



# WFP Kyrgyz Republic Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Optimising Primary School Meals Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200176 (Feb 2013 – Dec 2017)	15.9 m	12.5 m (79%)	0.2 m (11%)

\*April - September 2017

### GENDER MARKER 2A DEV 200176

In 2013, WFP began its four-year Optimising School Meals Programme to strengthen the Kyrgyz Government's capacity to improve the quality and efficiency of the existing national school meals programme.

Following the 2014 government endorsement of a new school meals policy, the Government, with the support of WFP and the Russian NGO, the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI), established a strategic direction for the development of the national school meals programme until 2025. This project provides assistance to both boys and girls, who equally benefit from school meals.

WFP now assists over 70,000 children and 333 schools under the pilot project, with enhanced capacities to manage school meals, diversify school menus, support the upgrading of related school infrastructure, improve the efficiency of procurement and develop school gardens.

To ensure the sustainability of the school meals project, WFP supplies fortified wheat flour, while the Government covers the remaining 87 percent of school meal costs. The project is implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and with technical support from SIFI and their NGO partners.

Support for National Productive Safety Nets and Long-Term Community Resilience	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200662 (July 2014 – Dec 2017)	24.1 m	29.5 m (122%)	-

\*April - September 2017

WFP launched a productive safety nets and long-term community resilience project in mid-2014 to enhance the Government's capacity to contribute to sustainable food security, nutrition and resilience among the poorest and most food insecure groups. The project focuses on rural development, social protection, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and gender equality. Gender

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Aisha Umetalieva  
Caption: Monitoring of equipment installation and use for the fifth round pilot schools in Naryn province.

## Highlights

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Mayor of Bishkek launched the first hot school meals programme for city schools in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- WFP and the National Institute of Strategic Studies presented the finding of the national review on food security and poverty to key stakeholders and partners, linking the recommendations to WFP's country strategic plan from 2018 to 2022.

equality is supported through emphasis on women's leadership and economic empowerment in rural areas. The project supports 1,141 different activities in 98 sub-districts across the country and aims to impact 274,000 people both directly and indirectly across the lifecycle of the project.

WFP provides capacity development and technical assistance to the Government, in particular the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, including support for policy formulation in social protection, food security and nutrition, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. WFP helped introduce the National Food Security Atlas and an Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Price Monitoring for Food Security. WFP supports the development and implementation of the National Food Security and Nutrition Programme, jointly with FAO and UNICEF.

At the field level, WFP builds resilience and improves livelihoods of the most vulnerable through creation and restoration of assets, such as disaster mitigation structures, roads, irrigation and drinking water systems. WFP applies a Three-Pronged Approach (3PA): an Integrated Context Analysis, Seasonal Livelihood Programming and Community Consultations are utilised to design and implement long-term community food security projects.

WFP supports income generation, particularly of vulnerable women, through vegetable production and the creation of fruit plots, and is currently piloting productive measures of a social development approach in two sub-districts which focus on the creation of sustainable income sources. This will ensure the transition of activities from protective measures to productive activities in order to enhance the economic growth of poor families, develop infrastructure and invest in human capital.

## In Numbers

**82,812** schoolchildren assisted

**497** people assisted under DEV 200662

Total Beneficiaries  
March 2017



March 2017

## Operational Updates

- In the first week of March WFP held face to face consultations with key donors and partners (international agencies, government and local institutions) where WFP's Country Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 was presented and feedback sought on areas of collaboration.
- On International School Meals Day (09 March) WFP, together with the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Mayor of Bishkek launched the first hot school meals programme for city schools. More than 1,200 primary school students in Bishkek Gymnasium #64 will now have access to freshly cooked hot meals each day. With funding from the Russian Federation, WFP procured high-capacity industrial kitchen equipment for preparation of hot school meals.
- On 10 March the National Institute for Strategic Studies presented the findings from their review of the poverty, food security and nutrition situation in the Kyrgyz Republic which will form inputs for the National Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic 2018-2022. WFP has incorporated these findings into the new Country Strategy Plan for 2018-2022 which was presented to high level government officials and development partners.
- A series of activities within the framework of the British Embassy Bishkek funded "Promoting peacebuilding in the southern Kyrgyz Republic through community awareness and information sharing on natural resource management" project were completed in March. These aimed to enhance communal understanding on natural resource management and strengthen the capacity of project coordination committees to deliver information services in the field of natural resources to reduce tensions and possible conflicts,
- Food distribution was delayed for beneficiaries of DEV 200662 due to the delay in the tendering and awarding of a new transportation contract organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. This has been addressed and distributions have restarted.
- On 25 March, Bishkek city police detained 68 supporters of ex-MP Sadyr Zhaparov who was arrested the previous day. They had been holding a rally in front of the State Committee for National Security (GKNB). The rally was disbursed with tear gas and shots from the police.

## Partnerships

- The school meals project is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Health, with support from SIFI and local NGOs, including the Agency of Development Initiatives, Centre for Activation and Development of Village Initiatives, and the Roza Otunbaeva Initiative Foundation.
- Under the Productive Safety Nets project, WFP partners with the Ministries of Labour and Social Development, Emergency Situations, Agriculture, the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, the Vocational Education Agency, the National Statistics Committee, and National Institute of Strategic Studies.
- WFP, in partnership with FAO and UNICEF, co-chairs the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development, and Social Protection working groups of the Development Partners' Coordination Council (DPCC). WFP, FAO and UNICEF assisted the Government in developing a national food security and nutrition programme, and are working together in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement.

## Country Background & Strategy



Since independence in 1991, political volatility, economic shocks and frequent natural disasters have threatened development gains in the Kyrgyz Republic. While the country is on an upward development trajectory, it still faces serious challenges. The poverty rate stands at 32.1 percent in 2015, about 1.9 million people live below the poverty line: 32.7 percent of women are living in poverty, compared to 31.5 percent of men.

As of 2015, GDP per capita stands at USD 1,170 (World Bank). Two-thirds (67.7 percent) of the Kyrgyz Republic's 6 million multi-ethnic population live in rural areas which are the poorest areas. In the country, 12.9 percent (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014) of children under 5 suffer from stunting and 43 percent (Demographic and Health Survey, 2012) suffer from anaemia. The country's high dependency on the import of basic foodstuffs, particularly wheat, continues to impact the most vulnerable food insecure households, who spend over half of their household income on food.

WFP pursues three key objectives in the country: 1) to strengthen social safety nets to improve food security and nutrition; 2) to improve and diversify rural livelihoods by increasing income opportunities, food security and nutrition at the household level; 3) enhance the capacity of rural communities to cope with shocks, including natural or man-made disasters. WFP contribution to these areas includes support to policies and systems and field level interventions.

WFP has been present in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2009.

Population: **6 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **120 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2014 Gender Inequality Index: **67 out of 155**

## Donors

Japan, Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Sweden the United Kingdom, and PepsiCo Foundation