



UNITED NATIONS  
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



United Nations  
**COMMON COUNTRY  
ANALYSIS**  
for the Kyrgyz Republic

Updated 2024

**United Nations in the Kyrgyz Republic**  
**Common Country Analysis**  
**Update 2024**

## CONTENT

<b>Acronyms</b> .....	1
<b>Executive summary</b> .....	2
<b>Political context, governance and institutions</b> .....	4
<b>Peace and conflict</b> .....	8
<b>Economic context</b> .....	10
<b>Social context</b> .....	15
<b>Environmental context</b> .....	20
<b>Leave no one behind</b> .....	26
<b>Kyrgyzstan’s international human rights commitments and obligations</b> .....	32
<b>National vision for sustainable development</b> .....	35
<b>Implications of the context on UNCT/UNSDCF implementation</b> .....	38
<b>Annex A. Progress towards the 2030 agenda</b> .....	43
<b>Annex B. Kyrgyzstan Risk Spotlight</b> .....	48



## ACRONYMS

CCA – Common Country Analysis  
CCHR - Coordination Council on Human Rights under the Cabinet of Ministers  
CPI – Consumer Price Index  
CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
ERP – Environmental Performance Review  
FDI – Foreign Direct Investment  
GDP - Gross Domestic Product  
INGO – International Non-Governmental Organizations  
ITU – International Telecommunication Union  
LNOB – Leave No One Behind  
MHI - Mandatory Health Insurance  
MLSWM – Ministry of Labor, Social Welfare and Migration  
MNRETS - Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision  
MTM - Mobility Tracking Matrix  
NBKR – National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic  
NGO – Non-Governmental Organizations  
NMRIF - National Mechanism for Reporting, Implementation and Follow-up  
NHRIs – National Human Rights Institutions  
PwDs – persons with disabilities  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goals  
SGBP - State Guaranteed Benefit Package  
SOC - Security Operations Center  
UHC - Universal Health Coverage  
UNCT – UN Country Team  
UN HRMs - UN Human Rights Mechanisms  
WPS - Women, Peace, and Security



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 2024 update of the Common Country Analysis for the Kyrgyz Republic prepared in 2023 highlights major developments taking place in January-November 2024 across several dimensions of the development context in the country. As per the decision of the UN Country Team (UNCT), the updates were made in the following chapters of the CCA:

- 1.2 Political context, governance and institutions
- 1.3 Peace and Conflict
- 1.4 Economic context
- 1.5 Social Context
- 1.6 Environmental Context
- 2.0 Leave No One Behind
- 4. Kyrgyzstan's international human rights commitments and obligations
- 5. National vision for sustainable development

The political developments analyzed in the update indicate a concerning decline in human rights and the rule of law in Kyrgyzstan, that in the mid-term may impact the overall socio-economic development, particularly for vulnerable populations. Shrinking democratic and civic space, existing and newly proposed restrictive laws related to freedom of expression, mass media, freedom of association and public participation, and increasing harassment of political opponents, journalists, and activists highlight the need for sustained UN engagement with the Government on these issues, including through high level public advocacy and quiet diplomacy. Supporting legislative reforms to protect fundamental freedoms, and an enabling environment for civil society, not just as service providers, but also to promote accountability are essential for safeguarding civic space. Encouraging the Government to preserve online and offline freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association and the right to public participation should be part of the UNCT priorities. Efforts should also focus on promoting economic inclusion, and inclusive public participation. Only through maintaining political and social pluralism can the views of all those at risk of being left behind be heard and taken into account in national development efforts. Action points for the UN Country Team agreed upon during April 2023 civic space retreat and outcomes of the RMR remain valid and therefore should continue to guide the UNCT in its programmatic and policy interventions.

A stronger focus on gender equality and women's empowerment is also essential in light of the observed pushback pivoted by growing patriarchal attitudes within society, manifested inter alia through the increased rate of gender-based violence. Women continue to face barriers to economic and political participation, limiting progress in economic inclusion and innovation. Integrating women and youth into the economy, promoting digital finance, green technologies, and fostering entrepreneurship are critical steps towards inclusive development. Additionally, ensuring accessibility, affordability and inclusivity of services for vulnerable groups - such persons with disabilities, children, women, vulnerable migrants, stateless people, displaced persons and remote communities – is imperative to protect and empower these populations.



Engagement of young people (14-25 years of age) and young professionals presents the greatest potential to produce creative and innovative solutions to development challenges at the community and national levels. Tapping into active initiatives of young people in economic, social and environmental sectors will be important for strengthening UN's inclusive strategies. Additional recommendations include implementing rights-based approaches in programming and advancing human rights protections through partnership with government, national human rights institutions and civil society actors.

Other areas where UN support in 2025 will be crucial include promoting environmental sustainability through a gradual transition to a green economy, implementation of the national adaptation plans and raising ambition of the NDCs, the third generation of which will be prepared in the run-up to COP30 in Brazil, as well as strengthening cooperation in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.

Social protection, education and healthcare services will remain important streams of the UN system operations in the country as the progress in these areas will measure the extent to which the main principle of the 2030 agenda "Leaving No One Behind" has been realized in the country. The importance of increased investments in social sectors (education, healthcare, social protection) has been reconfirmed during the National Development Forum titled "Human capital and sustainable development" held on 4 November 2024, which served as a key platform for discussing issues related to the development of the Kyrgyz Republic's human capital in a rapidly changing world.

Despite progress made towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda (global SDG rank: 48 of 166 countries)<sup>i</sup>, the recent national SDG Tracker analysis revealed significant gaps in data for SDG indicators. This suggests the need for further support from the UN system towards data collection and harmonization including to align global and national databases. It would contribute to the realization of the Kyrgyz Republic's aspiration to become one of the first 30 countries in the achievement of SDGs by 2030<sup>ii</sup>.

Finally, UN support in leveraging partnerships with multiple development partners, including IFIs, private sector and civil society, and access to development finance will be crucial in ensuring progress towards the stated results of the UNSDCF 2023-2027.



## POLITICAL CONTEXT, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

In 2024, Kyrgyzstan's ratings in global democratic governance and rule of law indices remained low. Freedom House's Nations in Transit still defines Kyrgyzstan as a "consolidated authoritarian regime"<sup>iii</sup> and its Freedom in the World report still classifies it as "not free",<sup>iv</sup> with declining civil society, democratic governance, electoral process, independence of judiciary and independent media ratings.

### *Civic space*

In April 2024, the President enacted amendments to the Law "On Non-Commercial Organizations" (so-called 'law on foreign representatives'), providing that CSOs that receive foreign funding and engage in broadly defined 'political activities' must register as 'performing functions of foreign representatives' (a stigmatizing label), allowing the authorities to suspend and ultimately liquidate those that do not register, and subject those registered to checks that may violate their operational autonomy. In spring, the Ministry of Justice developed by-laws, refined by the Cabinet of Ministers in late August 2024, prescriptively regulating procedures for registration as 'foreign representatives' and compliance inspections. The UNRC/UNCT expressed concern that the law could result in unwarranted restrictions on civil society, and potentially hinder progress towards the SDGs, as CSOs play a vital role in service delivery. . The law's initial effects included self-censorship by CSOs, many pondering to close or register as commercial entities or individual consultants, and an overall chilling effect on civil society. This law also makes NGOs that have been engaged in both "political activities" and the provision of services to vulnerable groups, such as the LGBTQ+ community, people living with HIV, sex workers, particularly at risk.

Freedom of peaceful assembly remained curtailed by blanket bans on gatherings in central Bishkek, since March 2022, regularly extended by court decisions. In Osh, a decision to ban peaceful assemblies in the city center was adopted in June 2024 until the end of the year.

### *Media freedoms*

Kyrgyzstan ranked 120<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in Reporters Without Borders' Press Freedom Index 2024, described as experiencing an upsurge in pressure on the media, as the government controls all traditional media, and is trying to extend its influence to privately owned outlets, in particular online resources.<sup>v</sup>

In 2024, a growing number of cases of persecution and judicial harassment of independent media, intimidation, arrests and trials against investigative journalists, bloggers and social media users critical of state authorities was observed, in several cases based on accusations of "calling for mass riots" backed by linguistic or other forensic expertise solicited by law enforcement agencies. Poignant examples were a court decision to close the Kloop Media<sup>vi</sup>



investigative journalism resource; and sentencing to prison of two out of 11 detained journalists (Temirov Live/Ait Ait Dese channels).

President Japarov withdrew the restrictive draft Law “On Mass Media” from Parliament in March 2024, in response to criticism. In May-June, the draft law was brought closer in line with international human rights standards.

In August, the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy initiated legislative amendments to the Code of Offences, establishing significant fines for insult and slander, and disseminating false information, on the media and the Internet, despite public concerns that the Ministry lacks sufficient capacity to objectively assess the accuracy of published information. Parliament began considering amendments to the Code of Offences in September despite public concerns that the Ministry of Culture would be able to impose fines on individuals and legal entities, even in the absence of a complaint from the allegedly aggrieved person. In a parallel development, a Center for Information Environment Research was established under the Ministry of Culture to monitor the digital space in order to identify information that does not correspond to reality.

#### ***Administrative-territorial reform and local council elections***

In June 2024, Parliament approved the law regulating Administrative-Territorial Reform, reducing the number of administrative units by half from 484 (32 urban, 452 village) to 268 (33 urban, 235 village). In September, this was further reduced to 264 (33 urban, 231 village), after mergers also in the Batken province. This was achieved by enlarging administrative boundaries of cities and merging village administrations across the country. While the effects of the reform are not visible yet, its stated objective is to achieve more rational and effective public service delivery, with a reduction in the number of local public servants, accompanied by digitalization. This could help improve access to local services and reduce corruption. The consolidation of smaller administrative units into a few larger ones, however, could locally affect vulnerable groups, as citizens from remote areas may need to travel further to access public services.

The redrawing of administrative boundaries also directly affected the number and size of local councils. The President dissolved the outgoing local councils in September, following amendments to the law on the election of deputies to local councils and the status of cities, fixing the number of local councilors in the new configuration, and called for early local council elections to be held on 17 November 2024..

The local elections were held for 33 city councils, among candidate lists of political parties (with a 30 percent gender quota, every three positions) using a proportional system, and 231 village councils, using a majoritarian system (with 30 percent reserved mandates for women). The main contenders were relatively established and new political parties broadly sympathetic to the executive, with few opposition contenders taking part, due to a reduced democratic space. The election campaign was low key. The voting process on election day was held smoothly. Voter turnout was quite low (27.83 percent), illustrating a relative voter apathy. The use of





automated ballot scanning machines delivered preliminary results quickly. Concerns were raised when the opposition Social Democrats were deregistered from the Bishkek city council elections, after party leaders were detained on vote-buying charges.

### ***People's Kurultai***

The President has scheduled a third annual convocation of the People's Kurultai for 20-21 December 2024. In late September 2024, a parliamentary committee voted down amendments proposed to the law, proposing to elect delegates for one year, as opposed to just for each convocation, and allowing them to attend lawmaking discussions – showing MPs' concerns about it duplicating Parliament's functions.

### ***Corruption***

Despite enacting anti-corruption legislation and examples of prosecutions brought in corruption cases. The implementation of anti-corruption measures remains inadequate, consequently corruption remains prevalent. There are allegations of corruption and political interference in judicial cases.<sup>vii</sup>

In June 2024<sup>viii</sup>, a State Strategy to combat corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic with an action plan for its implementation (2025-2027) was adopted. It aims to combat corruption, prevent corruption risks, foster intolerance towards it, enhance public trust in government, and engage civil society in research and investigations. The authorities link corruption cases to organized crime, and such activities are often accompanied by the transfer of large amounts of private property, including factories, buildings and land plots, into state ownership. The lack of transparency in these processes, along with allegations of raiding by individual business representatives, raises serious questions about adherence to the rule of law and due process.

### ***Judicial reform***

The State Programme "*Development of the Justice System of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2023-2026*" was approved by Presidential Decree No. 47 (3 March 2023). It represents the third state-targeted programme aimed at comprehensively reforming the judicial system and places a particular emphasis on the widespread integration of information technologies. The incorporation of these technologies is meant to enhance the quality of justice administration, simplify citizens' access to judicial protection, improve the efficiency of obtaining forensic examinations, ensure the full implementation of court decisions, and optimize the operations of justice system bodies. Regarding criminal justice policy, the document outlines two key areas: A commitment to humanizing the criminal justice system regarding offenses not posing a public danger; and an emphasis on the rigorous application of penalties for severe and particularly grave crimes. To implement the first area, it is key to promote the use of alternatives to detention, including the need to explore alternative forms of punishment without imprisonment.

Statistical data is illustrative of the legislative changes in the criminal justice area. There is a decrease in the total number of imposed criminal penalties associated with custodial sanctions and an increase in the number of alternative types of punishments or non-custodial sanctions.





This can be seen as a direct impact of the state policy of humanizing the criminal legislation and encouraging the courts' practice for application of alternatives and non-custodial measures<sup>ix</sup>. In 2020, 2,444 persons were sentenced to imprisonment, in 2021 - 1,893, in 2022 - 1,408, and in 2023 - 1,487. At the same time, in the same period, there was an increase in the number of sentences imposing criminal penalties and measures related to non-custodial sanctions. In 2020 non-custodial sanctions were applied in relation to 2,626 persons, in 2021 - 4,081, in 2022 - 4,464, and in 2023 - 4,702. The use of pretrial detention remains high – it is used in more than 96 per cent of cases. Torture investigation remains ineffective.

In October, Parliament began considering draft amendments to the Code of Offences that would introduce penalties, including fines or arrest for up to 7 days for photographing and videotaping police officers and other government officials while they perform their duties, as well as for disobeying their lawful demands.



## PEACE AND CONFLICT

The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024 ranked Kyrgyzstan 77<sup>th</sup> out of 163 countries, back up by several places compared to 2023.<sup>x</sup> It ranked 101<sup>st</sup> out of 163 countries in the Positive Peace Index (PPI) 2024, nearly unchanged.<sup>xi</sup> The Fragile States Index (FSI) 2024 ranked Kyrgyzstan 65<sup>th</sup> out of 179 countries, back up by four places. Interstate armed conflict was still perceived as a risk, in the Global Risks Report 2024.<sup>xii</sup>

### ***Border-related developments***

Border talks with Tajikistan advanced. There was reported continuous progress in border delimitation efforts, including in the contested areas, paving the way for a possible agreement. Bilateral topographic working groups continued to meet regularly, reportedly agreeing on over 90 percent of the borderline, also voiced at higher-level meetings between the heads of the border services, and of regional governors. In late July, high-level officials reported that around 94 percent of the border had been agreed. In early August, Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Minister noted that an agreement might be achieved within 2-3 months. The Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers attended Tajikistan's Independence Day's celebrations, signaling a warming of relations.

The border agreement with Uzbekistan was further implemented, via regular meetings of the bilateral demarcation commission. In April, the Barak enclave was returned to Uzbekistan as part of a land swap foreseen in the agreement. Its few remaining residents were resettled to 'new Barak' (Kara-suu district). In September, the international border crossing points at Kara-suu (Osh province) and Ken-Say (Jalal-Abad province) were reopened after 14 years, positively impacting regional trade and social cohesion.

### ***Social cohesion***

In May, anti-migrant protesters ransacked student dormitories in Bishkek, leading to a few injured South Asian students, amid a delayed police response and initially equivocal messages from the authorities. This incident showed that an undercurrent of xenophobic rhetoric could be triggered by perceptions of social inequality, amid heightened competition for jobs, with many labour migrants returning home.

The enactment of tougher migration laws, policies, and attitudes, in the Russian Federation, laid bare the country's dependencies on migration, spurring efforts to diversify destination countries for migrants.

The government cooperated with CSOs including women-led organizations to promote social cohesion in the Batken province, through various community engagement initiatives organized to promote inclusive governance. This included the organization of national knowledge platforms on peacebuilding such as Yntymak Week, and a series of events organized under the Central Asian Women Leaders Caucus, chaired by Kyrgyzstan in 2024, highlighting the role of social cohesion for development. During its chairpersonship, Kyrgyzstan promoted regional



dialogues on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), with an emphasis on conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and women's leadership to strengthen women's roles in peace and security efforts, climate change adaptation and natural resource management, in line with the UN's WPS global agenda.

