



World Food Programme

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WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

September 2025



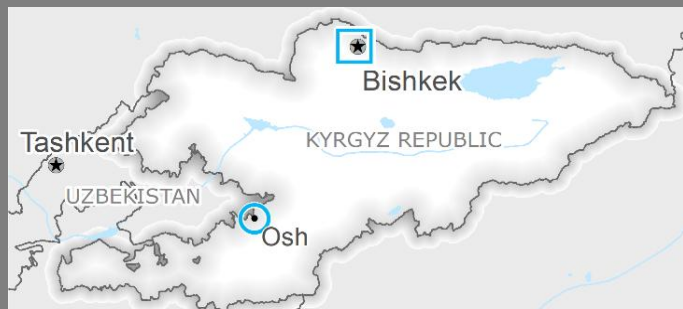
WFP and KOICA signed an agreement to enhance school meals, sanitation and farm-to-school linkages. ©

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% in 2024. A total of 61% of the population are food insecure or only marginally food secure, with 75% of households resorting to negative coping strategies (such as using savings, taking on debt, or reducing spending on education and healthcare) to meet their basic needs. Malnutrition remains a major public health issue, affecting 44% of the population. Among children under five, 21% are anaemic and 14% are stunted.

Despite significant economic developments, food security levels in the country remains fragile due to the country's dependence on migrant remittances, high prices of food and fuel imports, geopolitical risks and climate shocks. Kyrgyz Republic, 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, accounting for around 40% of all emergency situations.

WFP supports the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in strengthening national systems on social protection, school meals and disaster risk management. WFP also enhances the Government's capacities in policy implementation by supporting joint programmes on active labour market, poverty graduation and joint projects including climate insurance, early warning, 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

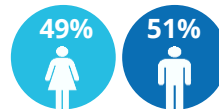
In Numbers

151,572 people assisted

721 metric tons of food assistance distributed

USD 195,150 of cash-based transfers distributed

USD 1.2 million - six-month net funding requirements
(Oct 2025 – March 2026)



Operational Updates

Improving School Meals for Healthy Diets

- As part of the transition to a sustainable national school meals programme, WFP supported the Ministry of Education in expanding hot, nutritious meals by equipping and training 34 schools and 12 kindergartens, and re-equipping 27 additional institutions. Support included modern kitchen equipment, fortified wheat flour, staff training, and technical assistance to upgrade canteen infrastructure and enhance sanitary practices. Starting in September, these institutions replaced carbohydrate-heavy snacks with nutrient-rich meals (soups, porridges, salads, fresh bakery, and vitamin-rich drinks) to help address malnutrition among primary and preschool children. By 2025, the Government has taken over more than 80% of WFP-supported schools, contributing to programme sustainability.
- With WFP's support, the Ministry of Education participated in the Global Ministerial Summit of the School Meals Coalition held in Fortaleza, Brazil. At the summit, the Ministry showcased Kyrgyz Republic's progress in providing nutritious hot meals to all primary schoolchildren. It also highlighted efforts to develop sustainable community co-funding, implement a digital monitoring system, explore programme expansion to preschools, and promote planet-friendly solutions such as home-grown school feeding, farm-to-school linkages, and solar panel use. These initiatives reflect the country's commitment made upon joining the School Meals Coalition in 2024.
- To further support the nationwide expansion of high-quality hot school meals, WFP and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) signed an agreement to launch a new joint project in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The initiative will improve school meals and enhance access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in 40 schools, benefiting approximately 10,000 children. It also aims to strengthen farm-to-school linkages by empowering over 4,000 smallholder farmers, particularly women, to participate in climate-resilient supply chains and supply agricultural produce for school meals.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
120 million	60.9 million
2025 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Oct 2025 – March 2026)
23.5 million	1.2 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 school meals and nutrition education, WFP launched an initiative supporting 50 schools to establish school gardens, including six with greenhouses. These schools will receive tools, seeds, fertilizers, and training in climate-smart agriculture and post-harvest practices. The gardens will supply fresh, organic produce for school meals while serving as hands-on learning spaces for children to practice sustainable farming. This approach strengthens local food systems, promotes healthy diets, and contributes to the long-term sustainability of the national school meals programme.

Enhancing Farmers' Livelihoods and Resilience

- WFP completed a [Japan-funded project](#) aimed at improving the productivity and resilience of smallholder farmers through no-till technology. More than 2,100 farmers, including over 600 women, received support to adopt this approach for cultivating drought-resistant wheat on rainfed land. With access to improved seeds, fertilizers, modern equipment, and tailored advisory services, participating farmers have already doubled their yields and generated profits, despite a nationwide decline in wheat production caused by extreme weather. No-till farming has emerged as a key strategy for climate-resilient agriculture in the Kyrgyz Republic, with strong potential for scale-up across rainfed areas.

Supporting Government's Social Protection Measures

- With support from Japan, WFP and partners built 230 infrastructure assets to strengthen community resilience, including irrigation canals, water pipelines, reforested areas, and mudflow dams, in over 200 rural settlements. Additionally, WFP trained over 5,000 participants of the Social Contract poverty graduation programme who received government grants to start businesses. These assets and skills were essential for enhancing livelihoods and food security of more than 49,000 low-income individuals, who also received over 2,300 mt. of food assistance to complement national social protection payments.

Advancing Government's Mountain Development Agenda

- WFP's Representative and Country Director joined national and international partners at roundtables in Jalal-Abad, Batken, and Osh provinces to review the mid-term progress of the President-led Mountain Development Action Plan. WFP supports the plan by advancing key national priorities in disaster risk management and climate adaptation through a comprehensive approach that includes: i) constructing disaster risk reduction infrastructure and promoting climate-smart agriculture, (ii) strengthening government's early warning systems and climate services, and (iii) piloting climate risk insurance. Together, these efforts contribute to building resilient mountain communities and food systems, safeguarding livelihoods against increasing climate-related risks.

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