



World Food Programme

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# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

November 2025



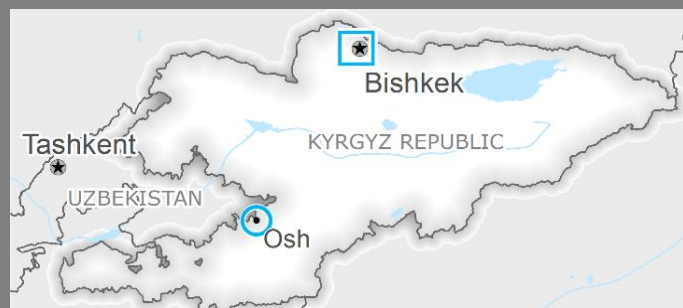
Community consultations to identify local needs and development priorities. © WFP/Photo Library

## Operational Context

The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked mountainous country, with two-thirds of its 7.3 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 percent 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 percent of the population. Among children under five, 21 percent are anaemic and 14 percent are stunted.

Despite significant economic developments, 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% 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 of 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: **7.3 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

**149,797 people** assisted

**679.4 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 295,800** of cash-based transfers distributed

**USD 0.33 million** - six-month net funding requirements (Dec 2025 – May 2026)

49%



51%



## Operational Updates

### Strengthening Cooperation for Social Protection and Human Capital Development

- WFP and the Ministry of Education joined the **2nd International Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Forum "School Feeding as Investment in a Healthy Generation"** in Dushanbe. Building on the 2023 Bishkek Forum, the event gathered CIS ministries of health and education to develop joint solutions to advance sustainable school feeding. The Kyrgyz Republic highlighted its progress in expanding hot meals to over 85 percent of schools, improving nutritional value of school meals, and piloting planet-friendly home-grown school feeding initiatives that connect schools with farmers. WFP was recognized for its technical support in improving and institutionalizing school meals programmes within their social protection systems across CIS countries.
- As co-chair of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Results Group on quality social services, WFP supported the UN Country Team in preparing the Kyrgyz Republic's participation in the **Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha**. Following the Summit, WFP engaged in National Consultation, led by Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers H.E. Edil Baisalov, working to turn global priorities such as human capital investment, decent work, universal social protection, and climate-development alignment into action plans for the National Development Programme 2030. The Deputy Chair acknowledged UN support for human capital development while the Minister of Education emphasized improvement in school meals across the country.

### Improving School Meals for Healthy Diets

- A policy milestone was achieved with the endorsement of **Methodological Guidelines for organizing meals in schools and preschools** by the Ministries of Health and Education. Developed with WFP's support, these guidelines outline fundamental principles for prompting healthy dietary practices among children, including requirements for nutrient intake, meal scheduling, and standards for meal quality control and fortification. The primary objective is to improve the nutritional content of school meals and address nutrient deficiencies, including iron deficiency, which affects 47 percent of children under five and 30 percent of those aged 5–9. The guidelines will inform revisions to key school meals regulatory documents and guide the development of tailored cookbooks.

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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\$)
120 million	69.9 million
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec 2025 – May 2026)
23.5 million	0.33 million
SDG target 2.1: Access to food Strategic outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes	
<b>CSP Outcome 1:</b> By 2027, food-insecure and vulnerable populations in the Kyrgyz Republic have enhanced access to diversified employment, income opportunities and human capital development <b>Focus area:</b> Resilience building	
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	
Strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs	
<b>CSP outcome 2:</b> 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 <b>Focus area:</b> Crisis response	
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide emergency food assistance to shock-affected vulnerable populations</li> </ul>	
SDG target 2.4: Sustainable food system Strategic outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods	
<b>CSP outcome 3:</b> 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 <b>Focus area:</b> Resilience building	
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	
SDG target 17.9: Capacity building Strategic outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened	
<b>CSP outcome 4:</b> 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 <b>Focus area:</b> Root causes, Nutrition-sensitive	
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical assistance to national partners to institutionalize national school-based programmes and improve their sustainability</li> </ul>	
17.16 Enhance Global Partnerships Strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs	
<b>CSP outcome 5:</b> 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. <b>Focus area:</b> Resilience building	
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	

- WFP, in partnership with civil society and academia, trained over 300 staff from 50 schools nationwide to manage school gardens and greenhouses, emphasizing climate-smart practices. In 2026, these schools will establish **50 gardens and six greenhouses**, equipped with tools, seeds, and fertilizers to provide fresh produce for school meals and offering hands-on education about sustainable farming and healthy diets, supporting School Meals Programme’s sustainability.
- WFP supported the [annual nationwide School Cooks Contest](#), recognizing the vital role of school cooks and encouraging their professional development through the WFP-supported Republican Center for Cooks.
- In November, WFP provided 216 mt of food to over 390 schools, giving hot meals and fortified pastries to more than **135,800 primary schoolchildren**. This is crucial since 30 percent of children aged 5–9 lack adequate dietary diversity and experience iron deficiency.

Inclusive Community Consultations for ‘Leave No One Behind’ Programming

- WFP held **inclusive community consultations** to identify local needs and priorities for 2026, ensuring its support is responsive and relevant. Held across 24 districts most in need of development assistance, the consultations engaged more than 800 participants, more than 60 percent of whom were women, along with youth, and persons with disabilities. By engaging local authorities in design and facilitation, WFP continued gradual handover of consultation leadership, strengthening local ownership and aligning its support with development plans. Ultimately, this approach ensures WFP’s programmes match community priorities while reinforcing broader development goals.

Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- Through a Green Climate Fund project, over 1,300 rural residents in Osh, Batken, and Naryn provinces received training to **adapt agricultural practices to climatic conditions**. Participants gained practical knowledge in no-till farming for improved soil health and yields, climate-smart irrigation for water conservation, drought-resistant fodder production, agrobusiness development, and financial literacy. These sustainable practices help farmers manage droughts, heatwaves, and frosts, while enhancing food security and safeguarding ecosystems.

Enhancing Disaster Risk Management

- With support from Switzerland, WFP trained specialists from the Ministry of Emergency Situations in **modern technologies for forecasting mudflows** – the country’s most common disaster. Participants learned to use satellite data for early detection of surface changes and predictive modeling to estimate water volume, flow velocity, and mudflow direction. Alongside joint initiatives such as the Mudflow Risk Atlas and the online forecasting module, these efforts aim to strengthen early warning systems, protect livelihoods, and reduce mudflows-related losses.

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