### ***Internal security***

Law enforcement authorities continued detaining several alleged members of extremist groups, notably after a localized incident where national flags were replaced by white flags with religious inscriptions. Amendments to the law on religion were tabled, proposing to tighten the registration of religious groups, ban veils covering the face, for identification and security reasons, religious canvassing, and the use of religious slogans by political parties. Amendments to the law propose introducing imprisonment for a second offense of possession of extremist materials and criminalizing of the article "Public calls for violent seizure of power".

### ***Prevention of Organized Crime***

The authorities continued a crackdown on organized crime, detaining alleged members of organized crime groups. The government is working on a new law "On the Prevention of Organized Crime", to establish legal and organizational foundations for combating organized crime (adoption planned for December 2024). This legislation will provide clear strategies for law enforcement and other agencies to strengthen the national framework against organized crime. Additionally, it is developing a "Concept of the State Program for Combating Organized Crime" and its Implementation Plan, set for adoption in 2025. This aims to improve inter-agency coordination, enhance legal mechanisms, and implement preventive measures, reinforcing the country's commitment to tackling organized crime and ensuring public safety.

### ***Cybersecurity***

In June, the country adopted the Law "On Cybersecurity of the Kyrgyz Republic", establishing a unified system to protect personal data, society, and the state by ensuring the resilience of the national information infrastructure. It sets out principles for cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and public-private partnerships, while mandating cybersecurity audits and the creation of a unified cyber threat database. Earlier, in January, the country launched a Security Operations Center (SOC) under the State Committee for National Security, equipped with advanced technologies for 24/7 monitoring and rapid response to cyber threats, significantly enhancing the nation's cybersecurity defenses.



## ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Kyrgyzstan's macroeconomic outlook for 2024 is broadly positive, supported by domestic growth and strategic development initiatives, though tempered by external and internal challenges. According to national data and projections from institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)<sup>xiii</sup>, Kyrgyzstan is set to maintain robust growth, albeit at a moderated pace compared to earlier years. The World Bank forecasts<sup>xiv</sup> GDP growth to decelerate to 5.8% by the end of 2024, reflecting the impact of global inflationary pressures, rising energy prices, and dependence on remittances and commodity exports. However, government-led diversification efforts and investments in infrastructure are expected to support sustained growth in the long term.

Economic performance in 2024 has been buoyed by increased domestic consumption, exports, and investments. Official data<sup>xv</sup> indicates that GDP expanded by 9.8% during the first 10 months of the year, driven by strong outputs in construction, industrial production, and agriculture. Notably, Kyrgyzstan's iconic Kumtor gold mine has become less dominant in GDP contributions due to successful diversification efforts. Excluding Kumtor, GDP growth reached 10.8%, reflecting broader economic activity across sectors.

High consumer activity has been supported by rising real wages, a net inflow of remittances, and growing consumer lending<sup>xvi</sup>. According to the Kyrgyz Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers, GDP per capita is projected to exceed \$2,500 in 2024, a significant increase from \$1,200 in 2020. Despite positive growth trends, the pockets of poverty remain still high at 29.8%.<sup>xvii</sup>

Kyrgyzstan's medium-term prospects depend heavily on the continued implementation of its economic diversification strategy and infrastructure development. Key priorities include industrialization, renewable energy, and digital economy expansion, aligning with the SDGs to reduce poverty and foster inclusive growth. The adoption of a Digital Code in 2025 is anticipated to enhance the business environment, stimulate innovation, and attract foreign investment in the technology sector.

Strategic infrastructure projects, such as the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and Kambarata I hydropower plant, are expected to strengthen regional trade integration and connectivity. Additionally, initiatives like the CASA-1000 energy project will position Kyrgyzstan as a green energy exporter, addressing domestic energy demands while creating opportunities for electricity exports to neighboring countries.

International financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), have provided optimistic forecasts, emphasizing the potential of enhanced regional cooperation and trade routes to bolster Kyrgyzstan's economic integration within Central Asia and beyond<sup>xviii</sup>. Investments in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power, are expected to address both domestic and export energy needs, contributing to SDGs.



This combination of strategic planning, sectoral diversification, and international support places Kyrgyzstan on a promising trajectory for continued economic progress, despite the challenges of a volatile global environment.

### ***International Perspective and Risks***

International institutions emphasize that Kyrgyzstan's economy remains vulnerable to external shocks, particularly due to its heavy reliance on remittances from workers abroad, especially in Russia. Remittances accounted for nearly 30% of the country's GDP in recent years, making Kyrgyzstan one of the most remittance-dependent economies in the world. Fluctuations in the Russian economy or changes in its migration policies could significantly affect this income source. In the first nine months of 2024, remittances from Russia increased by 17%<sup>[10]</sup>, but the number of Kyrgyz migrant workers in Russia fell by 40%, reflecting the volatility of this sector. Additionally, remittances from other regions such as the USA, Türkiye, and South Korea rose by 24%, providing a more diversified remittance stream, though risks remain. Additionally, remittances from other regions such as the USA, Türkiye, and South Korea rose by 24%, providing a more diversified remittance stream, though risks remain.

Global commodity price volatility also pose a significant risk to Kyrgyzstan's economy. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Jan-October 2024 is 4,2<sup>xix</sup> but for fuel and lubricants increased by 13% in 2024, contributing to rising transportation costs and overall inflation. This inflationary pressure has eroded the purchasing power of households, particularly affecting low-income families.

The government's Price Stabilization Plan for essential commodities, adopted in 2024, aims to mitigate the impact of rising food and fuel prices. However, food security remains a concern due to Kyrgyzstan's reliance on food imports, compounded by climate change and erratic weather patterns that affect agricultural productivity.

### ***Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)***

For 6 months of 2024, Kyrgyzstan attracted USD 462 million in foreign direct investment (FDI)<sup>xx</sup> which is 7% more than the same period of 2023, signaling increased investor confidence in its economy. This growth stems from government efforts to improve the investment climate through tax incentives in key sectors—manufacturing, agriculture, renewable energy—and investment treaties ensuring fair treatment and profit repatriation. However, challenges such as regulatory inconsistencies, perceived corruption, and infrastructure gaps in transport and energy persist. Addressing these barriers is crucial for sustaining FDI and economic diversification, particularly beyond traditional sectors like mining.

### ***Trade and Inflation***

Kyrgyzstan's foreign trade turnover amounted to USD 12.1 billion in the first nine months of 2024, reflecting an 8.4% increase. Exports grew significantly by 28.2% to USD 2.8 billion, while imports rose by 3.7% to USD 9.3 billion. However, inflation remains a concern,



especially with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for non-food items increasing by 8% and for services by 8%. Fuel prices rose by 13%, driving up transportation costs and eroding purchasing power, particularly for vulnerable populations. The government introduced a Price Stabilization Plan for essential commodities to mitigate these inflationary pressures.

### ***Kyrgyzstan's Fiscal Performance in 2024***

Kyrgyzstan experienced a remarkable increase in tax revenues in 2024, reaching USD 3.95 billion (KGS 342.9 billion)<sup>xxi</sup>, an increase of USD 558.76 million (KGS 48.5 billion) compared to 2023. This growth underscores the effectiveness of the government's fiscal policies and tax reforms, which focused on broadening the tax base and improving compliance. Key sectors, including industrial production, trade, and services, significantly contributed to higher tax collections, driven by expanded economic activities.

The government's modernization of tax administration systems and efforts to curb informal economic activities played a crucial role in enhancing revenue collection. These initiatives reflect the commitment to creating a more transparent and efficient fiscal framework.

Non-tax revenues also saw substantial growth, nearly tripling from USD 4.034 billion (KGS 33 billion) in 2020 to USD 1.08 billion (KGS 92.1 billion)<sup>xxii</sup> in 2024. This increase stemmed from multiple factors, including higher dividends from state-owned enterprises, improved fee and charge collection mechanisms, and revenues generated from natural resource exploitation. Government initiatives to streamline non-tax revenue collection and enhance financial management practices further supported this upward trend, creating additional fiscal space to fund public services and infrastructure projects.

In 2024, government spending totaled USD 5.3 billion (KGS 450.6 billion), reflecting a strong commitment to infrastructure development, social programs, and public services. Priority spending areas included education, healthcare, and social protection, aligning with the country's broader development goals.

Infrastructure development received particular attention, with significant investments in road construction, energy projects, and urban development. These projects are expected to sustain long-term economic growth and improve the quality of life for citizens.

Despite increased expenditures, Kyrgyzstan achieved a budget surplus of USD 71.8 million (KGS 6.1 billion) in 2024. This surplus highlights the government's prudent fiscal management and effective budgeting practices. The ability to maintain a surplus amidst rising expenditures was largely driven by the expansion of both tax and non-tax revenue bases.

The surplus strengthens fiscal stability, reducing the need for deficit financing and external borrowing. It also provides the government with the flexibility to address future economic challenges and invest strategically in areas that support long-term growth. By maintaining fiscal discipline and aligning spending with available resources, Kyrgyzstan has positioned itself to fund critical development projects while safeguarding public financial health.



### ***Vulnerability to External Shocks***

Remittances play an outsized role in Kyrgyzstan's economy, contributing nearly 30% of GDP, one of the highest proportions globally. This substantial reliance underscores both their importance as a lifeline for households and their vulnerability to external shocks. Geopolitical tensions, changes in migration policies, and economic downturns in host countries pose significant risks to the steady flow of remittances. Such disruptions could have far-reaching implications for household incomes, domestic consumption, and poverty alleviation efforts.

War in Ukraine has profoundly altered migration and remittance dynamics for Kyrgyzstan. Russia, the primary destination for over 90% of Kyrgyz migrants, has faced economic sanctions and currency fluctuations due to the conflict. Despite a 40% decline in Kyrgyz migrant numbers in Russia by October 2024, remittance inflows from Russia increased by 17% compared to the previous year. This counterintuitive growth reflects the evolving profile of Kyrgyz migrants in Russia: a smaller, more established workforce securing higher-paying, long-term employment. Moreover, the depreciation of the Ruble incentivized migrants to remit more funds to mitigate exchange rate losses and ensure stable financial support for their families.

Russia's construction, agriculture, and retail sectors remain critical employers for Kyrgyz migrants. However, stricter visa regulations, economic slowdowns, and policy changes threaten to curtail further migration, highlighting the risks of over-reliance on a single host country.

Beyond the situation with Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan's reliance on remittances exposes it to other potential external shocks, including a recession in major host countries that limit employment opportunities for migrants and reduce remittance inflows; disrupted financial transfers or restricted labor market access because of expanding sanctions on Russia or geopolitical shifts, changes in migration laws, and visa requirements or quotas.

In response to these vulnerabilities, the Kyrgyz government has adopted a multi-faceted approach to enhance economic resilience:

1. **Diversifying Migration Destinations:** Bilateral agreements with Japan, Türkiye and South Korea have created new avenues for Kyrgyz workers, providing access to stable and higher-wage employment opportunities. These agreements aim to reduce dependence on Russia while offering more secure alternatives for migrant labor.
2. **Strengthening Migrant Protections:** The government has intensified efforts to improve working conditions and legal protections for Kyrgyz workers abroad, fostering better relations with host countries and ensuring fair treatment.
3. **Financial Literacy Initiatives:** To maximize the developmental impact of remittances, programs promote financial literacy among migrants and their families, encouraging investment in productive ventures such as small businesses, real estate, and education.

While Russia remains the largest contributor to remittance inflows, Kyrgyzstan has seen growing contributions from alternative sources. By 2024, remittances from the USA, Türkiye,





South Korea, and the UK increased by 24%, driven by better job prospects, higher wages, and favorable migration policies in these countries. This diversification enhances Kyrgyzstan's economic resilience and reduces its reliance on a single source for remittance inflows. Given the remittances remain one of the critical drivers of economic stability and social well-being in Kyrgyzstan, they support households, rural development and fuel SME growth.

As remittances continue to feed Kyrgyzstan's economy, for the government diversifying migration destinations, enhancing labor protections, and promoting productive use of remittances will be critical.

### ***Role of private sector and business climate***

The private sector plays a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development by driving economic growth, creating jobs, and fostering innovation. As a key provider of goods, services, and technologies, private enterprises contribute to building resilient economies and addressing pressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. Moreover, the private sector's involvement in sustainable financing mechanisms enhances access to credit, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and underserved populations. By collaborating with financial institutions, businesses can facilitate the development of inclusive credit models that prioritize sustainability and social impact.

In 2023, Kyrgyzstan introduced several significant reforms aimed at improving the regulatory environment and fostering a more business-friendly climate. One of the key measures was the moratorium on business inspections, which reduced the frequency of routine inspections, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This was designed to alleviate administrative burdens on businesses, allowing them to operate with fewer disruptions and to focus on growth and expansion. Additionally, comprehensive tax reforms were implemented to simplify the tax system, making it more transparent and easier for businesses to comply with. These changes aimed to encourage entrepreneurship and broaden the tax base, enhancing the country's attractiveness to both domestic and foreign investors. To support businesses further, the social insurance rate was significantly reduced from 27.25% to 12.25%, a unique policy shift that lowered labor costs and made Kyrgyzstan one of the most attractive destinations for businesses in Central Asia. This reduction aimed to stimulate employment and business expansion, especially for SMEs and start-ups.

NBKR discount rate has been reduced from 13% to 9%. So, in 2024, credit facilities with low-interest loans were made available to SMEs in key industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and information technology. These loans were designed to help businesses access capital for expansion, hire more employees, and invest in modern technologies. Additionally, tax holidays and regulatory fee exemptions were introduced to encourage entrepreneurship and reduce the barriers to entry for new businesses, particularly in sectors essential to national economic development.



## SOCIAL CONTEXT

The national priorities in the social sphere have been underpinned by the national commitments Kyrgyzstan made at the SDG Summit and announcements made at the National Development Forum focused on alleviation of poverty in November 2023 and the National Forum on Social Mobilization on 22 May 2024. Improving the quality of services in the fields of education and

### Key social indicators:

Human Development Index ranking: 117 out of 193  
 Human Development Index value: 0.701  
 Life expectancy (female): 76.3 years (male): 68.0 years  
 Expected years of schooling (female): 13.4 years (male): 13.0 years  
 National poverty rate: 29.3%  
 Working poor at PPP USD 3.20/day: 13.7% of the working population  
 National multidimensional poverty rate: 47.2%  
 Youth aged 15-29 not in education, employment or training (NEET): 20.5%  
 Gross National Income per capita: USD 1,700  
 Gini coefficient index: 29.0  
 Human capital index: 0.7  
 Sources: HDR 2022 and the National Statistical Committee

healthcare were identified as foundations for innovative development and social well-being. The social policies implemented by the Government will have to factor in the growing population of Kyrgyzstan<sup>xxiii</sup>, opportunities offered by demographic dividend, and their effect will be measured by the impact on the vulnerable layers of population. Social protection of the population will have to be explicitly reflected

in the new national development strategies until 2030 and beyond y 2030 and application of the concepts elaborated in the "Beyond GDP" policy brief of the "Our Common Agenda" report by the UN Secretary-General.

### *Migration*

Migration patterns continued to change, with a reduction of labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan working in the Russian Federation, and a diversification of destination countries, such as Türkiye, Kazakhstan, the USA and South Korea. Kyrgyzstan is also increasingly becoming a destination country for foreign labour.

Migration significantly impacts the social fabric of Kyrgyzstan. The emigration of a substantial portion of the working-age population disrupts community structures and alters family dynamics. Elderly individuals and children often remain in Kyrgyzstan as family members migrate abroad for employment, affecting family cohesion. Children in migrant households may face psychological and educational challenges due to the extended absence of their parents. In late October 2024, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration proposed a draft law imposing a penalty of approximately 200 USD on migrants who leave their children without proper guardianship. The adoption and enforcement of this initiative could exacerbate the social consequences of migration.

