



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## November 2024



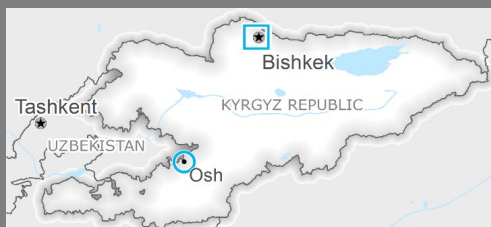
Riverbanks were reinforced with gabion nets as part of WFP's asset creation project to protect the village from floods, Bulolu village, Osh Province © WFP/Photo Library

### Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked mountainous country, with two-thirds of its 7-million population residing in rural areas. The poverty level in the country remains among the highest in Central Asia. In 2023, the poverty rate was 30 percent, which is 10 percent higher than the pre-pandemic level (2019). 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. Half of children aged 6-23 months do not receive a minimum acceptable diet, and most have unhealthy eating habits.

Despite the positive economic development in 2024, the 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. The country, with over 94 percent of its territory covered by high mountains, is classified as 'at high risk' for disaster exposure. In 2024, floods and mudflows have been occurring more frequently due to heavy rains, resulting in a 354 percent increase in annual damages.

WFP supports the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in strengthening climate-adaptive and nutrition-sensitive social protection, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation. WFP focuses on expanding the enhanced school meals programme as a safety net, complementing national Active Labour Market Programmes, providing technical support for the Government's poverty graduation programme, and strengthening vulnerability analysis to inform civil and social protection measures.



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**

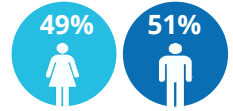
### In Numbers

**47,429 people** assisted

**1,359 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$215,100** of cash assistance distributed

**US\$0 m** - six-month net funding requirements (Dec 2024 - May 2025)



### Operational Updates

#### WFP Supports the Government-led Mountain Agenda for Climate-Resilient Communities and Food Systems

#### Enhancing Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

- WFP, along with other development partners, supported the Kyrgyz delegation at the world's largest annual climate change event—the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP-29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Baku. In the Kyrgyz Republic's Pavilion "Sustainable Development of Mountainous Areas," representatives of the Kyrgyz government presented the country's progress in achieving its climate goals.
  - The Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry presented the country's first climate risk insurance product, being piloted together with WFP, along with other joint initiatives to promote climate-smart agricultural techniques.
  - The Ministry of Emergency Situations highlighted activities with WFP aimed at strengthening disaster resilience in rural and mountainous communities. The sessions highlighted collaborative efforts to develop climate-resilient food systems and protect lives and livelihoods from climate-induced disasters.
- WFP participated in regional workshops on disaster risk management, specifically the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction in Budva and the Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization Project II. The project focused on assessing the hydrometeorological capacities of Central Asian countries. WFP presented the initiatives of the first Green Climate Fund (GCF) project in the Kyrgyz Republic, including localized disaster risk assessment approaches, climate monitoring tools, and climate risk profiles designed to help rural communities adapt to climate change. The outcomes of these discussions will advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
- In November, WFP, together with local government partners, completed over 130 community-level projects across the country aimed at constructing or rehabilitating climate-resilient infrastructure, including dams, water pipelines, and riverbanks strengthened with gabion nets.

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Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyz-republic>

**Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)**

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
<b>110.2 m</b>	<b>56.6 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec 2024 –May 2025)
<b>11.7 m</b>	<b>0 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

**17.16 Enhance Global Partnerships**

**Strategic outcome 1:** People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

**CSP outcome 5:** Communities vulnerable to and affected by shocks and stressors benefit from improved services and enhanced capacities of Government and humanitarian and development actors contributing to an increasingly adaptive national social and civil protection system.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**

- Provide on-demand services including payment services, food and non-food procurement, and logistics supply chain capacity to the government and humanitarian and development partners.

- WFP and other UN partners, supported the national Food Systems Dialogue, engaging over 150 representatives from producer organizations, farmer associations, government, civil society, and academia. The event facilitated discussions on the challenges and opportunities for developing a sustainable and resilient food system, which is currently highly vulnerable to economic fragilities and climate change shocks. Participants discussed the implementation of the national Food Security and Nutrition Programme and updated the strategic vision and actions towards establishing a sustainable food system by 2030.
- WFP and other UN partners facilitated a workshop called 'Valuing the SDGs: Measuring the Cost of Food Security Systems'. The workshop discussed the necessary actions to gain traction in achieving progress towards the SDG 2: "Zero Hunger" and how models fed with cost information, such as WFP's SHAPES (Shock Assistance Platform for Economic Simulations) or the United Nations Trade and Development's costing tool, can inform investments in food systems.

**Developing Human Capital for Healthy People, Safe Planet and Climate-Sensitive Livelihoods**

- WFP was recognized for its efforts in supporting active labor market programme and social protection measures that address the impacts of climate shocks in the President-led national forum "Human Capital and Sustainable Development." . High-level panelists from multilateral development banks discussed the middle-income trap and highlighted the benefits of investing in human capital.
- WFP, in collaboration with local government partners, completed 10 community-level human capital development projects that engaged individuals from low-income and food-insecure families. The projects aimed to increase access to employment opportunities and diversify climate-sensitive livelihoods for vulnerable individuals. The training covered sewing, confectionery, greenhouse farming, fish farming, orchard management, beekeeping, agro-forestry, handicrafts-making, agro-processing, and nutrition, among others.
- Under the Optimized School Meals Programme, which currently covers more than 920 schools in the country, WFP organizes healthy eating sessions for the parents of primary schoolchildren. Parents from 84 schools participate in interactive seminars aimed at informing families about healthy eating choices and fostering broader community support for enhancing school meals. Additionally, WFP and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute conducted the annual nationwide School Cooks Contest to celebrate the work of cooks and their professional education through the WFP-supported Republican Center.

**Donors**

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