



World Food Programme

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WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

May 2025



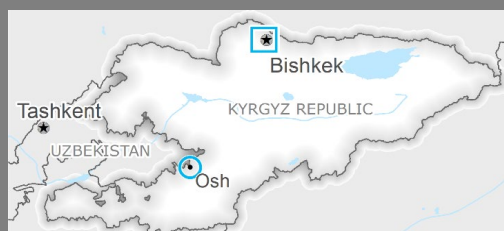
Food handover ceremony marking the delivery of fortified food commodities provided by China to more than 330 schools in the country. © WFP/Photo Library

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 recent significant economic development, the food security of the country remains fragile due to its dependence on remittances, food and fuel imports, geopolitical risks, as well as challenging global funding context, government reforms and climate shocks. 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 national social protection systems, disaster risk and climate adaptation measures, and school meals programme. WFP enhances the Government's policy implementation capacities through supporting active labour market programmes, the poverty graduation programme, climate insurance and anticipatory actions, early warning systems and vulnerability analysis and schools as platform for enhancing nutrition and linking with smallholder farmers.



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

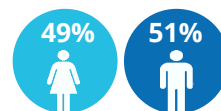
In Numbers

120,547 people assisted

152.48 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$6,150 of cash-based transfers provided

US\$96,961 - six-month net funding requirements (June – Nov 2025)



Operational Updates

Expanding Hot and Nutrient-Dense School Meals

- With the support of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), **WFP delivered 245 mt, the first batch of a 1,700 mt of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice, and lentils**, benefiting over 330 schools across Batken, Jalal-Abad, and Osh provinces. A handover ceremony was held at one of the schools, attended by the Chinese Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, along with key officials from CIDCA, the Kyrgyz Government and WFP. This contribution will help schools diversify and enhance the nutritional value of meals for over 100,000 schoolchildren in the 2025–2026 academic year. The initiative aims to address critical micronutrient deficiencies among primary schoolchildren in the targeted provinces.

Providing Food Security Analysis for National Institutions

WFP conducted a telephone-based survey to assess the prevalence of food insecurity in the country. The findings revealed that **8 percent of the population (583,000 people) were food insecure**, while another 53 percent were marginally food secure. Alarming, most households (74 percent) rely on negative coping strategies, such as depleting savings, borrowing money, and cutting expenditures on education and healthcare to meet their food and other basic needs. Additionally, 10 percent of the population reported a decline in income over the past year, with an average reduction of 37 percent. These surveys are instrumental in shaping programmes and policy responses, helping the government and its partners better understand the impact of global and domestic factors on national food security.

Improving Livelihoods and Resilience of Farmers

- As part of the World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), WFP supported the drilling of two boreholes (up to 100 meters deep) and the installation of water pumps, ensuring a reliable water supply for low-income farmers in Batken province. This initiative **improved irrigation access for over 200 farmers** cultivating more than 20 hectares of drought-prone and rain-fed land. By 2026, additional support will include the construction of water reservoir, a drip irrigation demonstration farm, and hands-on training in drip irrigation techniques, all aimed at promoting efficient water use.

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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 million	60.87 million
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June –Nov 2025)
14.8 million	0.096 million

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.

- To promote sustainable land use, the GAFSP project also focuses on increasing the production of organic compost and reducing farmers' reliance on fossil-based fertilizers, which contribute to soil degradation and water pollution. As part of this initiative, WFP trained over 360 farmers, including 267 women, all members of agricultural cooperatives, in compost preparation and usage. Practical training was conducted at one of 15 compost production farms established under the project. These farms were built to supply farmers with affordable organic compost to improve soil health and fertility, enhance agricultural productivity, and ultimately increase farmers' incomes.

Strengthening National Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness

- WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Emergency Situations to integrate the WFP-developed 'Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring' (PRISM) into the Ministry's disaster management operations. PRISM is a real-time disaster monitoring and forecasting tool that provides access to earth observation data, including satellite imagery, weather forecasts, and key information on hazards, exposure, and vulnerability. The platform will assist the Ministry and other disaster management institutions in assessing the risks and potential impacts of climate-related hazards on vulnerable communities. Ultimately, PRISM is expected to strengthen national capacities for disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
- With support from WFP, the Ministry's Hydrometeorological Agency developed a **web-based portal to deliver climate and agrometeorological information**. This portal provides up-to-date data to farmers, agronomists, researchers, and policymakers, enabling informed decision-making in agriculture and climate-related fields. It sources operational data directly from the Agency's information systems and includes tools that allow users to process and visualize the data. The portal is publicly accessible through [the Agency's official website](#), enhancing data-driven planning for climate resilience.
- WFP trained staff from the Ministry and its Hydrometeorological Agency in developing more **inclusive climate and early warning services**. The training highlighted the need to ensure that weather and climate information reaches all segments of society, especially vulnerable groups often excluded due to social, economic, or geographic barriers. To broaden outreach and ensure that no one is left unprepared in the face of disasters, the training advocated for the use of alternative communication channels such as schools, non-governmental organizations, and community groups.

Donors

China, Green Climate Fund, Japan, Kyrgyz Republic, Private Sector, Russian Federation, Switzerland, and World Bank / the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program