Labour migration to the Russian Federation is a vital survival strategy for over 334,000<sup>xxiv</sup> Kyrgyz citizens. However, their circumstances have significantly worsened over the past year. In October 2024, Jogorku Kenesh raised concerns regarding the rights violations faced by Kyrgyz workers in Russia.



Starting 1 January 2025, a new Russian federal law will limit foreign nationals' stay to 90 days per calendar year without necessary permits. Furthermore, starting 5 February 2025, an additional law will establish a "deportation regime" for foreigners lacking legal documentation. Non-compliance will result in deportation and detention in specialized facilities<sup>xxv</sup>. As of 1 October 2024, over 76,000 Kyrgyz nationals face re-entry bans in Russia<sup>xxvi</sup>.

The Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh and the Kyrgyz Ombudsman have engaged with Russian officials to emphasize the need for equal employment rights within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), despite that the new Russian regulations treat Kyrgyz citizens as non-EAEU nationals. However, strengthening ties with Russia remains a priority foreign policy direction of the Kyrgyz Republic<sup>xxvii</sup>.

As the Government intends to increasingly attract foreign labor, it is taking measures to address existing gaps in the migration legal framework and promote more organized and regular migration of foreign workers to Kyrgyzstan and improve protection once there. Following social unrest in May 2024, which saw a significant temporary outflow of foreign students and migrants and raised local grievances, the Kyrgyz government announced plans to revise immigration procedures. Amendments to the Criminal Code aim to bolster protections for individuals, public safety, and foreign nationals' security, while Article 17 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens guarantees their personal and housing rights under national law. This will help mitigate the risks of irregular migration and human trafficking, improve social cohesion, and foster a better understanding of the benefits that foreign migrants bring to the local economy.

### ***Gender equality***

While there has been a stronger focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, women continue to face barriers to economic and political participation, limiting progress in economic inclusion and innovation. In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, Kyrgyzstan's ranking has deteriorated.<sup>xxviii</sup>

The President of the Kyrgyz Republic signed a decree in March 2024 approving the state program to support women's leadership until 2030, aimed at fostering women's active participation in political, economic, and public life, and strengthening their role in key decision-making processes.

### ***Violence against women***

Violence against women remains pervasive, marked by widespread domestic abuse, systemic impunity, and insufficient support structures for survivors. The level of reported gender-based violence (GBV) remains high in the country. For the last three years, Kyrgyzstan continues to rank as the most dangerous country in Central Asia for women, taking 97/170 position in the ranking for 2023/2024 "Women, Peace and Security Index".

While recent amendments in August 2024 to the Criminal Code, Code of Offenses, and Code of Criminal Procedure introduced stricter penalties, limitations on case dismissals due to



reconciliation, and restrictions on bail for certain offenses, gaps persist. Some amendments conflict with international standards and fail to meet the requirements of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as domestic violence remains only partially criminalized.

Despite progress, pre-investigative procedures in Kyrgyzstan continue to lack essential human rights safeguards, leading to delays, inadequate victim protections, and secondary victimization. Pre-trial checks, frequently used in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, often subject victims to invasive questioning without fair trial guarantees, and discourage timely case progression. Additionally, there is no robust monitoring of public services for women facing multiple forms of discrimination, nor is there a national system to evaluate the cost of gender-based violence. Medical Forensic Expertise, vital for evidence collection, suffers from inadequate standards, staffing shortages, and insufficient resources, further undermining justice for survivors.

### ***Persons with disabilities***

The number of persons with disabilities is increasing, a trend observed globally due to the rise in non-communicable diseases and higher life expectancy. Annually, more than 40,000 adults and around 15,000 children go through medical and social expert commissions (MSEC) to obtain official disability status. According to the National Statistical Committee, 217,222 persons with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan, representing 3% of the total population are covered by the social protection system<sup>xxxix</sup>. Of this number, women and girls represent nearly 47 percent. These figures are based on persons with officially recognized disability status and receiving disability benefits, therefore the data does not provide the full picture of needs and challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

Kyrgyzstan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2019 and launched the "Accessible Country" program for 2023-2030, yet challenges persist for inclusion. Persons with disabilities (PwDs) face inadequate public infrastructure and reluctant employers, leading to significant unemployment<sup>xxx</sup>. Eighty percent of PwDs of working age (26 to 55) are unemployed, with 86% of women with disabilities facing unemployment compared to 74% of men. Government data shows that only 0.75% of civil officials and less than 2% of municipal workers are individuals with disabilities, and 76% earn below the living wage<sup>xxxii</sup>. Barriers include limited rights awareness, a mismatch between educational qualifications and job quotas, and insufficient skills for higher-paying jobs. The Government has initiated strategies to improve employment, including an online vacancy database, social contracting initiatives, and job fairs.

The transition to a social model of disability to ensure a human-rights-based approach is essential for progress. Efforts are underway to revise the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Rights and Guarantees of Persons with Disabilities, with a draft law that passed its first reading in Parliament and is undergoing further revision. The newly established Council on Persons with Disabilities reflects political commitment but requires stronger mandate for monitoring and evaluation for effective CRPD implementation. Ratifying the Optional Protocol to the



CRPD will enhance the protection of disability rights in accordance with international frameworks. These necessary improvements were highlighted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during her visit to Kyrgyzstan in September 2024.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

### ***Ageing population***

The number of pensioners in Kyrgyzstan is steadily increasing, with approximately 666,000 retirees as of early 2024, constituting over 9% of the population. This number is expected to rise as individuals born in the 1950s and 1960s reach retirement age. However, the proportion of elderly remains lower than in other CIS countries, with only 5.7% of the population over the age of 65.

### ***Early Childhood Education***

Despite significant increases in early childhood education (ECE) coverage over the past decade, approximately two-thirds of children still lack access to ECE services. While enrolment and attendance rates in primary and secondary education remain relatively high, the quality of education continues to be a concern. In 2023, only 68% of children aged 7-14 demonstrated foundational reading skills, and 57% achieved foundational numeracy skills. In March 2023, the government launched an accelerator program to increase preschool education coverage and in August 2024, a new law was adopted, allowing both legal entities and individuals to provide preschool education services, removing previous licensing restrictions. This shift is expected to boost the accessibility of early childhood education across the country.

### ***Universal Health Coverage and National Health Insurance***

The State Guaranteed Benefit Package (SGBP) outlines the entitlements of Kyrgyz citizens to medical services, aiming to set minimum state guarantees and healthcare standards to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This package was approved in late 2023. According to the latest data, 72.2% of the population is covered by mandatory health insurance (MHI). Among women of reproductive age, approximately 1.57 million individuals, only 928,000 (or 59.1%) have insurance coverage. This reveals a coverage gap of 22.17% compared to the overall insured population.

According to the 2023 MICS survey, stunting or chronic malnutrition affects around 14% of children under five. The prevalence is notably higher among children in the poorest households (16%), compared to the richest (12%). Moreover, exclusive breastfeeding rates for children aged 0–5 months remain low at 44%, significantly short of the 80% target. These figures underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve child health and nutrition.

In response to drug-related challenges, Kyrgyzstan adopted a new law on 6 March 2024, titled "On Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues, and Precursors," replacing outdated legislation from 1998. This modernized law regulates controlled substances, unifies terminology, and imposes stricter penalties for illegal activities, especially those involving minors. The government also introduced a Medicine Traceability System (MTS) to combat counterfeit medicines, with a ban on unlabeled medicine imports coming into effect in 2024.



These measures reflect the country's commitment to enhancing drug control strategies, aligning with international standards, and improving overall healthcare outcomes.

Kyrgyzstan's efforts in these areas demonstrate a comprehensive approach to tackling critical social and health challenges. However, continued focus and collaboration with international and local stakeholders are necessary to further progress towards sustainable development goals and improve the well-being of its citizens.





## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Environmental degradation in Kyrgyzstan remains a pressing issue, driven by both geophysical and human-induced factors. The country ranks 109<sup>th</sup> out of 180 in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index<sup>xxxiii</sup>, indicating major challenges in environmental governance. The current system, characterized by disjointed and often contradictory environmental programs, largely caters to donor priorities rather than national needs, with little support from the national budget. Environmental policies in Kyrgyzstan predominantly rely on punitive measures such as taxes and fines, rather than incentives for sustainable practices. Decision-making is hindered by outdated, incomplete, or inaccurate environmental data due to inadequate monitoring and infrastructure. Hence there is an urgent need for a more coordinated, science-based approach to environmental governance, emphasizing positive incentives and improved data management to better address the country's environmental challenges<sup>xxxiv</sup>.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Technical Supervision (established in 2021, MNRETS) has broad comprehensive mandates for policy-setting, implementation, and oversight. However, internal challenges—such as corruption allegations involving the Kyrgyz Nature Fund in 2023—have led to leadership changes and restructuring. This has highlighted the need for stronger governance and transparency.

Key recommendations of the third Kyrgyzstan's Environmental Performance Review (EPR) adopted at the 28th session of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy in November 2023 and to its publication in April 2024<sup>xxxv</sup> include enhancing legal compliance, promoting sustainable resource management, and integrating environmental objectives into sectors like water, energy, and agriculture. It emphasizes climate resilience and low-carbon development strategies. Additionally, the report addresses challenges in data availability, vital for tracking progress toward the 2030 Agenda goals.

In recent years, the Government of Kyrgyzstan has inspired international efforts as an advocate for sustainable development of mountainous regions on a global scale. In November 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution on sustainable mountain development, which designated 2023–2027 as the “Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions,” also proposed by the Government of Kyrgyzstan. This Resolution garnered the co-sponsorship of 110 governments. The Kyrgyz Government subsequently prepared the “Five-Year Action Plan on Mountain Development”, which Kyrgyzstan presented at the margins of the 2023 High-level Political Forum in July 2023, and which was further spelled out through national consultations with relevant stakeholders including the donor community, leading to the adoption of a Roadmap underpinning the Action Plan by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers in December 2023. In 2024, the Government elevated the Mountain Agenda as a standing item of high-level expert discussions at the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).





However, to implement its ambitious environmental plans and programmes the country lacks sustainable financing. In 2024, only 0.4 per cent of the national budget (0.1 per cent of GDP) was allocated to environmental protection. Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation activities receive minimal funding. As the country prepares its revised National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the third generation National Determined Contributions by 2025 and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, underpinning those plans with robust financial resources will strengthen implementation of measures.

### ***Biodiversity and ecosystems***

Kyrgyzstan is rich in biodiversity<sup>xxxvi</sup>, however, less than 40 percent of the country's biodiversity areas are officially protected; over 90 percent of these areas are under high to medium threat levels. Ecosystems and forest areas in particular are increasingly stressed due to climate change and human activities, as over half of the population relies on meadow ecosystems for livelihood, with an additional 18 percent is dependent on forest ecosystems. Fragmented habitats and diminished biodiversity suggest the absence of innovative and eco-friendly economic policies and appropriate pricing mechanisms for natural resource use.

Given the importance of glaciers to regional water supply and the rising threat posed by climate change the Kyrgyz Republic has recently adopted the amendment to the Protected Areas Law, which now designates glaciers as specially protected areas, marking a significant development in ecosystems protection. Another progress in biodiversity conservation is the enactment of regulations aimed at establishing ecological corridors and micro-reserves to protect natural migration routes and culturally important areas. However, the effective implementation of these measures is hampered by the lack of comprehensive methodologies. Land degradation is a growing concern, with 20 percent of the land showing declining or stressed productivity. Efforts are underway to improve grassland, forest, and agricultural land management, particularly focusing on sustainable pastureland practices through rotation systems and enhanced infrastructure. Infrastructural developments in the proximity of the Besh-Aral Nature Reserve should take environmental consideration with regard to preservation of the "Western Tien-Shan" World Heritage Property.

The country's agricultural land is predominantly meadows and pastures (48 percent), with a smaller portion allocated to arable land (7 percent) and an even smaller percentage to forestland (3 percent). Despite their limited area, forests significantly contribute to water regulation, soil conservation, and the support of dependent communities. The Government continued the Zhashyl Muras campaign throughout 2023. However, the reduction in forest areas is concerning as they harbor at least half of the nation's species diversity and are integral for maintaining an environmental balance. They reinforce slopes, regulate water flow, and improve air quality. Forests also serve recreational, aesthetic, cognitive, and educational purposes and are a source of valuable non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, berries, and nuts.

Despite these efforts, substantial gaps in biodiversity and ecosystem management persist, largely due to limited natural capital accounting capabilities. The lack of formal mechanisms for ecosystem health monitoring, inadequate use of remote sensing technologies, and



insufficient policy implementation at the landscape scale further exacerbate biodiversity and land pressures. The improvement of the biodiversity status is hindered by a lack of funding, equipment, and infrastructure, underscoring the need for increased resources and commitment to environmental sustainability.

### ***Air pollution***

In recent years, Kyrgyzstan has faced a growing air pollution crisis, especially in urban areas like Bishkek and Osh. Heavy reliance on coal for residential heating remains the primary cause, leading to severe winter pollution and making the air unsafe. In 2023, Kyrgyzstan ranked 18th globally among countries with the worst air quality, underscoring the magnitude of the issue. In 2023, the UN agencies in partnership with development partners conducted a number of studies on the sources of air pollution and its impact on socio-economic and health indicators and developed pragmatic measures to address air pollution in Bishkek<sup>xxxvii</sup>. Without targeted intervention, emissions—particularly PM<sub>2.5</sub>—are projected to increase by 60% by 2040, exacerbating health and environmental risks.

In early 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a Priority Action Plan for Air Quality Improvement (2024-2025).<sup>xxxviii</sup> As of the beginning of 2024, some functions within the air quality management mandate were also transferred from MNRETS to Bishkek Mayor's which has established a dedicated urban inspection unit to oversee emissions control. A \$50 million loan from the International Development Association will finance the installation of advanced air quality monitoring stations and upgrade chemical testing facilities. This project aims to strengthen Kyrgyzstan's ability to track pollution and enforce emissions regulations

UN agencies, alongside local NGOs like MoveGreen, have emphasized the need for clean energy transitions, conducting studies and public campaigns on air quality. MoveGreen has installed low-cost sensors to monitor air pollution in Osh and Bishkek, helping increase public awareness and advocating for sustainable heating technologies. Additionally, in 2023, a nationwide campaign focused on air quality during the winter season was launched and will be repeated in the 2024-2025 heating season.

Despite these efforts, Kyrgyzstan continues to struggle with coal dependency. Over 70% of households use coal for heating, as the cost of switching to cleaner energy, like natural gas, remains prohibitive for many residents. Although gas pipelines are being expanded, the initial installation and heating costs are too high for most households to bear without financial incentives.

In addition, the health impacts of pollution are severe. Vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly are disproportionately affected by the respiratory and cardiovascular risks posed by particulate matter pollution.

With support of development partners, the government is promoting nature-based solutions, such as expanding urban green spaces to absorb pollutants, and it is exploring clean heating technologies like heat pumps to reduce the need for coal. Civil society organizations have a



critical role in monitoring air quality and holding policymakers accountable, but they need more resources to be effective. Continuous collaboration between government, donors, and international institutions will be essential to achieve meaningful progress.

### ***Waste management***

Kyrgyzstan has made some progress in improving waste management infrastructure, though challenges remain. Landfill management remains a critical issue, with outdated and unsanitary sites posing environmental risks, such as groundwater contamination and air pollution. Many older landfills continue to function without proper fencing or leachate control, contributing to pollution near urban areas like Bishkek. Only 107 out of 406 landfills were sanctioned as of 2018, many of which are unsanitary and contribute to environmental pollution. In urban areas, plastic waste constitutes about 21% of landfill content, prompting a ban on plastic bags and products effective January 2027<sup>xxxix</sup>, and a prohibition of the production of plastic products and bags, except for certain exceptions like biodegradable materials and export items, in protected areas starting from January 2024, aiming to reduce environmental impact. These regulations aim to reduce the detrimental environmental impact associated with plastic waste.

