). The agencies have developed a Collaboration Action Plan for 2024 that focuses on complementarity in operations, food security analysis, and support to the Parliament. The agencies also agreed to step up their support to the MoWRAPI in addressing policy-related issues and promoting the Digital Agriculture agenda.