



WFP Kyrgyz Republic

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- A Social Behaviour Change Communications strategy was developed to promote healthy eating among primary schoolchildren and communities, positioning schools as vital platforms for instilling lifelong habits.
- In March, 156 mt of diverse, fortified food commodities were distributed to 141,580 primary schoolchildren, helping address dietary gaps and iron deficiency, which affects nearly 30 percent of children aged 5–9. Over 900 farmers were trained in climate-smart techniques. Through community development projects, 578 low-income residents received USD 14,100.

IN NUMBERS



143,095 people assisted in March 2026
(49% female)



156 mt food distributed



USD 14,100 cash transferred



SBCC Social Behaviour Change Communications strategy developed

Photo Caption & Credit: Healthy-diet campaign engaging children and parents, organized to mark International School Meals Day. © WFP/Photo Library

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Kyrgyz Republic, a landlocked mountainous country, has seen steady economic growth but still faces development challenges and lower income levels than many Asia Pacific nations. Rural communities make up over half of the 7.3 million population, with poverty affecting 26 percent nationwide ([National Statistics Committee](#)). Moreover, 43 percent cannot afford a nutritious diet ([WFP Price Bulletin #98](#)), while 75 percent rely on negative coping strategies such as debt or reduced spending on healthcare ([WFP Food Security Update 2025](#)). Malnutrition persists, with 21 percent of children under five with anemia ([NIMAS](#)).

Food security remains fragile due to heavy reliance on remittances, large-scale migrant returns, limited agricultural self-sufficiency, high inflation, climate shocks, and recent regional geopolitical tensions affecting global energy and food markets, including developments in the Middle East. With 93 percent of its territory covered by high mountains, the country is highly disaster-prone, particularly to mudflows.

WFP supports government implementation of the National Development Programme 2030, the Mountain Agenda, Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0, and sectoral strategies, focusing on inclusive and green economic growth, human capital development, universal social protection, disaster risk reduction and climate resilience. In collaboration with partners, WFP aims to transform food systems and livelihoods, ensuring that economic growth leads to greater resilience and equitable opportunities, particularly in the country's most remote and mountain areas.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Improving School and Preschool Meals for Healthy Diets

- WFP facilitated a knowledge exchange visit for staff from the **new Regional Competence Centre for school cooks in Osh** to the Republican Competence Centre in Bishkek, established in 2022 with WFP support. The Osh Centre, set to open later in 2026, reviewed Bishkek's operational procedures, nutrition and hygiene training modules, and innovations in school meal preparation. With WFP's support, Osh Centre will also upgrade kitchen equipment, curricula, and training materials to standardize practices, strengthen cooks' capacity, and improve the quality of school meals.
- WFP, together with the Republican Centre for Health Promotion and Mass Communication, held a workshop to present a **Social Behaviour Change Communications strategy aimed at promoting healthy eating** among primary schoolchildren and communities. The event gathered government officials, international organizations, researchers, and academics to explore the factors shaping food choices, current practices, and barriers - primarily the inability to afford nutritious foods due to high costs and limited awareness of their importance. Participants agreed on specific next steps, emphasizing that schools serve as key platforms for instilling lifelong healthy eating habits.
- WFP and the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute held a two-week **healthy diet campaign** at two schools in Jalal-Abad and Chui provinces, engaging children and parents. The activities emphasized the vital role of school cooks, while students participated in interactive games that promoted healthy eating. Organized in honor of International School Meals Day, the campaign celebrated nutritious school meals and raised awareness of their importance.
- WFP and the Ministry of Education organized a meeting with the administrations of 15 kindergartens to prepare for **upgrading menus to more nutritious meals for preschool children** starting in September 2026. During the meeting, preschools, district education departments, and local authorities discussed kitchen upgrades, menu development and sanitary requirements. To support this initiative, WFP will also provide new

kitchen equipment, fortified wheat flour, training for cooks, and technical support.

Success story:

WFP is expanding its support for the national School Meals Programme, now reaching kindergartens. **Watch how the kindergarten in Kojomkul village, one of 12 preschools, was equipped with modern kitchens in 2025 and now serves nutritious hot meals.** [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)

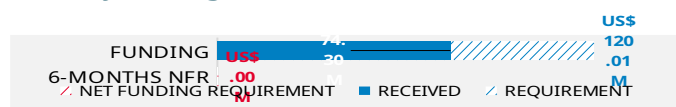


Developing Community Infrastructure and Human Capital for Food Security

- WFP, jointly with line ministries, local authorities and communities, is currently implementing 70 **community development projects** across the country. These projects aim to build 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. They also strengthen the skills of low-income families to start income generating activities. Upon completion, participants and their families receive food and cash assistance to meet immediate food needs. Overall, over 900 projects are planned for 2026 in support of the National Development Programme 2030.
- WFP Kyrgyz Republic Office organized a **knowledge sharing meeting and field visits** for Uzbekistan's delegation of the Integrated Rural Development Project, financed by the Islamic Development Bank. Participants included ISDB representatives, government officials, district authorities, private enterprises, and UNDP. The visits showcased Kyrgyz community projects such as the construction of veterinary facilities, yurt production, gabion net workshop, and plastic processing enterprise, offering firsthand insights into the Kyrgyz Republic's rural development practices and promoting regional cooperation.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



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