In recent years, Kyrgyzstan has focused on modernizing its waste systems. Bishkek is implementing a USD 23.113 million project, funded by the EBRD and other donors, to create a new sanitary landfill and upgrade waste collection points. Similar improvements are planned for Osh, with USD 10.506 million allocated to restore waste infrastructure and collection networks. Efforts to promote recycling have also gained momentum. The Tazar mobile app now connects residents with recyclers, incentivizing responsible disposal through a reward system. Additionally, initiatives like the Begreen project, which installs distinctive recycling bins, and the Clean Village documentary are helping to raise awareness of waste sorting practices.

The e-waste sector in Kyrgyzstan is underdeveloped<sup>xl</sup>, with minimal collection and recycling, facing challenges like lack of legislation and public awareness. Annual e-waste generation is expected to grow significantly, stressing the need for improved management to mitigate health and environmental impacts.

Kyrgyzstan continues to grapple with industrial and hazardous waste, particularly uranium mining tailings from Soviet-era operations. The Strategic Masterplan for the remediation of uranium legacy sites, funded by a USD 24.163 million grant from the Environmental Remediation Account for Central Asia (ERA), implemented by the EBRD, aimed to manage radioactive tailings are addressing environmental risks from radioactive waste. Recent projects in locations such as Min-Kush and Jalal-Abad aim to stabilize dangerous sites and comply with international radiation safety standards. “Rosatom” will start rehabilitation of tailing dumps in Kadzhi-Sai in 2025<sup>xli</sup>.

At the same time, Kyrgyzstan plans to develop deposits of titanomagnetite, which contains uranium particles. The country's leadership emphasized the importance of an environmentally friendly approach to the development of the deposit, noting that titanomagnetite will be mined



using technologies that ensure the safe extraction of associated minerals such as uranium and thorium<sup>xlii</sup>. The deposit is located on the northern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul, near the town of Balykchy.

### ***Disaster Risk Reduction***

The INFORM Risk Index places Kyrgyzstan at “Medium” risk level (placed 99 out of 191 countries) and indicates a slightly higher rate for “vulnerability” (rank 117 out of 191)<sup>xliii</sup>. The INFORM Subnational Risk Index identified Jalal-Abad, Osh and Naryn as high disaster risk provinces<sup>xliv</sup>. (see Annex 2 for Kyrgyzstan Risk Spotlight Common Country Analysis<sup>xlv</sup>)

Earthquake risk is the most impactful across the country with estimated annual loss of USD 111 million<sup>xlvi</sup>. In January and March 2024, the country experienced earthquakes that raised the need for enhancement of disaster resilience measures, the need for seismic resilient construction, as well as raising awareness among population for safe behavior in case of earthquake.

Climate change and active seismological activity pose significant risks to Kyrgyzstan, including increased frequency of natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, mudflows, and droughts. Over the past 12 years, climate-induced disasters have increased 1.5 times, with significant economic and societal impacts. The country has experienced a significant rise in annual precipitation and average annual air temperature, which will continue increasing in the years ahead projected to be 4-5 degrees higher than now in 2100. These climatic shifts have adverse health effects, exacerbating nutritional deficiencies, heat-related illnesses, and the spread of infectious diseases, alongside negative impacts on mental health<sup>xlvii</sup>.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations reports that the scale and frequency of mudflows increased in 2024 due to heavy rainfalls. In July, a state of emergency was declared in Osh city due to mudslides and landslides. Property damage was 30% higher compared to the annual total in 2023. This has placed additional strain on the individuals living in poverty or near the poverty threshold, who make up 40 percent of the population<sup>xlviii</sup>. Flooding and other natural disasters have severe socio-economic impacts especially on the right to adequate housing and land, and access to work of vulnerable groups of population (ethnic minorities, stateless, refugees, elderly, women from these groups, children and persons with disabilities).

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic has mobilized all its resources to cope with the disaster on its own, there was enough machinery and rescue equipment, as well as materials for humanitarian aid to the victims. This indicates the sufficient readiness of the rescue forces. However, monitoring and early warning capabilities are still insufficient, despite some successes. Officials from the High Mountain Lakes Monitoring Department under the Ministry of Emergency Situations warned about the breach of Lake Zyndan two weeks before the incident. The population of two villages was evacuated. This shows that the MES forces have the potential to use new technologies to monitor hazardous phenomena, which are increasing every year.



The transboundary nature of disaster risks has been recognized and identified as an issue to be addressed in a joint effort with neighboring countries. In 2024 Kyrgyzstan hosted the annual Regional Forum of Central Asian Emergency Authorities and adopted a 2025-2026 Action Plan to implement CA Regional DRR strategy.



## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

### *Poor rural households with high dependency ratio*

According to the National Statistical Committee data released in 2024, in 2023, 2.135 million people, or 29.8 percent<sup>xlix</sup> of the population, lived below the poverty line, with another 10 percent at risk of falling into poverty in the event of stressors and shocks. Among them, 36.7 percent of children aged 0-17, or 1.043 million children, lived in poverty. The extreme poverty level in 2023 was 5 percent, showing a decrease of 1 percentage point compared to the previous year. Of those below the extreme poverty line, 61.2 percent were rural residents<sup>l</sup>. Poor rural households and smallholder farmers in Kyrgyzstan face substantial intersectional deprivation. Although agriculture contributed only 9.7 percent to the GDP in 2023, it remains a vital source of employment, income, and food security, engaging around 17 percent of the workforce. This highlights its significance as the primary source of employment for rural households, particularly in the southern provinces where access to land is limited.

One factor influencing the poverty rate is the gender of the household head. In 2023, the highest poverty rate was observed in households led by men (31 percent), while households led by women had a lower poverty rate of 27.5 percent<sup>li</sup>.

Nutrition plays a critical role in determining living standards. The average daily caloric intake for the population is 2,304 kcal<sup>lii</sup>, exceeding the recommended daily energy requirement of 2,100 kcal. However, the affordability of a nutritious diet varies across regions, from KGS 340 (USD 4.05) in Issyk Kul province to KGS 431 (USD 5.13) in Batken province, with Bishkek city exceeding the national average at KGS 417 (USD 4.97). In 2022, 38 percent of the population could not afford a nutrient-adequate diet, and with a 34 percent cost increase that year, affordability has likely worsened due to inflation. The costs are particularly high for households with adolescent girls and pregnant or breastfeeding women, highlighting their economic and nutritional vulnerabilities.

In response to these economic challenges, many rural individuals rely on social assistance. Currently, 817,000 individuals receive pensions, and 391,893 individuals receive social benefits. The average pension amounts to 9,379.7 KGS (USD 112.33), while the average monthly benefit for those receiving a single monthly payment is 1,359.4 KGS (USD 16.28), and for those receiving social assistance, it is 6,324.5 KGS (USD 75.74)<sup>liii</sup>. These amounts are insufficient to meet basic living needs.

A significant portion of household spending is dedicated to necessities, with 48.26 percent of total expenditures allocated to food. This high percentage underscores the vulnerability of poor households, as nearly half of their income is spent on securing basic nutrition. Such a substantial allocation leaves little room for other essential expenses, such as healthcare, education, and housing. Consequently, many households struggle to meet their basic nutritional needs and lack the capacity to invest in other areas that could improve their long-term well-being. The heavy reliance on food expenditures also suggests that any fluctuations in food





prices or agricultural productivity could severely impact their economic stability, further deepening poverty.

### ***Rural women and poor female headed households***

The significant intersectional vulnerability of rural women in Kyrgyzstan is recognized nationally. In rural areas poverty rates remain significantly higher—1.4 times that of urban populations—with female-headed households being disproportionately affected. They lack technical agricultural skills, work longer hours than men, dedicating significantly more time to domestic duties, and face unequal access to productive assets, such as land ownership, credit, and modern farming technologies, hampering their productivity and economic stability, thus prompting the prioritization of their economic activities in the national gender agenda. Unpaid care duties severely limit these women's access to employment opportunities. In 2023, only 37.3 percent of women were employed compared to 72 percent of men, and employed women predominantly work in lower-paid sectors, earning just 73.4 percent of men's salaries<sup>liv</sup>. Nevertheless, women are actively engaged in seeking financial opportunities; notably, 57.71% of microcredit recipients are women, demonstrating their reliance on microcredit as a tool for economic empowerment. This resource helps them manage household expenses, invest in small businesses, and support their families during financial hardships<sup>lv</sup>. This reliance on microcredit serves as a crucial tool for economic empowerment, enabling them to manage household expenses, invest in small businesses, and support their families during financial hardships.

Moreover, 47.61% of individuals with disabilities who receive pensions and disability allowances are women<sup>lvi</sup>. It underscores the importance of social safety nets in providing financial security to vulnerable populations. Rural women, especially those with disabilities, experience compounded discrimination that impacts their access to various services. In the informal sector, particularly agriculture, their lack of contributions to health and pension funds exacerbates financial insecurity and health disparities. Health issues disproportionately affect women, particularly with regard to iron deficiency anemia. Statistics indicate that 61.62% of individuals diagnosed with this condition are women, with various factors contributing to this high prevalence, including dietary restrictions and increased nutritional needs during pregnancy<sup>lvii</sup>. In a significant step forward, the Cabinet of Ministers issued Decision No. 578 on 31 October 2023, approving regulations for providing medical and sanitary assistance through telemedicine technologies. This initiative aims to enhance access to early disease detection and treatment for girls and women in remote, high-mountainous areas with limited medical personnel. However, it remains concerning that 61% of maternal deaths occur in rural regions, highlighting the urgent need for improved healthcare services.

Limited job opportunities, compounded by traditional gender roles, impose additional burdens on rural women, who are often responsible for unpaid care work and household duties. This dynamic further limits their full economic participation.

### ***Persons with disabilities (PwDs)***

The country lacks accurate and disaggregated data on the actual number of PwDs, types of disabilities, age, gender, and other demographics. PwDs still face many challenges, including





discrimination based on disability, inaccessible environments (e.g., buildings, transportation, services, information and communication, digital resources), stereotypical and stigmatizing societal attitudes, and a lack of educational opportunities in the secondary and vocational education systems. Additionally, there is limited access to disability-inclusive employment and low participation of persons with disabilities in political, economic, cultural, sports, and other areas. Absence of accessibility standards across all areas, including internet resources<sup>lviii</sup>, remains a key challenge. There is also a shortage of specialists in disability services, including rehabilitation, occupational therapy, special and inclusive education, and sign language interpretation.

A 2023 Human Rights Watch<sup>lix</sup> study on discrimination against women with disabilities found that women and girls with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan often experience violence from family members or partners. These cases frequently go unreported and unresolved due to widespread discrimination, as families may stigmatize and hide their existence from society. Law enforcement and judicial bodies often ignore or downplay reported cases, and a lack of shelters and other services for survivors of domestic violence who have disabilities makes it difficult for them to escape abuse.

The Council for Persons with Disabilities under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic lacks sufficient mandate and capacity to address these issues, therefore, UN supports measures revise legislation, train and build capacity of the Council members, and enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

### ***Children and adolescents***

More than 1,043,000 children, or 36 percent of all children in Kyrgyzstan, live in monetary poverty. The child poverty rate reaches 46 percent when remittances are excluded from household income calculations. Alarming, every second child experiences multidimensional poverty, with those from large households and rural areas disproportionately affected. Urban poverty is also on the rise, as over 60 percent of families with three or more children live in households consuming below the poverty line.

Child labor remains a pressing issue, with 20% of children engaged in such activities, particularly boys (23%) compared to girls (16%). Children from rural and poorer households are significantly more likely to be involved in economic activities, often under hazardous conditions. The share of impoverished children under three years old is the highest within this demographic. Since 2022, there has been a significant reduction in the number of beneficiaries receiving financial assistance (Ui bulogo Komok), declining from 359,547 in 2022 to 281,012 in 2024, despite the high levels of child poverty. Over 277,000 children have at least one parent working abroad, often resulting in alternative care arrangements that may impact their psychosocial development and increase risks of being exposed or subject to violence, abuse, and child labor. MICS 2023 data showed that 7 per cent of children live with neither parent, 12 per cent live with mother only and 2 per cent live with father only. One of the reasons for this is labour migration of parents. Adolescents experience rapid physical, cognitive, and psychosocial growth, making them particularly vulnerable as they transition from childhood to adulthood.



This vulnerability is exacerbated by issues such as unwanted pregnancies, school dropouts, migration, and other critical circumstances. According to recent data, the birth rate among adolescent girls aged 15-19 stands at 32 per 1,000 females in that age group, with the most vulnerable adolescents typically living in rural areas and among the poorest families. While the basic secondary school completion rate is 99 percent, it drops to 89 percent for complete secondary education. Preventing early pregnancies and births is crucial for improving maternal health, reducing infant mortality, and enhancing the overall well-being of adolescents.

### ***Unemployed youth, youth working informally and young households***

The situation for unemployed youth, particularly those working informally and in young households, remains concerning. According to national statistics, as of 2023, 47.5 percent of the total youth population aged 15-28 were in the labor force, with 63.1 percent being males and only 30.9 percent females. The unemployment rate for this age group is 9.3 percent, with 7.6 percent among males and 12.9 percent among females<sup>lx</sup>. This disparity is largely attributed to young women exiting the workforce due to childbirth, further complicated by a shortage of kindergartens and low preschool education coverage at just 25 percent. Additionally, 19.1 percent of youth aged 15-24 are not in education, employment, or training (NEET), a rate that is 2.4 times higher among young women (27.3%) compared to young men (11.3%). The lack of decent job opportunities and low, unattractive salaries, due to insufficient professional development and work experience, are major factors contributing to youth unemployment. This has resulted in an increased prevalence of youth in the informal sector, where their status often excludes them from additional coverage provided by mandatory health insurance, health service co-payments, and sick leave benefits. Consequently, many continue to work during illness, leading to public health risks and exacerbating their mental health challenges. Community consultations conducted in 2021 highlighted that young households, particularly those with infants and without extended family support, are especially vulnerable. This vulnerability is compounded by high youth unemployment rates, informality in the labor market, and a significant rate of teenage and early pregnancies.

### ***Returned and internal migrants, migrant workers, and households dependent on remittances***

According to MTM baseline study, 227,629 Kyrgyz nationals have migrated to more than 45 different countries between 2020 and April 2024. The majority moved to the Russian Federation, which hosts 91 per cent of the migrant population. Türkiye is the second most popular destination, accommodating 3 per cent of the emigrants, followed by Kazakhstan (2 per cent), USA and the Republic of Korea (1 per cent in each). The proportion of women among migrants is growing, now at more than 50 per cent as they seek employment individually or with family due to economic pressures, though not always by choice. They also face multiple layers of discrimination. Migration has become a survival strategy for many, highlighting the need for supportive measures and protections, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children left behind.

As of April 2024, MTM recorded 128,661 migrants returning to Kyrgyzstan, predominantly from Russia (79%). The demographics of returning migrants shows that sixty-seven percent



are male in an average age of 37, most of them (73%) being married and having upper secondary education (41%). The analysis of their situation in the homeland revealed multiple hardships they face with an access to quality healthcare services due to lack of the propiska registration, rising xenophobia, discrimination in employment, and gaps in the immigration framework. A survey found 16% of returnees were uncertain about their future, largely due to inadequate community services. Key service gaps include 14% lacking clinics and 78% without hospitals, along with issues accessing safe water, schools, and banking services, despite 100% mobile internet access. Lack of access to basic essential services and facilities in the country triggers the wish to migrate again as only 30% of returnees desired to stay permanently. The failure to enforce regulations and provide sufficient support for returned migrants underscores their vulnerabilities during reintegration.

Migrants in Kyrgyzstan face serious risks of exploitation, including sexual, trafficking, with the country serving as a source, transit, and destination for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Over 200,000 children of migrants without parental care are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, risking involvement in domestic work, sexual exploitation, and forced begging. The rise of information and communication technologies (ICT) has facilitated transnational crimes, including trafficking, with social media being exploited to recruit victims and establish connections for illegal services. This situation suggests strengthening awareness raising activities among populations at risk. While Kyrgyzstan's migration policy is aimed primarily at Kyrgyz migrant workers abroad, with a focus on protecting their rights and legitimate interests, in recent years, Kyrgyzstan has, however, become a country of destination for migrants from South and South-East Asia like Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Thailand. Third round of MTM estimated 34,966 international migrant workers in Kyrgyzstan as of April 2024.

