



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief September 2024



A road bridge was rehabilitated to connect 296 households in Don-Kyshtak village to the city © WFP/Photo Library

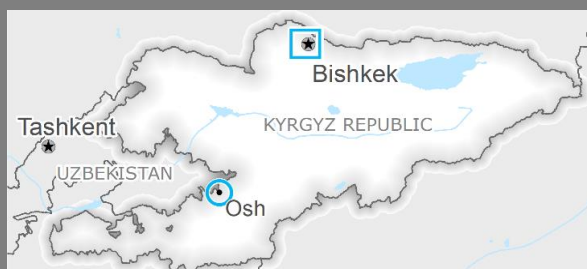
Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked and mountainous country, with two-thirds of its 7-million population residing in rural areas. The poverty level in the country remains the highest in the Central Asian region. In 2023, the poverty rate was 30 percent, which is 10 percent higher than the pre-pandemic level (2019), highlighting a setback in progress towards SDG 1 (No Poverty). Moreover, an additional 10 percent of the population were at risk of falling into poverty. With 60 percent of the population being food insecure or only marginally food secure, the progress towards achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) is currently stagnant.

Despite the positive economic development in 2024, the well-being and food security of the Kyrgyz Republic, remains fragile due to its dependence on remittances, food, and fuel imports, as well as climate change and government reforms (IMF, SOFI). The further development of remittances remains uncertain, due to the new migration law being considered in the Russian Federation.

The Kyrgyz Republic, with over 94 percent of its territory covered by high mountains, is classified as 'at high risk' for disaster exposure. In the first half of 2024, floods and mudflows have been occurring more frequently, resulting in USD 4.4 million worth in damages, which is already 30 percent higher than the total damage for 2023.

According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2023, half of the children aged 6-23 months do not receive a minimum acceptable diet, with the majority (75 percent) having unhealthy eating habits. The situation highlights the need for nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection.



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

19,056 people assisted

290 mt food assistance distributed

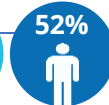
US\$12,450 cash assistance distributed

US\$1.9 million - six-month net funding requirements
(October 2024 – March 2025)

48%



52%



Operational Updates

Strengthening Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

- WFP is supporting four district authorities in piloting climate risk insurance to protect the livelihoods of vulnerable pastoralists from extreme weather events in Naryn province. In September, a payout of USD 85,373 was triggered by drought during June and July, helping over 12,000 people avert mass livestock deaths. The insurance enabled the affected pastoralists to access fodder, construct livestock treatment facilities, and procure mobile water pumps, thereby enhancing their capacity to sustain their herds. WFP is working on an exit strategy, which includes establishing a revolving mechanism to replenish distributed fodder in the warehouses. The scale-up of the initiative aims to strengthen national capacities for disaster risk management.
- Under the Green Climate Fund project, WFP organized training on hydrodynamic modelling, monitoring, and forecasting for the Ministry of Emergency Situations. This training enabled the Ministry's staff to adopt modern software for assessing and forecasting hazards and exposure to mudflows and floods.
- As the lead agency for the Food Security and Logistics sector of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU), WFP participated in an emergency simulation exercise organized by the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the American government. A high-magnitude earthquake was simulated, providing an opportunity for DRCU members to assess its emergency preparedness and response capabilities. WFP contributed to identifying areas for improvement to ensure an effective response to disasters in line with national objectives.

Enhancing Social Protection and Cohesion

- WFP participated in the "Yntymak" Peace Week organized by the Peace Hub. The event engaged participants in discussions about the importance of social cohesion, gender equality, and climate change adaptation for peace. WFP explored opportunities to integrate programmes in ongoing peacebuilding efforts of counterparts, promoting resilience and conflict resolution. The event emphasized the need for effective governance and collective actions to advance peace initiatives.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
100.1 m	53.5 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Oct 2024 – March 2025)
19.4 m	1.9 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

- WFP and UNICEF co-chaired a meeting of the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC) working group on social protection, hosted by the Minister for Labour, Social Security, and Migration. WFP, alongside UNICEF, ILO, and the World Bank, presented key recommendations from an assessment of the national social protection system using a Core Diagnostic Instrument. The Minister highlighted sector priorities, emphasizing a human-centered approach outlined in the National Development Strategy 2040. Through the meeting, the DPCC members identified areas for cooperation.
- WFP participated in the meeting of the inter-agency cash working group (CWG), which aims to strengthen the coordination of cash assistance projects among development and humanitarian partners. The CWG discussed enhancing the national social protection system's ability to scale up during shocks and emergencies to assist citizens in need of humanitarian assistance. The meeting focused on identifying methods for calculating the minimum amount of cash assistance needed to meet the basic needs of populations affected by the emergency.

School Meals as a Safety Net

- WFP and Bishkek City Hall signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the capacity of urban schools and preschools to improve the quality, efficiency, and sustainability of meals. Under this agreement, WFP will support 12 schools and 3 kindergartens in renovating and equipping their canteens as well as introducing an optimized menu with diverse and nutritious dishes. It will help improve nutrient intake among children. The optimized meals serve as a critical safety net for the urban poor, whose numbers have nearly doubled in recent years. WFP will also support developing cost-effective and planet-friendly implementation models (e.g., solar panels, greenhouses, etc.) to further promote the sustainability of the optimized meals.

Partnerships for Advancing Food Systems

- WFP supported the Central Asian Regional Forum "Organic EXPO – 2024" by facilitating a session "Organics, Health, Food Security, and Food Safety". The session aimed to inform stakeholders about the fundamental importance of organic agriculture for preserving genetic diversity, promoting sustainable food systems, and ensuring national food security. Additionally, the "Alysh Dan Organic" workshop, established with WFP's support in Batken province, showcased its organic products, demonstrating the tangible benefits of organic agriculture initiatives.

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

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027) | September 2024