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WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

December 2025



Unconditional food assistance provided to families with persons with disabilities. © 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% in 2024. A total of 61% of the population are food insecure or only marginally food secure, with 41% unable to afford a nutritious diet and 75% 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, 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 the largest share 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



167,709 people assisted



762.5 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 344,550 of cash-based transfers distributed

USD 0.33 million - six-month net funding requirements (Jan – Jun 2026)

Operational Updates

Supporting the Government's 'Leave No One Behind' Social Protection

- Guided by the principle of "leave no one behind," WFP supported the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration in providing **unconditional food assistance** to over 9,200 people from families of persons with disabilities, helping address their immediate food needs. In 2025, approximately 2,000 individuals with disabilities joined WFP-supported projects that developed community infrastructure and livelihood skills. Participants received food or cash transfers for their participation. These efforts promote inclusive social protection for those with limited capacities.
- To promote government's commitment to disability inclusion, WFP and the Ministry launched an initiative to expand employment opportunities and **increase the participation of persons with disabilities in social protection programmes**. The initiative focuses on identifying legal, physical, and systemic barriers that limit equitable access to employment and hinder participation in national programmes such as the Social Contract and Paid Public Works, which link low-income individuals to income-generating opportunities. Results will guide recommendations to enhance programme inclusivity and improve food security and nutrition for persons with disabilities.
- Over 18,000 low-income individuals benefited from WFP's food and cash assistance through community infrastructure creation and livelihood skills projects.
- Thanks to **renewed support from the Russian Federation**, WFP will reinforce initiatives to strengthen government social protection programmes through additional 1,140 mt of fortified food. This will support vulnerable families through projects including provision of hot meals in schools and preschools.

Improving School Meals for Healthy Diets

- With support from the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), WFP delivered the final 733 mt of over 1,700 mt of food to 332 schools in Batken, Jalal-Abad, and Osh provinces. This contribution expanded regular food assistance beyond wheat flour and vegetable oil to include **lentils and rice, enabling schools to prepare protein- and iron-rich soups and porridges for over 111,000 primary schoolchildren**.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)
120 million	74 million
2026 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Jan -Jun 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

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.

The healthy diet initiative addresses critical dietary gaps, as 30 percent of children aged 5–9 lack minimum dietary diversity and suffer from iron deficiency, while 41 percent of households cannot afford a nutritious diet.

- WFP organized **interactive sessions on healthy eating for parents** to highlight the importance of school and preschool meals in supporting children's health and development. More than 2,500 parents participated, learning how nutritious menus should be designed and discovering practical ways to encourage healthy habits at home. These seminars not only informed families about balanced food choices but also encouraged stronger community support for improving the quality of school and preschool meals.
- WFP and the Ministry of Education organized a stakeholder meeting to **discuss the upcoming upgrade to nutritious hot meals in 35 primary schools and 16 kindergartens**, scheduled to start in September 2026. The meeting brought together school and preschool administrations, local authorities, and experts from the Ministries of Education and Health, where they developed actions to guide the transition to safe and high-quality meals for primary and preschool children. To support this effort, WFP will provide these institutions with kitchen equipment, fortified wheat flour, cooks training, and technical assistance.

Enhancing Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation

- WFP held the **7th National Steering Committee meeting to review progress on key climate initiatives**, implemented with support from the Green Climate Fund and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Discussions centered around advancing climate-resilient community infrastructure, early warning systems, disaster preparedness, climate risk insurance, and climate-smart practices. Ministries, development partners and civil society shared results, addressed challenges, and shaped the 2026 action plan. The overarching goal is to strengthen community and food system resilience against climate threats, such as droughts and frosts, increasing agricultural incomes and enhancing food security.
- WFP Representative and Country Director and the **Ambassador of Switzerland visited key projects** in Naryn province supported by Switzerland. In partnership with local authorities and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, WFP showcased one of many infrastructure projects designed to reduce disaster risks and strengthen climate resilience, helping farmers protect their livelihoods from climate threats. The visit also highlighted pilot anticipatory actions against severe winter snowfalls, with local authorities managing a revolving fund to preposition and release feed supplies to farmers ahead of heavy snow, protecting livestock and reducing food insecurity risks.

Donors

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