

VOICES FROM THE MOUNTAINS

WFP Kyrgyz Republic Newsletter

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The Kyrgyz Republic, with 94 percent of its territory covered by high mountains, is more vulnerable to climate change than both regional and global averages. In the first half of 2024 alone, floods and mudflows resulted in damages that were already 30 percent higher than the total damage recorded in 2023. WFP's seasonal Monitor for September-November 2024 forecasted above-average rainfall across most of the country, signaling heightened risks for agriculture and food security, as farmers are disrupted to harvest crops and plant key winter crops like wheat at the right time.

During UN Secretary-General António Guterres's visit to the Kyrgyz Republic in July, he underscored the need for a scientific and localized approach to climate change adaptation in support of the Kyrgyz Government's Mountain Agenda.

In this edition, we highlight how WFP is working hand-in-hand with the host government and partners to advance sustainable mountain development ahead of COP29. We also showcase recent progress in supporting vulnerable communities affected by mudflows, empowering farmers with climate-friendly practices, and expanding access to social protection systems including school meals - efforts that are contributing to a more secure and resilient future for the people of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Advancing Partnerships in Support of the Government-led Mountain Agenda

In the lead-up to COP29, WFP plays a pivotal role in supporting the Kyrgyz Government's efforts to advance the President-led Mountain Agenda. This includes organizing the **National Climate Dialogue, "Path to COP-29: Adaptation to Climate Change,"** which brought together over 120 representatives from the government, UN, civil society, private sector, and international organizations. The dialogue focused on concrete actions to strengthen national climate policies, mobilize financial resources and build partnerships to boost resilience in communities across the country. WFP is also supporting the Kyrgyz delegation to COP29, reinforcing joint initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable mountain development.





In August, WFP and the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) forged a partnership to enhance cooperation on the effective implementation of **the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015-2030** and national DRR strategies for the Kyrgyz Republic. WFP also took part in the Regional Forum Meeting of Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian Countries to discuss the progress of the Framework's implementation.

Supporting the Government Response to Mudflows

In July, severe rains triggered destructive mudflows and floods across Kara Suu district and Osh city in southern Kyrgyzstan, destroying over 900 homes and damaging critical infrastructure. In response, **WFP delivered 255 tons of food assistance to more than 3,800 flood-affected people**, providing immediate relief to ultra-poor not registered in the social protection system.



WFP is also working to strengthen the **national social protection system** by integrating emergency aid distribution data into the national digital registry for low-income families to improve targeting efficiency and inclusiveness, thereby ensuring assistance reaches those most in need.

Empowering Smallholder Farmers to Adapt to Climate Change

In partnership with the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, WFP is piloting **climate risk insurance** to protect the livestock of vulnerable pastoralists from extreme weather events. A soil drought during the June-July period triggered a payout of USD 85,373 in September, providing critical support to over 12,000 pastoralists. The insurance enabled them to secure essential fodder, build livestock treatment facilities, and procure mobile water pumps - helping prevent mass livestock deaths and protect their livelihoods.





Through the World Bank's Global Agriculture & Food Security Program (GAFSP), WFP is partnering with three agricultural cooperatives in Batken province to help smallholder farmers adopt **climate-smart practices**, including organic fertilizers, drought-resistant seeds, and zero-tillage farming. In addition to building climate resilience, farmers will improve land and water management, enhance post-harvest practices, and strengthen market linkages, boosting both productivity and income.

Do You Know?

*One-third of all arable land in the Kyrgyz Republic relies on rain-fed agriculture. In collaboration with partners including the Government of Japan and GIZ, WFP is promoting **zero-tillage technology**, which allows crops to be planted without disturbing the soil. This practice enhances soil health, reduces fuel costs, and boosts crop yields, increasing farmers' incomes by an additional 160 – 200 USD per hectare. Moreover, it helps sequester carbon, contributing to climate change mitigation.*

Expanding Commitments to Improve School Meals



Another major step forward toward sustainable school meals has been the new regulation passed in September, requiring school cook certification and mandating local authorities to rehabilitate school canteens to meet sanitary standards.

WFP and Bishkek City Hall are joining forces to **introduce diverse and nutritious meals in 12 schools and 3 kindergartens in Bishkek between 2025 and 2027**. This will enhance the nutrient intake of children from low-income families, whose numbers have nearly doubled in the city in recent years. WFP will also promote planet-friendly approaches such as solar panels and greenhouses for sustainable meals.



Story from the field

Since 2022, WFP has been implementing the Kyrgyz Republic's **first Green Climate Fund (GCF) project to enhance climate services and diversify climate-sensitive livelihoods** in Batken, Naryn, and Osh provinces.

So far, eight automated weather stations have been installed, and 13 agro-meteorological observation stations have been upgraded. These improvements **enable the government to better collect and analyze vital climate data**, including soil temperature, wind, precipitation, and pressure. Government staff have also been trained to forecast hazards and develop tailored agro-meteorological forecasts for farmers.

More than **5,000 farmers now have the knowledge and tools to use climate information effectively when planning their agricultural activities**. Agricultural extension services are leveraging this data to offer practical advice, helping farmers protect livestock and crops from sudden weather shifts, ultimately boosting yields and resilience.



A weather station, in Aravan district, Osh province measures atmospheric conditions to provide data for weather forecasts and to study weather and climate. Photo: WFP

Explore our journey towards lasting change:

- [What WFP is doing in the Kyrgyz Republic](#)
- [WFP Kyrgyz Republic - 2023 Annual Country Report](#)
- [WFP's price monitoring for food security in the Kyrgyz Republic - August *\(new!\)*](#)
- [The global food and economic crisis' impact on food system resilience: Kyrgyz Republic](#)

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