### ***Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons***

While the legal situation of convention refugees improved slightly, the situation of mandate refugees and asylum-seekers continued deteriorating. Economic factors affected their livelihoods, like that of other vulnerable segments of the population, increasing humanitarian aid needs. By mid-2024, Kyrgyzstan hosted 272 refugees and 2,482 asylum-seekers, including a significant number from Afghanistan. Under national laws, the refugee status determination should conclude within a year, yet most decisions are delayed until the end of this period, increasing pending and rejected cases. Despite legal safeguards against unlawful rejection, the appeal process often merely upholds initial decisions. The country hosts 113 mandate refugees, primarily from Afghanistan, who, despite long-term peaceful residence and cultural integration, lack legal status and access to socio-economic rights and services. Parliament progressed in aligning legislation impacting statelessness with international standards, whereas the government stateless status determination procedure is not adopted yet. Only 60 persons remained registered as stateless by mid of 2024. Despite government commitments under the Global Compact for Refugees in 2021, there has been insufficient progress in ensuring social protection access for forcibly displaced and stateless people. Inclusion of these groups in the new state concept on inclusive social protection until 2030 remains unimplemented.



### ***Prisoners and ex-prisoners (deprivation of liberty and alternatives to imprisonment)***

As per the official government statistics, the prison population amounted to 7,728 in 2023, which continues the downward trend from 2020 and can be attributed to increased application of non-custodial sentences/alternatives to imprisonment policies.<sup>lxi</sup> The signing of the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on February 2024 also signals further expansion of alternatives to imprisonment with the introduction of electronic monitoring bracelet. While the total prison occupancy remains below 50% of the official prison capacity, pre-trial and temporary detention facilities remain overcrowded with 1,503 detainees reportedly living in unsatisfactory living conditions.<sup>lxii</sup> Considering the current living situations of detainees and prisoners, and in an attempt to increase state revenue, the Penitentiary Service propose a piloting of paid cells scheme for prisoners who would like to live in better cells, similar to the practice implemented in Ukraine's pre-trial detention facilities.<sup>lxiii</sup> The National Center for the Prevention of Torture reported mistreatment and abuse committed at the pre-trial and temporary detention facilities by State Committee for National Security (GKNB),<sup>lxiv</sup> district police (ROVD)<sup>lxv</sup>, and employees of the Penitentiary Service<sup>lxvi</sup> throughout 2023 and 2024. The government introduces electronic court procedure under the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code to prevent overstaying and rapidly reduce the overcrowding at remand facilities. However, the implementation of online court proceeding requires further refinement in line with international best practices. The right to health in detention facilities continues to be a challenge with medical personnel still under the Ministry of Interior or the State Penitentiary Service. Despite recommendations, the transfer of medical personnel to the Ministry of Health's jurisdiction has not been implemented, affecting the care of terminally ill prisoners and their potential for early release or transfer to civilian hospices. For both former prisoners and parolees, the issue of employment continues to be a challenge. While the Ministry of Labor, Social Security, and Migration provides a list of available vacancies, these vacancies are not in demand among clients due to their low wages. Additionally, recent sampling shows that their experience with the criminal justice system has significantly impact their mental health.

### ***People living with HIV***

People living with HIV continue facing high level stigma and discrimination in their daily life. According to the 2023 MICS survey data 52% of women aged 15-24 years would refuse to buy vegetables from HIV positive vendor. Many key population groups face intersecting forms of discrimination and criminalization. Thus, on 29 July 2024 the Code of Offenses included new Article 109-2 Prostitution that entails a fine on individuals in the amount of 200 minimum monthly wages or arrest from three to seven days. High fines exacerbate economic vulnerability of persons involved in prostitution by imposing financial penalties that many cannot afford, potentially trapping individuals in cycles of debt and criminality as they may be forced to engage in further sex work to pay off fines. This criminalization approach disproportionately impacts economically disadvantaged individuals and worsens their vulnerability, subjecting them to ongoing harassment, detention, and short-term deprivation of liberty.



## KYRGYZSTAN'S INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS

In 2024, Kyrgyzstan maintained its Human Rights Council (HRC) membership until 2025 and prepared for the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle to be held on 28 April 2025, where its Voluntary Pledges made as the HRC member will be reviewed, along with progress in the implementation of 2020 UPR recommendations.

Key actions included ratifying the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention on 3 June 2024 and joining the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration on 27 August 2024. Currently, a number of new or revised development or sectoral policies integrate migration and recognize migrants as contributors to sustainable development as per the Resolution of the National Development Forum "Poverty and Inequality" of November 2023. The government adopted the Concept of State Migration Policy (2021-2030) and the National Strategy for Gender Equality (2022-2030), emphasizing the role of migrants, particularly women, in development. Amendments were made to the Law on State Guaranteed Legal Aid, providing free legal assistance to asylum-seekers and stateless individuals. Kyrgyzstan submitted its National Comprehensive Review on the Beijing Declaration and is developing its 6th CEDAW periodic report for submission in 2025. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) reviewed the country's third periodic report, issuing 71 recommendations focused on protecting the economic, social, and cultural rights of marginalized groups due to ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability, emphasizing the rights of women, children, and LGBTQI+ individuals. The Committee addressed domestic violence, child exploitation, and discrimination in employment and education, expressing concern over women's underrepresentation in decision-making. It also urged to repeal discriminatory laws, combat structural inequalities, and enact a comprehensive anti-discrimination law. The Committee also called for enhanced social protection for informal workers and universal access to healthcare, housing, and safe drinking water for marginalized groups. The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities visited Kyrgyzstan on 23 September – 3 October 2024 and called for deinstitutionalization reforms and greater inclusion of PwDs in policymaking.

After a year since its discussion with experts and the public, the draft Constitutional Law "On Akyikatchy (Ombudsman)" was published on 30 October for public discussion, ahead of consideration by Parliament. If adopted without major changes to the version that was commented on by OHCHR/ODIHR/APF in 2023, it would lay a stronger legal basis for the independent functioning of the Ombudsperson's Institute in line with the Paris Principles (bringing it to an A-level status). The draft law does not foresee any merger with the NCPT. In addition to enabling Paris Principles compliant law, to achieve A status, the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic still must implement a transparent, merit-based selection process involving diverse societal groups. Staff diversity must be ensured to reflect Kyrgyz society, enhancing inclusivity and accessibility. Stronger collaboration with civil society must be





established to safeguard independence. Lastly, the enabling law should include a clear mandate to promote ratification and implementation of international human rights standards.

On 4 July 2024 the Coordination Council on Human Rights under the Cabinet of Ministers (CCHR) adopted an Action Plan for 2024-2025 to implement UN Committee against Torture recommendations of 202 setting up an inter-agency working group to oversee its implementation coordinated by the National Center for the Prevention of Torture (NCPT). Additionally, on 13 September 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers endorsed the implementation of the UN Istanbul Protocol for medical documentation of torture. On 21 May 2024, President Japarov signed a Law amending the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes to increase penalties for those accused of sexual offences against minors: allowing application of life imprisonment for men who have reached the age of 60 at the time of the offense and who have committed crimes against the sexual inviolability and sexual freedom of a child.

However, several gaps in Kyrgyzstan's progress towards implementation of its international commitments in human rights still persist. They include:

- Failure to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report due in September 2023 and a lack of proactive engagement with civil society in preparing for the national UPR report due on 27 January 2025. There is little proactiveness on the part of state authorities towards inclusive national consultations. NHRIs have not made stakeholders' submissions for the UPR. While there were 25 submissions from coalitions of INGOs and national NGOs, many NGOs and the NPM were not keen on sending information that would become public.
- Accession to 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions remains unaddressed, and implementation of the UN Treaty Body decisions on individual cases is minimal. The government has not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRPD and has shown limited progress in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs). Report of the UN Sub-Committee on Torture addressed to the Government after its 2018 country visit was not made public.
- Meetings of the Coordination Council on Human Rights (CCHR) under the Cabinet of Ministers remain closed to civil society, and there is no effective, inclusive and transparent mechanism for monitoring the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2022-2024. The UN Committee against Torture (CAT) has issued a List of Issues for Kyrgyzstan's periodic report due in December 2025, while civil society has submitted alternative reports highlighting ongoing issues, including arbitrary detention and lack of accountability for torture.
- New amendments to the Criminal Code and other laws aim to address domestic violence but fall short of international standards, failing to fully criminalize such violence. The amendments also permit pre-investigative checks that undermine fair trial guarantees. Violence against women remains prevalent, with inadequate support services and legal protections.
- The government has made commitments to address statelessness but struggles with refugee rights, as seen in declining recognition rates and restrictive amendments to asylum procedures. Reports of inadequate responses to asylum claims raise concerns about violations of non-refoulement protections. Overall, there is a pressing need for improved legal frameworks, transparency, and civil society engagement in human rights advocacy.



Going forward, to improve implementation of its human rights obligations under Human Rights Mechanisms the Kyrgyz Republic will have to:

- implement human right commitments in law and practice and enhance civil society engagement in implementation and monitoring of recommendations of all UN Human rights mechanisms, including the UPR, the National Human Rights Action Plans, the Torture Action Plan and other national plans related to the CRC and CEDAW;
- accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, and adopt asylum procedures to ensure compliance with international standards and supporting to develop relevant policies and implement commitments under the National Pledges announced during the Global Refugee Forum;
- Carry out legislative reforms with a view to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, with a focus on protecting the rights of marginalized groups including women, children, and PwDs, addressing domestic violence, with the full criminalization of such acts, robust law enforcement to exclude impunity of perpetrators and ensuring access to justice to the victims/survivors of the GBV;
- Build the capacity of the Ombudsperson's Institute to ensure its independence and efficacy in line with the Paris Principles and on the basis of the new Constitutional Law that is pending;
- Strengthen independence and effectiveness of the national preventive mechanism;
- Enhance access to legal aid for vulnerable groups, particularly asylum-seekers and survivors of violence and torture, by amending laws, promoting awareness of available legal protections and support services;
- Implement community outreach and education initiatives on human rights, focusing on the rights of women, migrants, and marginalized groups to enhance public awareness and advocacy.





## NATIONAL VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Kyrgyz Republic's national vision for sustainable development is deeply rooted in its long-term goals outlined in the 2040 Vision, which seeks to balance economic resilience, environmental sustainability, and social equity. This vision aligns with the global SDGs, with milestones aimed for 2030 and a broader trajectory toward 2040. By combining national aspirations with global commitments, the Kyrgyz Republic demonstrates its determination to advance prosperity for its people while contributing to the global sustainable development agenda.

### *Long-term Vision: A Path to Prosperity*

The Vision reflects the Kyrgyz Republic's ambitions for a future characterized by inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability. Key pillars of this vision include:

- Diversifying the economy by expanding beyond traditional sectors like agriculture and mining to develop more robust manufacturing, service sectors, and technology-driven industries.
- Implementing sustainable practices in industries and moving towards a green economy, reducing the country's carbon footprint while capitalizing on renewable energy sources such as hydroelectric power.
- Investing in large-scale infrastructure projects, especially in energy and transportation, are central to boosting connectivity and economic activity.
- Creating a more conducive environment for foreign direct investment (FDI) and private sector growth by improving infrastructure, reducing regulatory burdens, and enhancing transparency. The goal is to attract international investors and foster public-private partnerships
- Strengthening regional cooperation as a catalyst for development: The planned China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway will enhance connectivity between East and West and supporting the region's efforts to reclaim its historical significance. Given the region's wealth in renewable energy resources, including hydro, solar, and wind power, energy cooperation will diversify the energy mix, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, foster the development of regional energy markets, ensure energy security, and open up new export opportunities. Projects like Kambarata-1 power plant, railway China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan offer immense potential for regional growth and connectivity.
- Digital transformation has been prioritized under the Digital Transformation Strategy 2024–2028<sup>lxvii</sup>. This strategy focuses on enhancing digital infrastructure, improving e-governance, and fostering innovation. Key achievements include the implementation of platforms like "Tunduk"<sup>lxviii</sup> which have streamlined interagency coordination and citizen services; efforts to expand digital literacy and bridge the digital divide for equitable access to technology; and the development of a vibrant startup ecosystem supported by venture capital, business angel networks, and the adoption of a Digital Code. These advancements have propelled the country to 78th place out of 193 countries in the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI)<sup>lxix</sup>, highlighting the transformative impact of its digital initiatives.



However, Kyrgyzstan faces persistent challenges that could hinder its progress towards the sustainable development goals. The economy's heavy dependence on traditional sectors such as agriculture and gold mining make it vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices and environmental impacts. Efforts of economic diversification, such as establishment of technology-driven industries are slow. Infrastructure deficits, particularly in transportation and digital access, continue to limit economic potential, especially in remote regions, where access to reliable energy and transport remains a challenge. Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows have reduced, largely due to regulatory barriers, inconsistent policies, and perceptions of corruption, all of which slow private sector growth. Another critical issue is the skills mismatch between the workforce and the needs of emerging industries like manufacturing and renewable energy. Many young people are underprepared for jobs in these sectors, leading to high levels of unemployment and economic vulnerability. Additionally, the country's reliance on remittances, particularly from citizens working abroad in Russia, exposes the economy to external risks, such as changes in migration policies or economic downturns in host countries. Poverty remains high, particularly in rural areas, where access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities is limited, exacerbating inequality and hindering inclusive growth.

### ***National Priorities and Leadership's global commitments***

The implementation of the National Development Programme 2026 is continuously underpinned by the commitments made by the President at the SDG Summit and Summit of the Future, further reaffirmed at the annual National Development Forums in 2023 and 2024, including advanced implementation of the SDGs to elevate the country's SDG Index ranking from 48 to 30<sup>lxx</sup>. These commitments focus on both immediate actions and long-term goals, organized around key priority areas:

**Eradication of poverty (SDG 1):** Reducing the poverty rate, particularly in rural regions, through job creation, enhanced access to social services, and targeted economic policies aimed at vulnerable groups.

**Sustainable economic growth (SDG 8):** The government promotes inclusive growth by creating more employment opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged populations. It strives to expand sectors like manufacturing, services, and green technologies by fostering an environment conducive to private sector development and attracting FDI through improved infrastructure, reduced regulatory burdens, and greater transparency.

**Innovation and infrastructure development (SDG 9):** Investment in sustainable infrastructure is critical for long-term growth. Projects such as the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and Kambarata-1 hydroelectric plant are key to improving connectivity, diversifying the energy mix, and reducing fossil fuel reliance. The government also aims to invest in digital infrastructure to promote innovation and efficiency, focusing on digitizing public services to enhance transparency and reduce corruption.

**Climate action (SDG 7 and SDG13) and Environmental Sustainability (SDG 15):** Kyrgyzstan is aligning its environmental policies with global efforts to combat climate change.



Expanding renewable energy capacity, particularly through hydroelectric power, is a priority, as is conservation of natural resources, protecting biodiversity and addressing pollution. The government is promoting reforestation, strengthening environmental laws, and working to mitigate the negative impacts of industrial activities, all while addressing water resource management in collaboration with neighboring countries through projects like Kambarata-1.

**Social Development and Well-being: Education reforms (SDG 4)** are a critical component of the national strategy, with an emphasis on improving access to quality education and creating modern learning environments, particularly in rural areas. Healthcare (SDG 3) is another priority, with the government aiming for universal healthcare coverage by 2030, focusing on improving healthcare infrastructure and expanding access to essential services.

**Governance and Institutional Strengthening (SDG 16):** Good governance is a cornerstone of Kyrgyzstan's sustainable development strategy. The government is committed to fighting corruption, promoting transparency, and decentralizing governance to empower local authorities. The introduction of e-government systems is a key part of this effort, ensuring that public services are more accessible and transparent to citizens.

**Gender Equality (SDG 5):** Kyrgyzstan aims to promote gender equality by implementing policies that increase women's representation in leadership roles, protect women and girls from violence, and foster gender-inclusive economic growth through the State Program on Women Leadership by 2030.

**Youth Empowerment:** Recognizing the importance of its growing youth population, the government is investing in youth education, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurship initiatives, aligning with global trends to harness the potential of young people to drive future growth.

