



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief June 2024



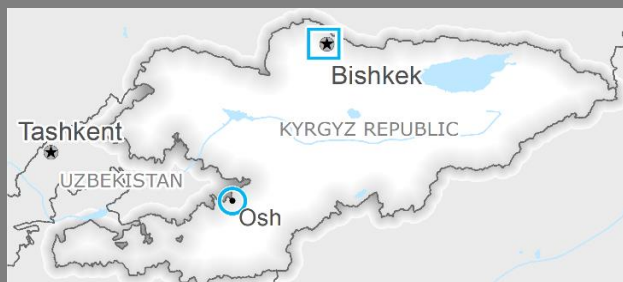
The Russian Federation and the Minister of Labour visited project sites and observed the distribution of food to beneficiaries. © WFP/Photo Library

## 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 economic crisis has exacerbated stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which eroded the resilience of the most vulnerable households. In 2023, 30 percent of the population were poor, with an additional 10 percent at risk of falling into poverty. This highlights the need for nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection.

The Kyrgyz Republic remains to be among the top five remittance recipient countries in the world (based on the ratio of remittances to GDP). In 2023, remittances accounted for 20 percent of the country's GDP. The uncertainties about the outlook for remittances remain, as travel warnings have been issued due to anti-migration sentiments. The potential decline in remittances inflow 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:  
**117 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

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

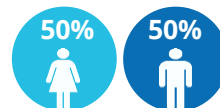
## In Numbers

**8,281 people** assisted

**445 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$39,450** of cash assistance distributed

**US\$1.14 million** six-month net funding requirements  
(July - December 2024)



## Operational Updates

### Employment and Income Opportunities

- In June, WFP supported 62 infrastructure rehabilitation projects and 13 livelihood skills development projects. Over 6,921 participants received 445 mt of food to help address their food needs. This brings the total infrastructure rehabilitation projects supported this year to 96. Through these projects, over 2,200 participants restored 14,600 m of drinking water pipelines, enabling access to clean drinking water for 4,500 rural households, including for schools and kindergartens. The participants also rehabilitated irrigation canals, resulting in improved irrigation on 4,200 ha of land and enhanced soil fertility on 7,900 ha of land. Over 3,500 households benefited from the improved conditions of roads, bridges, and pastures and 4,500 houses have been protected against disasters.
- During the same period, over 1,500 families participated in 58 projects to acquire livelihood skills (e.g., beekeeping, biofertilizer production, sewing) to start income-generating activities. In exchange for participating in the projects, over 18,000 food insecure people received 965 mt of food to address their food needs.

### Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

- Under its first Green Climate Fund project in Kyrgyz Republic, WFP delivered a training session to the Agency for Hydrometeorology under the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) on using the software programme to prepare agrometeorological information and forecasts for farmers. Farmers will be able to access this easy-to-understand information to adapt their cropping practices to climate change, thereby improving their yields and resilience.
- WFP, in partnership with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, trained the Department of Monitoring and Forecasting of the MES on INFORM, an internationally acknowledged disaster risk assessment model that will be integrated into the national disaster management system.
- Following the successful pilot of the Weather Index based Insurance last year, WFP signed a document offering an insurance policy to livestock farmers from 2024 to 2027 with four district administrations of Naryn province. The insurance policy aims to assist livestock farmers in obtaining fodder in the event of shortages caused by extreme weather conditions. In 2024, WFP also plans to pilot crop insurance.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
100.13 m	53.48 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July 2024 - Dec 2024)
19.63 m	1.14 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

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Evidence-based analysis

- WFP conducted a [study on the impact of the global food and economic crisis on the resilience of national food systems](#). The paper analyzes how the global geopolitical unrest and climate change-induced events (such as abnormal dryness in 2022 and 2023, mudflows, and floods), have increased vulnerabilities among the population in the Kyrgyz Republic. Additionally, a rise in the cost of the diet by almost 50 percent compared to pre-crisis levels, along with decreased incomes, have challenged access of the most vulnerable to healthy diets. The study also highlighted the potential opportunities for building resilience through WFP's activities.

Partnerships for Advancing Food Systems

- The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision awarded WFP a medal for cooperation and active engagement in addressing environmental issues. This award highlights WFP's dedication to environmental sustainability.
- WFP organized a joint field visit with the Russian Federation and the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration to meet beneficiaries and participate in the food distribution in the Chuy province. Over the past 15 years, the Russian Federation and WFP have jointly supported the people of the Kyrgyz Republic, from emergency relief and recovery to development projects while strengthening the national systems to ensure food security for the vulnerable populations in the country.

Story from the Field



Meet Nuraim Ajiybaeva, a dedicated school cook, who has been serving nutritious hot meals to 367 children for over 6 years. Nuraim ensures that the dishes are diverse and nutritionally well-balanced, which not only makes the meals more enjoyable for the children but also supports their growth and development. The school introduced hot meals thanks to the support from donors, providing new kitchen equipment and training for cooks like Nuraim. Micronutrient deficiencies are a pressing issue in the country, and children are facing increasing rates of overweight and obesity. Providing diverse school meals is crucial in preventing malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, ultimately promoting the overall health of the younger generation. See full video [here](#).

Donors

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