



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

December 2024



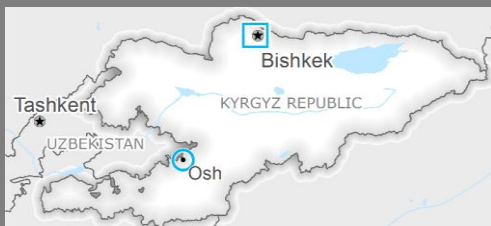
WFP-supported school that replaced the menu of a bun and tea with hot school meals in 2024, Yssyk Kul province © WFP/Photo Library

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, complementing national Active Labour Market Programmes, providing technical support for the Government's poverty graduation programme, piloting climate insurance and anticipatory actions, and strengthening vulnerability analysis and climate forecasting to inform civil and social protection measures, among other initiatives.



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**

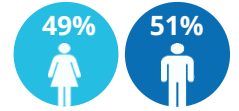
In Numbers

1,599 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$403,649 of cash assistance distributed

US\$ 0 m - six-month net funding requirements (Jan - June 2025)

66,024 people assisted



Operational Updates

Expanding Hot and Nutrient-Dense School Meals

- In 2024, WFP supported the government in transitioning 34 schools from carbohydrate-rich snacks to nutrient-dense meals, aiming to improve the nutrient intake and dietary habits of primary schoolchildren. WFP and its partners provided new kitchen and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) equipment, fortified wheat flour, training for school cooks, and technical support to rehabilitate school canteens. As a result, these schools, along with 884 previously supported institutions, are now enabled to provide primary schoolchildren with hot meals, using food commodities funded by the Government. The enhanced meals include soup, porridge, salad, and vitamin-rich drinks, all served in a hygienic environment. Additionally, technical support was extended to another 27 schools that received equipment upgrades. WFP's support contributed to the Government's efforts to expand access to hot, nutrient-rich school meals nationwide.
- WFP facilitated the Government's membership to the global School Meals Coalition, reinforcing its commitment to providing healthy and nutritious school meals to every child by 2030. Following extensive policy advocacy, the Government also increased its funding for the programme, doubling its allocations to improve the quality of school meals. These strides toward programme sustainability, along with other sustainable solutions, were highlighted by the Kyrgyz Republic's delegation, including the Minister of Education, at the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Osaka. During the visit, the delegation visited Japanese schools, exchanging insights, and learning from Japan's best practices in school meals programmes.
- The Government of China provided financial support to WFP to further optimize the Kyrgyz Republic's national school meals programme. With this contribution, more than 100,000 students will benefit from enhanced quality, diversity, and nutritional value of their meals in 2025. The schools will receive fortified food commodities, including wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice, and lentils, to prepare hot, nutrient-dense dishes that meet the national nutrient standards for primary schoolchildren. This initiative aims to protect the most vulnerable children from malnutrition, which remains a pressing issue in the country.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
110.2 m	59.9 m
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jan–June 2025)
24.3 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

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.

Engaging Communities in Programme Design

- WFP has launched a series of community-level consultations across all districts, adopting an enhanced participatory approach to amplify community voices. The consultations brought together local stakeholders, community members, and beneficiaries, including women, youth, activists, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups. This inclusive dialogue served as a vital platform for gathering insights into community concerns, needs, and priorities, ensuring that WFP’s support is better tailored to support the sustainable and resilient development of these communities. By fostering greater inclusivity, this approach strengthens community ownership of programmes, driving improved outcomes in social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk management.

Enhancing Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

- At the meeting of the Scientific and Technical Council of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, WFP presented the pilot results of the localized [INFORM index-based risk assessment](#) method within the disaster monitoring system, as well as the methodology for developing climate risk profiles at the district level. The Council recommended integrating the INFORM risk index into the Ministry’s Standard Operating Procedures and endorsed the application of climate risk profiles as part of district-level climate adaptation measures.
- As part of the country’s first Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, WFP trained over 12,000 community members, primarily women, in food processing techniques, resource-saving technologies, climate-smart agricultural practices, and the development of non-agricultural products. This initiative aims to empower communities to adapt their livelihoods to climate change and diversify income sources in climate-sensitive sectors. An additional 8,000 people will be trained in 2025.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision, organized a meeting for key GCF project stakeholders from Osh, Naryn, and Batken provinces to exchange best practices on climate change adaptation. Representatives from the plastic waste processing industry shared their climate change adaptation solutions and visited projects in Batken to explore innovative approaches for increasing the resilience of rural communities to climate change.

Supporting National Social Protection Programmes

- At the policy level, WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration in updating the design and policy framework of its active labour market programme (ALMPs). This update allows ALMPs to take on a promotive role in assisting individuals to alleviate poverty, expanding its traditional protective function of social assistance. Partners are currently implementing a pilot project in two districts and one city to further enhance the national ALMPs.