These strategic initiatives reflect Kyrgyzstan's commitment to achieving its 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, balancing economic growth with social inclusion and environmental sustainability.



## IMPLICATIONS OF THE CONTEXT ON UNCT/ UNSDCF IMPLEMENTATION

The current status of the development trajectory of the Kyrgyz Republic with projected macroeconomic growth at 5.8% for 2024 and investments in social infrastructure, including strategic diversification initiatives, including enhancements in power generation, improvements in transport and trade connectivity, digitalization and innovation, provides numerous socio-economic development opportunities for sustained socio-economic progress. At the same time, the country faces multiple political, economic, social, environmental development challenges. They prompt the UN system's strategic interventions in supporting the country's sustainable development.

The four strategic priorities of the UNSDCF 2023-2027 provide a joint platform for the UN Country Team and the Government of Kyrgyzstan to implement strategies that will contribute to addressing development gaps identified in the current update. The UN is well positioned to offer multidimensional, innovative and context-specific support for Kyrgyzstan to achieve the country's sustainable development aspirations. By leveraging its expertise across the below domains, the UN will continue assisting Kyrgyzstan to advance progress towards the SDGs amid its complex development challenges, highlighted in the CCA update of 2024.

### Priority Area 1: Equitable Access to Quality Social Services and Decent Work

1. **Poverty reduction:** Support the adoption of a new Labor Code designed to improve labor relations and pave the way for the development of a comprehensive programme to ensure decent work targeting vulnerable populations, including women and children and thus contributing to poverty reduction.
2. **Create Decent Work Opportunities:** As a follow-up to the outcomes of the human development centered National Development Forum 2024, promote youth employment by supporting skills development and internships tailored to high-demand sectors such as digital technology, renewable energy or the creative industries. Support inclusive education and vocational training to meet the demand of labor market needs.
3. **Enhance Social Protection:** Improve the quality of social sector financing for better outcomes (\*adequacy, efficiency, effectiveness, equity) and support development of an inclusive social protection system to scale up social assistance programs ensuring effective coverage and adequate benefits for impoverished households and vulnerable groups, such as children, women and populations in rural areas. The development of an integrated national social protection strategy is critical to advance this, and was also a key commitment from the 2023 National Development Forum. Invest in social welfare workforce to respond to vulnerable populations such as children and GBV victims.



4. **Strengthen Healthcare Systems:** Expand universal health coverage by addressing gaps in mandatory health insurance, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women of reproductive age and those in rural areas. Strengthen Kyrgyzstan's digital health information system to enhance equitable healthcare provision, promote inclusive services at the intersection of healthcare and social protection, and improve access to quality primary healthcare for mothers and children in rural and remote areas.
5. **Improve learning outcomes, starting with early childhood education:** Implement programs to increase access to quality early childhood education, focusing on under-served regions and leveraging recent legislative changes on preschool education. Reform curriculum standards and teaching capacities to deliver 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and improved learning outcomes, with attention given to inclusive education. Transforming the education system was also one of the commitments made by Kyrgyzstan at the SDG Summit in 2023.

## Priority Area 2: Inclusive Green Socioeconomic Development

1. **Assist in leveraging international and domestic financing flows** for investments in priority areas for SDG acceleration in the country. Collaborate with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic to develop a comprehensive framework for debt-for-green swaps that allows the government to redirect savings from debt relief towards environmental and sustainability initiatives.
2. **Encourage Financial Inclusion:** Promote microfinance initiatives for green projects aimed at supporting small-scale green businesses and entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas, including through enhancing financial literacy around sustainable investments and benefits of green practices.
3. **Continue support for entrepreneurship development of women and youth** as a mechanism of women's empowerment in socio-economic development, to address high unemployment rates, to support women's and youth access to business financing initiatives, to reduce poverty and to promote green economy.
4. **Promote Renewable Energy Initiatives:** Support development of renewable projects through collaboration with local governments, private sector and IFIs complementing the government efforts to enhance energy security and sustainability.
5. **Strengthen Agricultural Resilience:** Promote sustainable farming practices by expanding training programs on climate-resilient agricultural techniques and innovative farming practices to enhance food security and access to high-value markets.
6. **Support Policy Development for Green Economy:** Assist the government in developing policies that incentivize green technologies and sustainable practices across industries, such as green public procurement to stimulate demand for sustainable goods and services.



7. **Leverage remittances:** Promote programs incentivizing Kyrgyz migrant workers to invest a portion of their remittances into sustainable green projects in their home communities.
8. **Facilitate Regional Cooperation:** Promote regional collaboration with neighboring countries and best practices in the region to promote exports of green products.

### **Priority Area 3: Inclusive Approaches to Climate Action, Disaster Risk Management, and Environmental Protection**

1. **Strengthen Climate Resilience:** Support the development and implementation of the updated National Adaptation Plan and third-generation Nationally Determined Contributions, with the engagement of youth and children.
2. **Enhance Disaster Preparedness:** Develop government capacity and support in improving early warning systems and infrastructure for multiple hazards, such as flood and landslides, focusing on community-based disaster risk reduction efforts. Develop national capacities for fire safety and urban resilience
3. **Facilitate Scale-up of Eco-Tourism and Infrastructure:** Support development of eco-friendly tourism programs contributing to biodiversity conservation.
4. **Protect Biodiversity:** Expand protected areas and implement ecological corridor initiatives to safeguard critical ecosystems such as forests and promote sustainable water and land use.
5. **Green Solutions for Air Quality:** Promote nature-based solutions by increasing urban green spaces to absorb pollutants and supporting clean heating technologies like heat pumps, especially in social infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and kindergartens.
6. **Strengthen Industrial, Health and Hazardous Waste Management:** Support the development of modern systems for managing industrial, health and hazardous waste, including improved infrastructure and policies for safe disposal.

### **Priority Area 4: Just, Accountable, and Inclusive Institutions for Peace, Cohesion, and Human Rights**

1. **Engage with the National Parliament and National Human Rights Institutions:** Supporting the country to comply with its international commitments in the area of human rights will be among main directions of UN work in the country and will include:
  - 1.1 Improving policies and legislation to align with human rights mechanisms instruments; development and adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, with a focus on protecting the rights of marginalized groups including women, children, and PwDs;





- 1.2 Addressing domestic violence, with the full criminalization of such acts and robust law enforcement;
  - 1.3 Building capacities of the Office of Ombudsman to ensure its independence and efficacy in line with the Paris Principles and of civil society to monitor implementation of recommendations of all UN Human rights mechanisms and prolongation of National Human Rights Action Plans;
  - 1.4 Advocating that the country accedes to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, and adopts asylum procedures, and implement commitments under the National Pledges announced during the Global Refugee Forum;
  - 1.5 Strengthening independence and effectiveness of the national preventive mechanism;
2. **Strengthen Community-Based Peacebuilding:** Promote policies and infrastructure for peace and facilitate inter-ethnic and community dialogues through initiatives like national knowledge platforms and inclusive governance programs, with a focus on promoting social cohesion across the country, especially in conflict prone areas.
  3. **Foster Civic Engagement:** Strengthen engagement between government and civil society organizations and promote civic freedoms, particularly in light of restrictive laws impacting NGOs and media freedoms.
  3. **Strengthen Governance:** Assist with the implementation of the State Strategy to Combat Corruption (2025–2027), emphasizing transparency and accountability mechanisms.
  5. **Enhance Judicial Reform:** Build capacity for the judiciary to implement non-custodial sentencing options and ensure better access to justice for marginalized populations. Facilitate and promote collaboration between the government and civil society organizations in the delivery of legal aid services by encouraging a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure that legal aid is accessible and tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable populations. In facilitating this process advocate that free legal aid programs pay special attention to the needs of women, particularly survivors of violence.
  6. **Promote Gender Equality and Women and Girls Empowerment:** Use existing national and international platforms for women and girls' inclusion such as the National Council for Gender Development under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Central Asian Women Leaders' Caucus and the State Program to Strengthen Women's Leadership (2024–2030) to foster women's participation in governance, legislature, decision-making, environmental and economic activities and social sectors.

In implementing these action points, it is crucial to adopt a cross-sectoral approach that leverages synergies across environmental, social, economic, and governance domains to maximize impact. It will be key for the UN Country Team to tap into the outcomes of the 2024 National Development Forum focused on the Human Capital Development and integrating



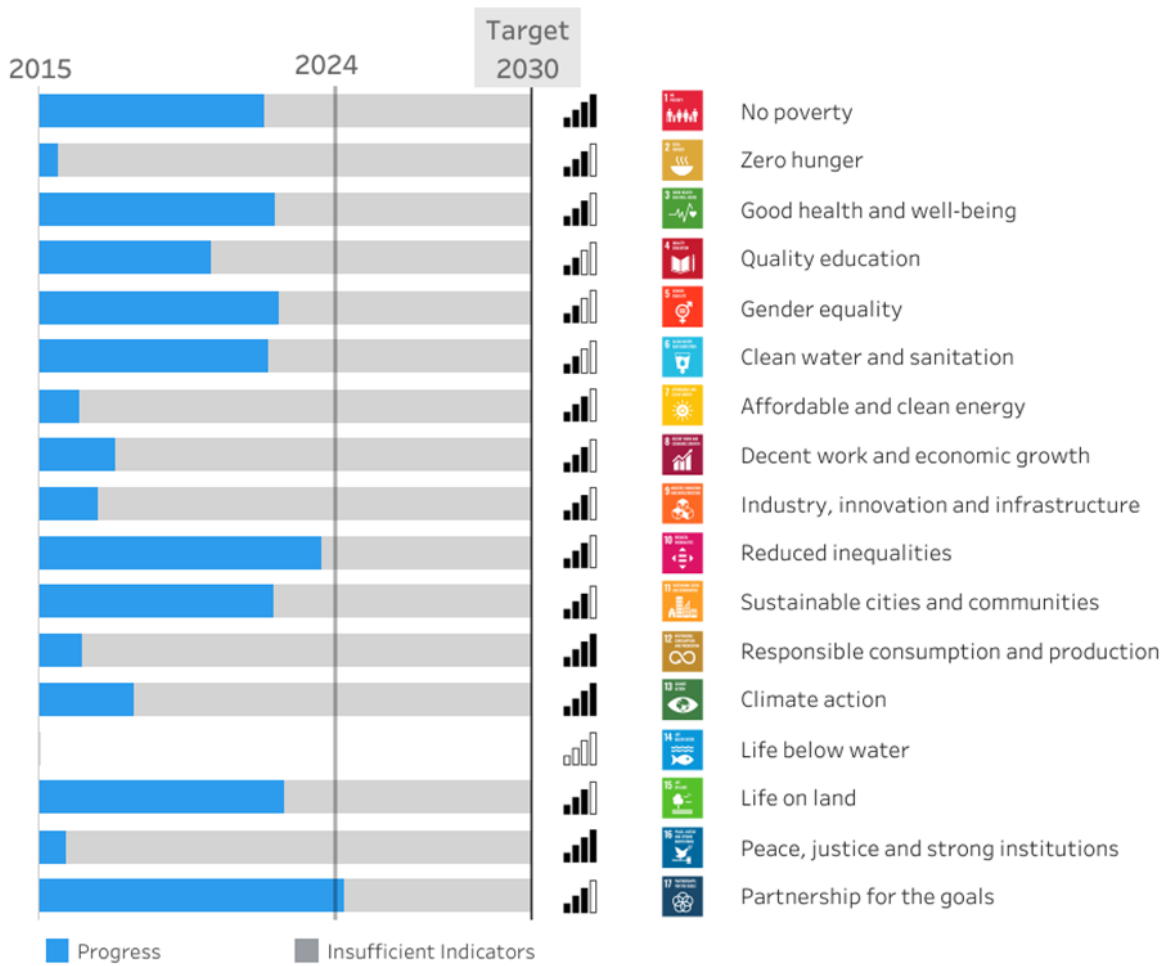


SDG accelerators across transformative entry points called “six transitions”: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Strengthening data collection and analysis will be essential to inform evidence-based interventions, monitor progress, and address gaps in service delivery and policy implementation. The UN's commitment to the "Leave No One Behind" pledge must guide all efforts, ensuring that marginalized groups—such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and stateless people and others reviewed in this CCA update — are empowered and included in development initiatives. Action points for the UN Country Team agreed upon during April 2023 civic space retreat and outcomes of the RMR remain valid and therefore should continue to guide the UNCT in its programmatic and policy interventions.

By capitalizing on Kyrgyzstan's demographic dividend, particularly through investments in youth and education, the country can foster innovation, enhance productivity, and drive sustainable growth that benefits all segments of society. These coordinated actions will help accelerate progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and realizing Kyrgyzstan's vision for a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future.

# ANNEX A. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

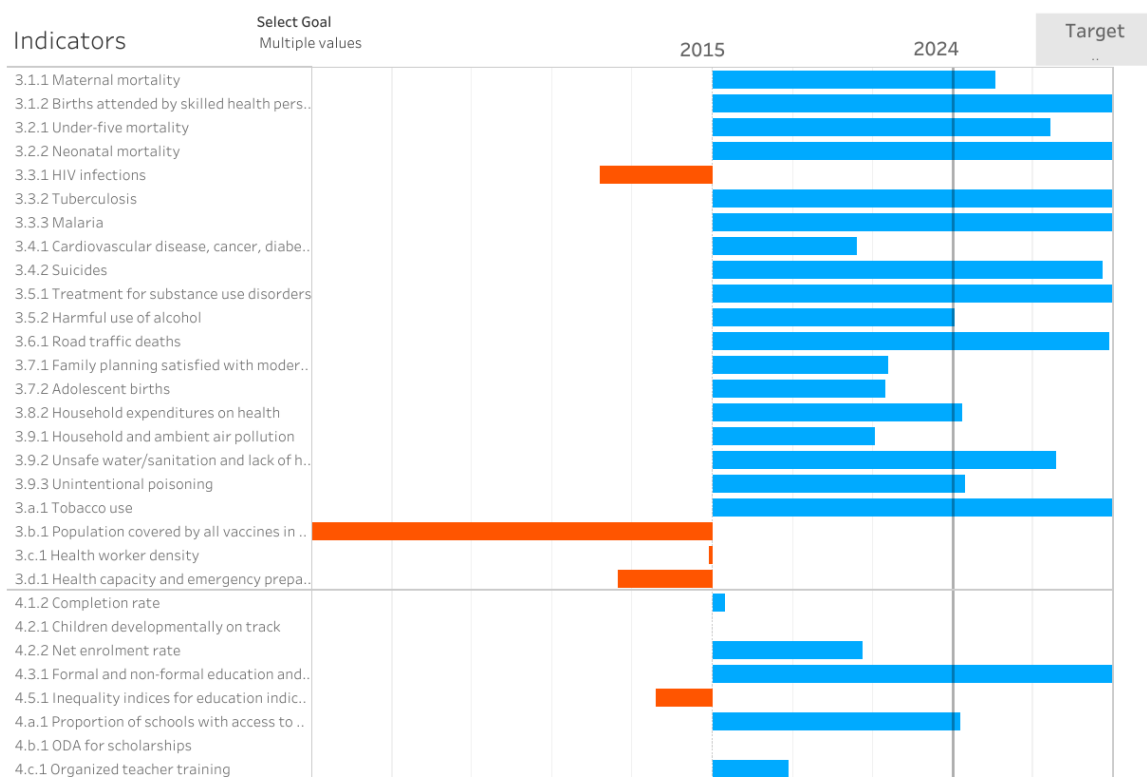
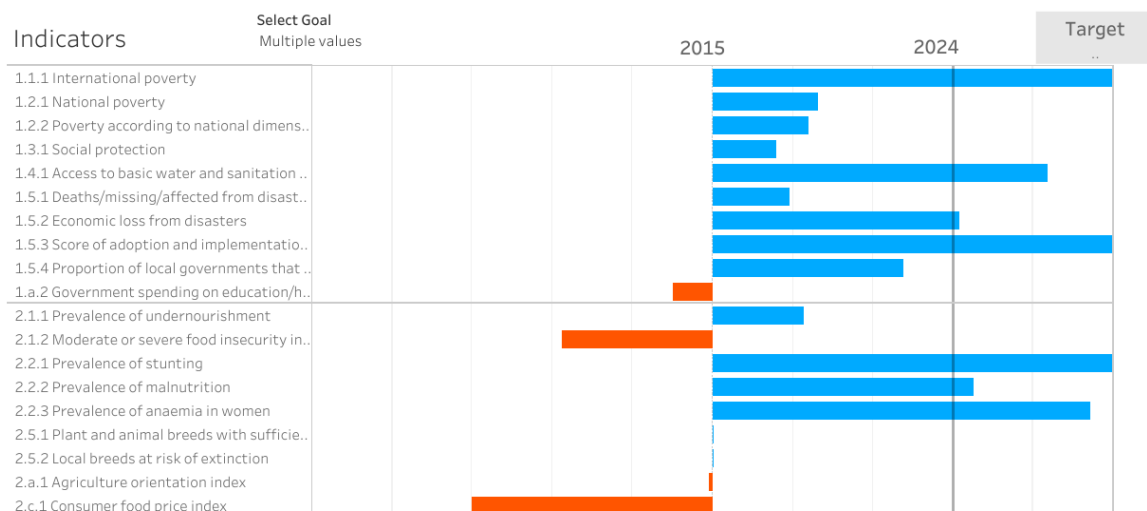
## 1. Snapshot by goals

