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# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

June 2025



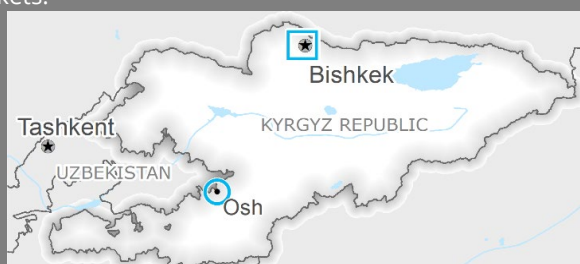
WFP Country Director and the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration meet with Social Contract participants in Naryn Province. © WFP/Photo Library

## Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked mountainous country, with two-thirds of its 7.2-million population residing in rural areas. The poverty rate in the country remains the highest in Central Asia, reaching 26 percent in 2024. About 8 percent of the population (583,000 people) are food insecure, while 53 percent are only marginally food secure. Alarming, 74 percent of households rely on negative coping strategies like using savings, borrowing, or cutting spending on education and healthcare to meet basic needs. Malnutrition remains a major public health issue, with 21 percent of children under five anaemic and 14 percent stunted.

Despite recent significant economic development, the food security of the country remains fragile due to its dependence on migrants' remittances, high prices of food and fuel imports, geopolitical risks and climate shocks. The country, with 94 percent of its territory covered by high mountains, is classified as 'at high risk' for disaster exposure. Mudflows and floods are the most frequent natural disasters in the country, accounting for around 40 percent of all emergency situations.

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 by supporting active labour market programmes, the poverty graduation programme, climate insurance, early warning systems, and vulnerability analysis. WFP also promotes the use of schools as platforms to improve nutrition and connect smallholder farmers to local markets.



Population: **7.2 million**

2023 Human Development Index:  
**117 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Lower-middle**

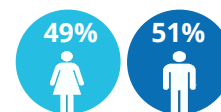
2023 Gender Inequality Index:  
**83 out of 193 countries**

## In Numbers

**10,971 people** assisted

**504 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 0.95 million** six-month net funding requirements  
(July – Dec 2025)



## Operational Updates

### Enhancing National Social Protection Programmes

- WFP and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration completed the implementation of a technical agreement for January–June 2025 in support of **the Government's poverty graduation programme "Social Contract"**. As part of this effort, the ministry staff and regional representatives received training on programme implementation, while targeted media campaigns helped raise public awareness. **Over 1,500 Social Contract participants have received WFP's skills training**, including skills in business management, marketing, finance, and IT, complemented by food assistance. The participants, who previously received government cash grants to start small businesses, are now better equipped to build sustainable livelihoods and graduate from poverty.
- As part of its ongoing collaboration, the **WFP Representative and Country Director and the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Migration conducted a joint field visit** to Chuy and Naryn provinces to meet Social Contract entrepreneurs, who have successfully graduated out of poverty and are now creating employment opportunities for others. They also visited several community-led livelihood and resilience projects jointly implemented by WFP and the Government, which are contributing to long-term food security and sustainable development.
- WFP and the Ministry continue to implement their **joint Action Plans to enhance Paid Public Works (PPWs)**. Currently, 22 of the 40 planned pilot PPW projects, focusing on infrastructure rehabilitation and vocational training, are underway in the districts of Alamudun, Ozgon, Sokuluk, and Osh city. A key feature of the enhanced PPWs is the potential involvement of other organizations as co-employers, alongside local authorities, which can enable low-income individuals to engage in productive work and improve their livelihoods. Insights gained from these pilots will inform the refinement of the PPW design, including participant eligibility, work norms, payment schemes, and the capacity of local stakeholders to support future scale-up.

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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>110.23 million</b>	<b>60.87 million</b>
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July –Dec 2025)
<b>16 million</b>	<b>0.95 million</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.

- In partnership with the Ministry, local governments and communities, WFP has been **implementing over 500 community development projects across the country as of June**, with another 100 projects completed this month. These projects aim to build and rehabilitate essential community infrastructure, such as irrigation canals, water supply systems, agricultural facilities, mudflow protection dams, and reforested areas to boost agricultural productivity, reduce disaster risks and improve the livelihoods of food-insecure households. The projects also aim to strengthen the skills of low-income families to launch income-generating activities. Upon completion, project participants and their families receive food or cash assistance to help meet their immediate food needs. An additional 500 projects are planned for 2025 to support the implementation of the recently endorsed National Development Programme 2030.

### Improving Livelihoods and Resilience of Farmers

- As part of the World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, WFP supported an agricultural cooperative in Kadamjai District in establishing a storage facility for produce from local smallholder farmers. WFP provided **equipment and trained over 360 cooperative members, particularly women, in post-harvest management**. The centre currently stores over 20 mt of apricots and promotes efficient post-harvest practices to boost agricultural productivity and increase farmers' incomes. The second storage facility is currently being built in Leilek District by another branch of the cooperative with support from WFP.

### Expanding Hot School Meals for Better Nutrition

- WFP and the Ministry of Education met with the administrations of 34 schools to discuss the preparations to **upgrade school menus** from carbohydrate-rich snacks to hot, nutritious meals for primary schoolchildren starting in September 2025. Representatives from district education departments, local authorities, and provincial and district administrations also participated in the planning, where they developed action plans to guide the transition. To support this effort, WFP will also provide new kitchen equipment, wheat flour, training for school cooks, and technical assistance for rehabilitating school canteens.
- To support the nationwide expansion of high-quality hot school meals, WFP provided **345 mt of fortified wheat flour to over 390 schools** for the first half of 2025. This enabled approximately 120,000 primary schoolchildren to receive freshly baked pastries made with fortified flour every school day. The deliveries were carried out by the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration and the Ministry of Education.

## Donors

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