



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief January 2025



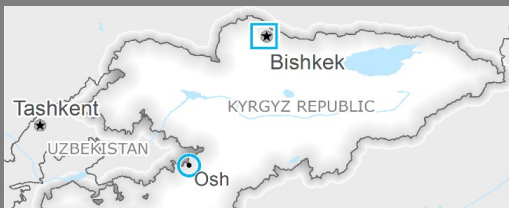
WFP held a meeting with its cooperating partners to plan the implementation of programmes for 2025. Bishkek City © WFP/Photo Library

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 the 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. With over 94 percent of its territory covered by high mountains, it 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 354 percent increase in annual damage.

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.



Population: **7.2 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **117 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

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

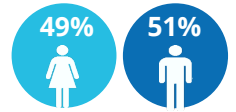
In Numbers

12.4 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 143,700 of cash assistance distributed

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

20,776 people assisted in January



Operational Updates

Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Management and Preparedness

- WFP attended the launching event on the preparation of **Kyrgyzstan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0**. WFP presented its approach for localised adaptation. WFP also attended the coordination meeting convened by the NDC Partnership to discuss opportunities for improved collaboration on NDC action, highlighting the progress on the first Green Climate Fund project in the country, as well as WFP's parametric Climate Risk Insurance pilots recently portrayed in the [IRFF publication](#).
- WFP and the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) shared the outcomes of their collaboration on the national disaster mitigation programme, "**Special Preventive Liquidation Measures (SPLM)**" in 2024. Through community development projects, WFP contributed to the implementation of 26 percent of the planned SPLM initiatives, constructing and rehabilitating 50 infrastructure assets aimed at disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. These assets, including mudflow protection dams, drainage canals, and reinforced riverbanks, are designed to reduce and mitigate disaster risks in communities vulnerable to climate-induced hazards. The partners also conducted an analysis to improve the planning, monitoring, and implementation of SPLM projects and began preparations for 2025.
- To strengthen the Government's disaster preparedness and response capacities, WFP, supported by the Government of Switzerland, is facilitating the MES in piloting **individual food kits** tailored to meet the nutritional needs of people in remote mountainous areas during emergencies. With WFP's assistance, the Ministry developed and endorsed the composition of these kits, which include ready-to-eat commodities designed to sustain one person for up to ten days. WFP also facilitated the procurement of 300 kits to test and refine the food composition and prepositioning mechanism in 2025. A well-designed food kit can help maintain the nutritional status of populations affected by emergencies in remote and isolated regions.

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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\$)
110.23 m	59.15 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jan–June 2025)
11.99 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.

Partnerships for Improving Food Security and Nutrition

- The Government has approved the **Food Security and Nutrition Programme for 2025-2030**, developed with technical assistance and policy support from WFP and other UN agencies. The Programme aims to improve food availability and accessibility at the household level, enhance public health, and advance sustainable socio-economic development. It also seeks to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to both internal and external threats to the stability of its food system. WFP will work closely with government agencies, local authorities, the private sector, and civil and international organizations to align efforts with the Programme's objectives.

Supporting National Social Protection Programmes

- WFP and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security, and Migration (MLSSM) signed an Action Plan to pilot enhanced **Active Labour Market Programmes** (ALMPs) across four districts. The Plan includes: (i) implementing over 40 community projects to develop key infrastructure and livelihood skills for low-income participants, (ii) providing technical support to refine the ALMP design, (iii) strengthening the capacity of sub-national level stakeholders, and (iv) conducting monitoring and evaluation to assess the pilot's effectiveness. With WFP's support, the MLSSM aims to use the pilot's results to improve ALMPs designed to help low-income individuals build skills, secure long-term employment, and alleviate poverty.
- In collaboration with the MLSSM, WFP, supported by the Government of Japan, implemented over 20 community-level projects to enhance the **knowledge and skills of more than 3,000 low-income individuals** participating in the Government's poverty graduation programme, Social Contract, which WFP piloted in 2021. These participants, who had previously received a KGS 100,000 (US\$1,147) cash grant from the Government to start small businesses, were provided with business training, marketing courses, agricultural tools, and climate-resilient seeds. This support aimed to strengthen the sustainability of their businesses and improve their chances of success in the poverty graduation process.

Strengthening Women's Participation in Local Economy

- As part of a project aimed at increasing the incomes and resilience of low-income farmers in Batken province, WFP supported **women's self-help groups** by providing 20 mt of locally produced wheat flour. This flour was used to produce baked goods, which were supplied to schools in Batken as part of the School Meals Programme. This initiative not only supports local wheat farmers but also provides schools with fresh bread, empowers women, and creates job opportunities. By strengthening women's participation in the local economy, the project enhances community resilience and promotes sustainable agricultural value chains.

Donors

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