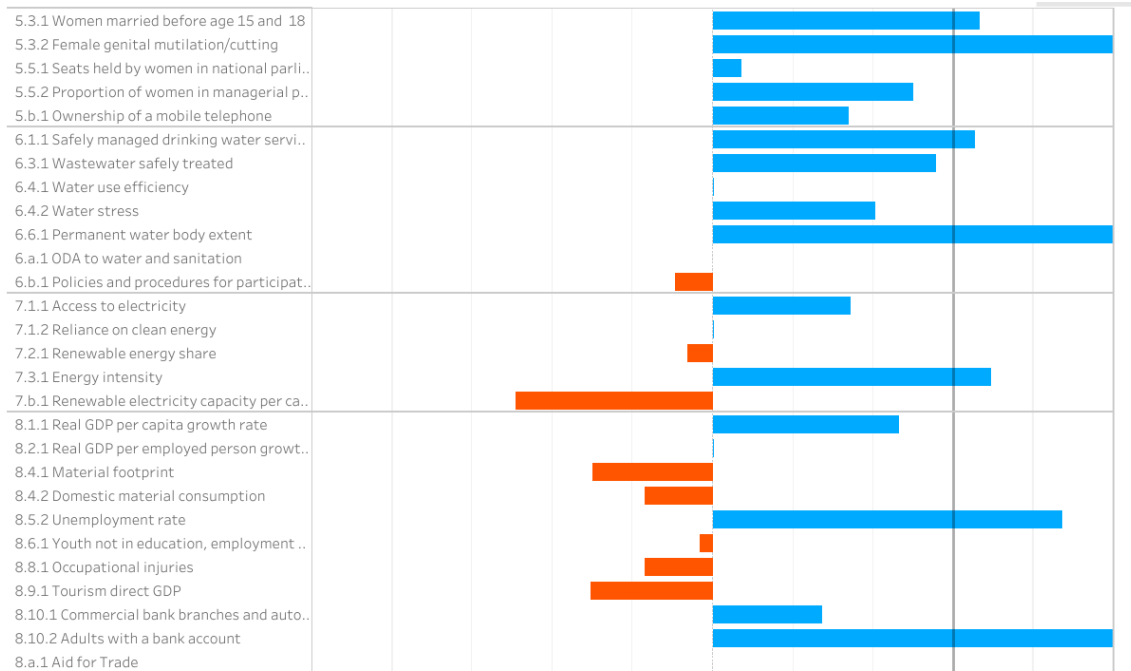


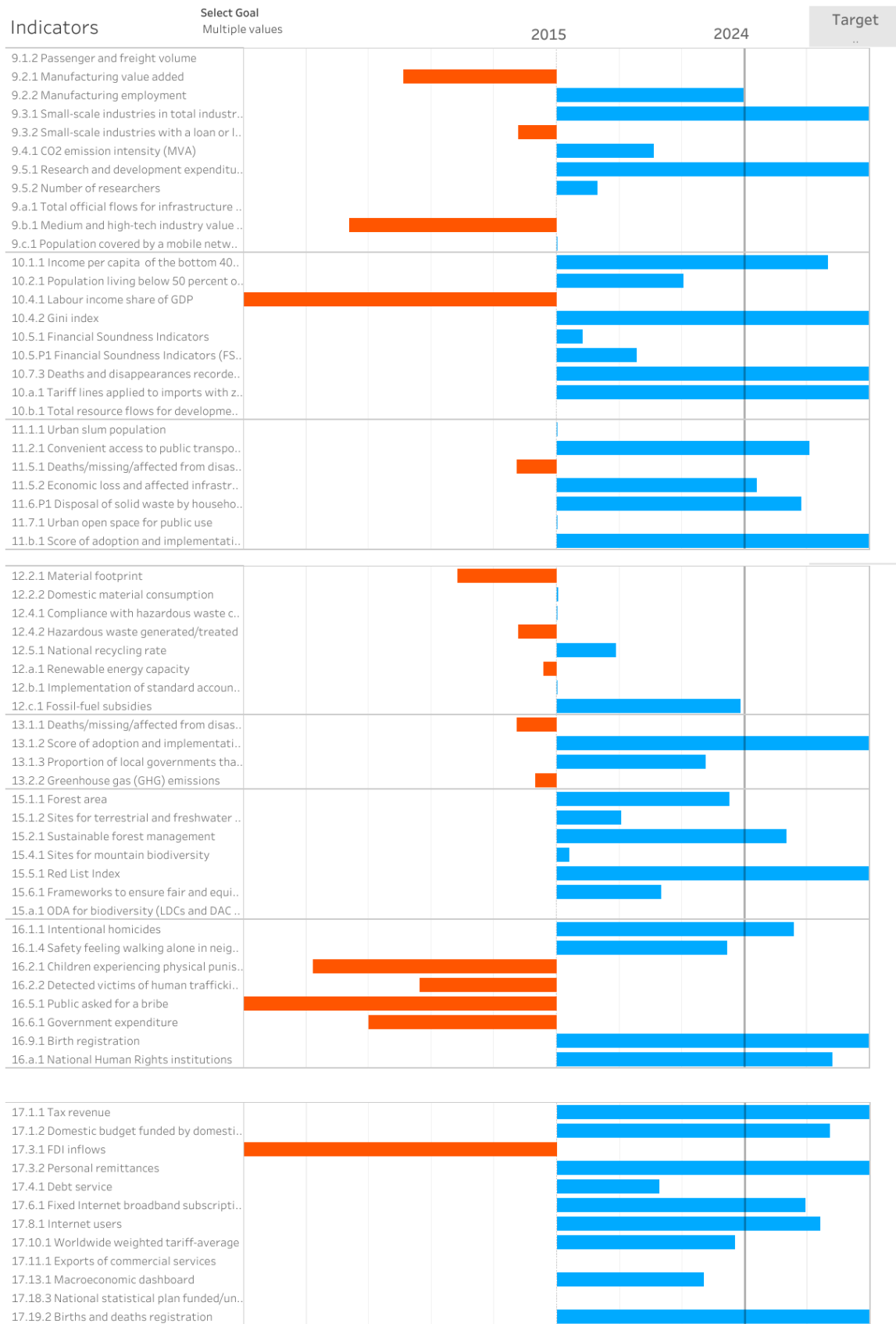
## 2. Dashboard by targets

Goal 1	1.1	International poverty	Green	Goal 6	6.1	Safe drinking water	Green	Goal 12	12.2	Sustainable use of natural resources	Red
	1.2	National poverty	Yellow		6.3	Water quality	Green		12.4	Managing chemicals & wastes	Red
	1.3	Social protection	Yellow		6.4	Water-use efficiency	Yellow		12.5	Reduction in waste generation	Yellow
	1.4	Access to basic services	Green		6.6	Water-related ecosystems	Green		12.a	Support for R&D capacity for SD	Red
	1.5	Resilience to disasters	Yellow		6.b	Participatory water & sanitation m..	Yellow		12.b	Sustainable tourism monitoring	Yellow
Goal 2	1.a	Resources for poverty programs	Red	Goal 7	7.1	Access to energy services	Yellow	12.c	Fossil-fuel subsidies	Green	
	2.1	Undernourishment and food security	Red		7.2	Share of renewable energy	Red	Goal 13	13.1	Resilience & adaptive capacity	Yellow
	2.2	Malnutrition	Green		7.3	Energy efficiency	Yellow		13.2	Climate change policies	Red
	2.5	Genetic resources for agriculture	Yellow	Goal 8	7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure	Red	Goal 15	15.1	Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems	Yellow
	2.a	Investment in agriculture	Red		8.1	Per capita economic growth	Red		15.2	Sustainable forests management	Yellow
Goal 3	2.c	Food price anomalies	Red	8.2	Economic productivity & innovation	Yellow	15.4	Conservation of mountain ecosyste..	Yellow		
	3.1	Maternal mortality	Green	8.4	Material resource efficiency	Red	15.5	Loss of biodiversity	Green		
	3.2	Child mortality	Green	8.5	Full employment & decent work	Green	15.6	Utilization of genetic resource	Yellow		
	3.3	Communicable diseases	Yellow	8.6	Youth NEET	Red	Goal 16	16.1	Reduction of violence & related dea..	Green	
	3.4	NCD & mental health	Yellow	8.8	Labour rights & safe working env.	Red		16.2	Human trafficking	Yellow	
	3.5	Substance abuse	Green	8.9	Sustainable tourism	Red		16.5	Corruption and bribery	Red	
	3.6	Road traffic accidents	Green	8.10	Access to financial services	Yellow		16.6	Effective institutions	Red	
	3.7	Sexual & reproductive health	Yellow	Goal 9	9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrializat..		Yellow	16.a	Capacity to prevent violence	Green
	3.8	Universal health coverage	Yellow		9.3	Small-scale industries access to fin..	Yellow	Goal 17	17.1	Tax & other revenue collection	Green
	3.9	Health impact of pollution	Green		9.4	Sustainable & clean industries	Yellow		17.3	Additional financial resources	Yellow
	3.a	Tobacco control	Green	9.5	Research and development	Yellow	17.4		Debt sustainability	Yellow	
3.b	R&D for health	Red	9.b	Domestic technology development	Red	17.6	Science and tech int. cooperation		Green		
Goal 4	3.c	Health financing & workforce	Red	9.c	Access to ICT & the Internet	Red	17.8	Capacity building for ICT	Green		
	4.1	Effective learning outcomes	Red	Goal 10	10.1	Income growth (bottom 40%)	Green	17.10	Multilateral trading system (WTO)	Yellow	
	4.2	Early childhood development	Green		10.2	Inclusion (social, economic & politic..	Yellow	17.13	Global macroeconomic stability	Yellow	
	4.3	TVET & tertiary education	Green	10.4	Fiscal & social protection policies	Yellow	Legend				
	4.4	Equal access to education	Red	10.5	Regulation of financial markets	Yellow					
	4.a	Education facilities	Yellow	10.7	Safe migration & mobility	Green					
	Goal 5	4.c	Qualified teachers	Yellow	10.a	Special & differential treatment (W..	Green				
		5.3	Early marriage	Green	Goal 11	11.2	Public transport systems	Green			
5.5		Women in leadership	Yellow	11.5		Resilience to disasters	Yellow				
5.b		Technology for women empowerme..	Yellow	11.6		Urban air quality & waste mgmt.	Green				
				11.7		Urban green & public spaces	Yellow				
			11.b	Disaster risk management policies		Green					

### 3. Progress by indicators









## ANNEX B. KYRGYZSTAN RISK SPOTLIGHT

### Kyrgyzstan Risk Spotlight for Common Country Analysis



 UNDRR  
 UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

GLOBAL INDICES		
Index	Data + comments	Sources + comments
<b>INFORM Risk Index</b>	3.1 Overall risk ( medium risk country and is 99 out of 191) 2.9 Hazard exposure (rank 99 out of 191) 2.3 Vulnerability (rank 117 out of 191) 4.3 Lack of coping capacity (rank 92 out of 191)	<a href="#">Country Risk Profile</a> <a href="#">Data set</a> <a href="#">Methodology</a> <a href="#">INFORM</a>
<b>INFORM Subnational Risk Index</b>	Jalal-Abad, Osh and Naryn ranked as high disaster risk provinces	<a href="#">EU INFORM Subnational</a>
<b>World Risk Index</b>	2.20 Overall risk (low) 0.22 Exposition (low) 22.0 Vulnerability (medium) 19.09 Susceptibility (medium) 10.76 Lack of coping capacities (medium) 51.87 Lack of adaptive capacities (high)	<a href="#">Full report</a> <a href="#">Data set</a>
<b>Human Development Index</b>	0.692 HDI (2021) Rank 118 (medium)	<a href="#">Country HDI Profile</a> <a href="#">Data set</a>
<b>Multi-dimensional Poverty Index</b>	0.001 (based on 2018 survey)	<a href="#">Full report</a> <a href="#">Data set</a>
<b>Gender Inequality Index</b>	0.370 (2021) Rank 87 out of 170	<a href="#">Data set</a>
<b>Global Health Security Index</b>	42.4 (2021) Rank 140 out of 195	<a href="#">Full report</a> <a href="#">Data set</a>



## 1. BASIC RISK DATA

HAZARDS					
Type	Cluster	Specific	Risk Level	Datapoints - information	Sources

Meteorological and hydrological	Flood	Riverine flood MH0007	Low (2020 )	<p>Kyrgyzstan's vulnerability to heavy rains and river floods are a significant concern, particularly given the potential for increased severity and frequency due to climate change. The mountainous terrain and changing weather patterns can lead to rapid snowmelt and heavy rainfall, exacerbating flood risks.</p> <p>Medium confidence in an increase in heavy precipitation. The present hazard level may increase in the future due to the effects of climate change.</p>	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>
	Flood	Coastal flood MH0004	No data	No data available	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>
	Mass movement (HM trigger)	Landslide MH0052	High	<p>Rainfall patterns, terrain slope, geology, soil, land cover and (potentially) earthquakes that make localized landslides a frequent hazard phenomenon</p> <p>Climate change is likely to alter slope and bedrock stability through changes in precipitation and/or temperature. It is difficult to determine future locations and timing of large rock avalanches, as these depend on local geological conditions and other non-climatic factors</p>	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>  <a href="#">NASA Landslide Viewer Map</a>  <a href="#">UNEP GRID – Ecosystem approaches for disaster risk map</a>
	Pressure Related	Cyclone MH0030	Very low	Less than 1% chance of potentially-damaging cyclone-strength winds in the next 10 years.	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>  <a href="#">UNEP GRID – Ecosystem approaches for disaster risk map</a>
	Marine	Tsunami MH0029	No data	No data available	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>
	Temperature Related	Heatwave MH0047	Medium	<p>More than 25% chance that prolonged exposure to extreme heat, resulting in heat stress, will occur in the next 5 years.</p> <p>Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming, and it is virtually certain that there will be more frequent hot temperature extremes over most land areas during the next 50 years (IPCC, 2013).</p> <p>Temperature increase in this area in the next 50 years will be slightly higher than the worldwide average.</p>	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>  <a href="#">ESRI map</a>
	Precipitation Related	Drought MH0035	Medium	There is up to 20% chance droughts will occur in the next 10 years.	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>

				Model projections are inconsistent in their estimates of change in drought hazard, which influences water scarcity. The present hazard level may increase in the future due to climate change.	<a href="#">WRI Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas</a>
Geohazard	Volcanogenic	Ash/Tephra Fall (Physical and Chemical) GH0010 Debris Flow/Lahars /Floods GH0013 Volcanic Gases and Aerosols GH0016	No data	No data available	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>
	Seismogenic	Earthquake GH0001	High	The major earthquakes were In 2008 M 6.6 - Nura74 fatalities; in 1992 M 7.5 - Toluk75 fatalities and in 1992 M 6.2 - Osh4 fatalities. More than 20% chance of potentially damaging earthquake shaking in the next 50 years.  Seismic Hazard PGA (overall country value): no data	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a> <a href="#">Global Seismic Hazard Map (GEM)</a> <a href="#">Seismic Hazard country profile with map</a>
Environmental	Forestry	Deforestation EN0009		In 2010, Kyrgyzstan had 578kha of tree cover, extending over 2.9% of its land area. In 2021, it lost 17.5ha of tree cover.	<a href="#">Global Forest Watch map</a>
		Wildfire EN0013	High	Greater than 50% chance of encountering weather that could support a significant wildfire likely to result in both life and property loss Modelled projections of future climate identify a likely increase in the frequency of fire weather occurrence in this region, including an increase in temperature and greater variance in rainfall. In areas already affected by wildfire hazard, the fire season is likely to increase in duration, and include a greater number of days with weather that could support fire spread because of longer periods without rain during fire seasons. Climate projections indicate that there could also be an increase in the severity of fire.	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a> <a href="#">Global Forest Watch map</a> <a href="#">European Forest Fire Information System map</a>
	Environmental degradation	Sea level rise EN0023	No data	No data available	<a href="#">WRI Resource Watch – Sea Level Rise</a>
	Environmental degradation	Biodiversity loss EN0008	Low	0.71 proportion intact (2005)	<a href="#">WRI Resource Watch</a>

Technological	Flood	Drain & Sewer Flooding TL0046	High	Potentially damaging and life-threatening urban floods are expected in the next 10 years Medium confidence in an increase in heavy precipitation. The present hazard level may increase in the future due to the effects of climate change.	<a href="#">Think Hazard - Country Profile</a>
	Transportation accidents TL0052			Approx. 15,400 deaths per 100,000 in 2018 The country has a population of 5.96 million and 0.99 million vehicles in 2018	<a href="#">WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018</a>
	Chemical emergency		No data	No data available	
	Occupational hazards		No data	No data available	<a href="#">ILO Occupational Safety and Health Country Profile</a>
Biological	Airborne diseases BI0016	Tuberculosis BI0064		105 incidence per 100,000 people in 2020	<a href="#">Tuberculosis incidence</a>
		Measles BI0052		15.1 measles incidence in 2018	<a href="#">WHO MMR Elimination Country Profile</a> <a href="#">WHO Health Systems in Action</a>
		Chickenpox (Varicella) BI0057		No recent data available	
	Airborne diseases BI0016			Acute Upper or Lower Respiratory Tract Infection: No recent data available	
	Waterborne diseases BI0018	Diarrhea BI0028		No recent data available	
	Sexually Transmitted Diseases BI0020	HIV and AIDS BI0032		STIs remain a huge concern for public health in Kyrgyzstan. The most common STIs such as syphilis and gonorrhoea demonstrate a trend towards sharp fluctuations in the incidence in different regions due to unreliable data. However in some regions such as Jalal-Abad province, there is a rising incidence rate of 9.0 per 100 000 population in 2023. These infections increase the risk of HIV transmission and require enhanced infection prevention measures, including increased access to testing, treatment and educational programs for the population. The country has concentrated HIV epidemic, with 0.2% prevalence rate in the general population in 2023, with prevalence among key population	Health information Center and AIDC center stat data 2023

			<p>groups (KPG), such as people who inject drugs (PWID), men who have sex with men (MSM), sex workers (SW), and prison inmates. In spite of this low prevalence rate, the epidemic continues to develop. Within the past 20 years (from 2003 to 2023), the number of HIV cases in the country has increased by 31 times, from 405 cases to 12560. Cumulative prevalence of registered HIV cases in 2023 has accounted for 176.9 per 100 thousand population. One of the enormous changes in the dynamics of the epidemic is the shift in the gender distribution of infected people. If in the early stages of the HIV epidemic in Kyrgyzstan it mainly affected men, now more and more cases are being registered in women. Thus, in the last 17 years, there has been a decrease in HIV registration among men by 29%, whereas among women, this rate has risen by the same 29%. This change began in 2012, and can be attributed to various socio-economic factors, as well as changes in lifestyle and behavior in society. Women are increasingly becoming more vulnerable to HIV infection due to inadequate protection during sexual intercourse and limited access to preventive services. ( Source Health information Center and AIDC center stat data 2023)</p>	
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases <a href="#">BI0022</a>	Polio		No recent official publication	<a href="#">Polio</a>
Emerging Infectious Diseases	COVID-19 <a href="#">BI0033</a>		In Kyrgyzstan, from 3 January 2020 to 5:41pm CET, 10 November 2022, there have been 206,464 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 2,991 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 30 October 2022, a total of 3,014,560 vaccine doses have been administered.	<a href="#">WHO</a>
Emerging Infectious Diseases	Monkeypox <a href="#">BI0066</a>		No recent data available	
Animal diseases			No recent data available	



<b>EXPOSURE</b>		
	<b>Datapoints - information</b>	<b>Sources + comments</b>
Population + Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population: 6,694,200 (2021)</li> <li>Pop. density (per km2): 34.6 (2021)</li> <li>Population growth rate (average annual %): 1.7 (2021)</li> <li>Urban population (% of total population): 37 (2021)</li> <li>Urban population growth rate (average annual %): 2.5 (2015)</li> <li>Life expectancy at birth (females/males, years): 75.4 / 67.2 (2021)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">World Bank data</a> <a href="#">UN data</a>
Basic services + institutions + infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Population Living in Slums, 2018 (Thousands): 189</li> </ul>	<a href="#">UNHABITAT</a>
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface area (km2): 199, 949</li> <li>Threatened species (number): 51 (2021)</li> <li>Forested area (% of land area): 6.7 (2021)</li> <li>Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity protected (%): 23.6 (2021)</li> <li>In 2010, Kyrgyzstan had 578kha of tree cover, extending over 2.9% of its land area. In 2021, it lost 17.5ha of tree cover.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">UN data</a> <a href="#">Global Forest Watch</a>
Economy + livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GDP (2021)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GDP (billion current US\$): 8.54</li> <li>- growth rate (annual %, const. 2015 prices): 3.6</li> <li>- per capita (current US\$): 1,276.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>Economy (2021):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Agriculture (% of Gross Value Added): 13.4</li> <li>o Industry (% of GVA): 30.7</li> <li>o Services and other activity (% of GVA): 55.9</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<a href="#">UN data</a> <a href="#">World Bank data</a>

<b>VULNERABILITY</b>		
	<b>Datapoints - information</b>	<b>Sources + comments</b>
Communities + groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literacy rate, adult total (% of people ages 15 and above): 100 (2018)</li> <li>Disability: no data available</li> <li>Displacement: 120 internally displaced persons, new displacement associated with disasters (number of cases) in 2021</li> <li>Refugee population by country or territory of asylum: 317 (2021)</li> <li>Armed forces personnel (% of total labor force): 0.8 (2019)</li> <li>Poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 a day (2017 PPP) (% of population): 1.3 (2020)</li> <li>Working poverty rate (% employed working under \$1.99 per day): 0.3 (2021)</li> <li>Labor force participation rate, total (% of total population ages 15+): 90.9 (2021)</li> <li>Labour force participation rated (female/male pop. %): 44.5 / 75.6</li> <li>Unemployment (% of labour force): 9.1 (2021)</li> <li>Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15-49): 0.2 (National Stat Data)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">World Bank data</a> <a href="#">UNFPA data</a> <a href="#">ILO data</a> <a href="#">UNESCO data</a> <a href="#">UNICEF data</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adolescent birth</b> rate per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, 2004-2020: 38</li> <li>• <b>Unintended pregnancy in women aged 15-49, 2023</b> : 170,000 source Source 2023, FP 2030 <a href="https://www.fp2030.org/kyrgyz-republic/">https://www.fp2030.org/kyrgyz-republic/</a></li> <li>• <b>Total fertility rate:</b> 3.7 MICS data</li> </ul>	
Robustness of basic services + institutions + infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CPIA transparency, accountability, and corruption</b> in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high): 3</li> <li>• <b>Individuals using the Internet</b> (% of population): 51 (2019)</li> <li>• <b>Access to Electricity:</b> 100% of population has access to electricity (2020)</li> <li>• <b>Electric power consumption</b> (kWh per capita): No data available</li> <li>• <b>WASH:</b> 70% has access to safely managed drinking water in 2020, 92% has access to safely- managed sanitation facilities, and 100% has basic handwashing facility with soap and water available at home</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CPIA</a> <a href="#">World Bank data</a> <a href="#">WASH (UN Water)</a>
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Performance Index:</b> Score 35.70 (Rank 126)</li> <li>• <b>Deforestation:</b> In 2010, Kyrgyzstan had 578kha of tree cover, extending over 2.9% of its land area. In 2021, it lost 17.5ha of tree cover.</li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity:</b> In 2015, the average terrestrial biodiversity intactness in Kyrgyzstan was 56%, indicating a medium level of biodiversity remaining relative to a baseline ecosystem with minimal human impact.</li> <li>• <b>Water Ecosystem:</b> 24% of water basins are experiencing rapid changes; 50% of renewable water is being withdrawn; 31% is degree of implementation of integrated water resources management</li> <li>• 19% of domestic wastewater safely treated</li> <li>• <b>Monitoring of ambient water quality of water bodies:</b> No data available</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Environmental Performance</a> <a href="#">Global Forest Watch</a> <a href="#">UN Biodiversity</a> <a href="#">UN Water</a>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDP per Capita: 1,276.2 (2021)</li> <li>• World Economic Outlook: 15 Indicators</li> <li>• General Trade Performance: Service industry major contributor to GDP followed by industry and agriculture</li> <li>• World growth indicator: -3.91</li> <li>• Country growth indicator: -2.04</li> <li>• Inflation Rate: 13.5%</li> <li>• Ease of Doing Business Rank: 80</li> <li>• Trading Across Borders Rank: 89</li> </ul>	<a href="#">World Bank data</a> <a href="#">IMF data</a> <a href="#">World Bank – World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) data</a>

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Global Climate Risk Index (CRI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rank 120 out of 180 countries</li> <li>• CRI score: 109.67</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Germanwatch Full Report</a>
ND-GAIN Country Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52.2 ND-GAIN score, ranked 69 (low)</li> <li>• 0.350 vulnerability score, ranked 153 (low)</li> <li>• 0.394 readiness score, ranked 101 (low)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ND-GAIN</a>
Past Trend 1971-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean annual temperature: Increase</li> <li>• Maximum of daily max-temperature: Increase</li> </ul>	<a href="#">WBG</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precipitation: Little change, slight increase</li> </ul>	
Mean Projections (CMIP6) 2020-2039	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean annual temperature: Increase</li> <li>• Maximum of daily max-temperature: Increase</li> </ul>	<a href="#">WBG</a> SSP2-4.5, Multi-model Ensemble, (Ref. Period: 1995-2014)
Children's Climate Risk Index (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rank 94 out of 163</li> <li>• Score 4.5/10</li> <li>• Children exposed to ambient air pollution (PM2.5 &gt;= 10 µg/m3) – 2.48 mln,</li> <li>• Children exposed to Ambient air pollution PM2.5 &gt;= 25 µg/m3 – 1.56 mln</li> <li>• Children exposed to Riverine Flooding - 211,360</li> <li>• Children exposed to Heatwaves – 2.09 mln</li> <li>• Children exposed to Lead pollution – 493,397</li> <li>• Children exposed to Pesticide Pollution – 330,652</li> <li>• Children exposed to Water Scarcity – 2.46 mln</li> </ul>	<a href="#">UNICEF CCRI</a>

## References

<sup>i</sup>[Sustainable Development Report 2024](#)

<sup>ii</sup>[Садыр Жапаров выступил на 79-й сессии Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН](#)

<sup>iii</sup>[Kyrgyzstan: Nations in Transit 2024 Country Report | Freedom House](#)

<sup>iv</sup>[Kyrgyzstan: Freedom in the World 2024 Country Report | Freedom House](#)

<sup>v</sup>[Kyrgyzstan | RSF](#)

<sup>vi</sup>[Совместное заявление международных правозащитных организаций о закрытии Kloop Media в Кыргызстане – Amnesty International](#)

<sup>vii</sup>[Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan](#)

<sup>viii</sup><https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/66-52/edition/11301/ru>

<sup>ix</sup> National Development Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2040, approved by the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 31 October 2018, No. 221; National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2026, approved by the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 435 dated 12 October 2021; State Target Program "Development of the Justice System of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2023-2026", approved by the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 3 March 2023, No. 47.

<sup>x</sup><https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GPI-2024-web.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup><https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PPR-2024-web.pdf>

<sup>xii</sup>[https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_The\\_Global\\_Risks\\_Report\\_2024.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2024.pdf)

<sup>xiii</sup><https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/KGZ>

<sup>xiv</sup><https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/kyrgyzrepublic/overview#3>

<sup>xv</sup><https://stat.gov.kg/ru/>

<sup>xvi</sup><https://eabr.org/analytics/monthly-review/makroekonomicheskiy-obzor-eabr-oktyabr-2024/>

<sup>xvii</sup><https://stat.gov.kg/ru/>

<sup>xviii</sup><https://www.adb.org/news/adb-forecasts-5-growth-and-slowing-inflation-kyrgyz-republic-2024>

<sup>xix</sup><https://stat.gov.kg/ru/>

<sup>xx</sup><https://stat.gov.kg/ru/statistics/investicii/>

<sup>xxi</sup><https://stat.gov.kg/ru/statistics/finansy/>

<sup>xxii</sup><https://stat.gov.kg/ru/statistics/finansy/>

<sup>xxiii</sup>[Kyrgyzstan Population 2024 \(Live\) \(worldpopulationreview.com\)](#)

<sup>xxiv</sup> Кыргызстанцы стали чаще уезжать из России. Комментарий Минтруда КР

<sup>xxv</sup> МИД КР предупреждает: в России меняются правила пребывания мигрантов

<sup>xxvi</sup> Сколько кыргызстанцев находятся в черном списке России? Данные властей КР

<sup>xxvii</sup> Президент подробно объяснил свой ответ о сотрудничестве с Россией

<sup>xxviii</sup> Kyrgyzstan moved down to 90th out of 146 countries in 2024 (from 84th in 2023); and down to only 109th out of 146 in its political empowerment sub-index (from 107th in 2023). Source: [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2024.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2024.pdf)

<sup>xxix</sup> Национальный Статистический комитет Кыргызской Республики. Численность лиц с ограниченными возможностями здоровья/National Statistic Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Number of persons with disabilities <https://www.stat.gov.kg/ru/statistics/zdravoohranenie/>

<sup>xxx</sup> Kabar. (2018). В КР 80-85% лиц с инвалидностью трудоспособного возраста не имеют работы. Новости Кыргызстана - КНИА «Кабар». <https://kabar.kg/news/v-kr-80-85-litc-s-invalidnost-iu-trudospobnogo-vozrasta-vytesneny-s-rynka-truda/>

<sup>xxxi</sup> Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Migration. (2019). Information about measures to increase employment of people with disabilities. <https://mlsp.gov.kg/ru/informacziya-o-provodimoj-rabote-po-sodejstviyu-trudoustrojstvu-lovz/>

<sup>xxxii</sup><https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/kyrgyzstan-has-chance-not-be-missed-implement-rights-persons-disabilities>

<sup>xxxiii</sup><https://epi.yale.edu/downloads/2024-epi-report.pdf>

<sup>xxxiv</sup> UNDP BIOFIN (2019). Environmental Finance Policy and Institutional Review in the Kyrgyz Republic

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<sup>xxxvi</sup> Kyrgyzstan has more than 50,000 species of living organisms across 26 ecosystem classes and 160 landscape types. The Red Book of Kyrgyzstan lists 57 species of birds, 23 mammal, 2 amphibians, 8 reptiles, 7 species of fish, 18 arthropods, 83 higher plant species and 4 mushrooms. Some species have disappeared, while others are endangered, all as a result of human activity, including culturally significant ones like the snow leopard. [https://www.ibat-alliance.org/country\\_profiles/KGZ](https://www.ibat-alliance.org/country_profiles/KGZ)

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