



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%)	1.5 m

*August –December 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 assists around 90,000 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)	26.6 m	29.5 m	5.0 m

*August - December 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

Highlights

- Implementation of Cash-based transfers (CBT) was launched in July with a total value of more than KGS 4 million (close to USD 60,000) reaching 741 beneficiaries from vulnerable and food insecure families in fully in five small towns under Food-for-assets (FFA) and Food-for-training (FFT) activities.
- In July, WFP was conducting bilateral consultations on the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022 with Executive Board member states and key donors, such as Switzerland, the Federal Republic of Germany, the UK, Turkey, Iran, and the EU delegation in the Kyrgyz Republic. The consultations on CSP 2018-2022 will be continued in the first half of August.

development, social protection, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and gender equality. Gender equality is supported through emphasis on women's leadership and economic empowerment in rural areas. The project supported 1,842 different activities in 143 sub-districts across the country and aimed to impact more than 312,000 people both directly and indirectly across the lifecycle of the project by July 2017.

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.

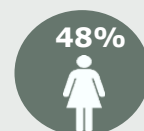
At the field level, WFP builds resilience and improves livelihoods of the most vulnerable through creation and restoration of assets, such as disaster mitigation structures, roads, irrigation and drinking water systems. WFP applies the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA): Integrated Context Analysis; Seasonal Livelihood Programming; and Community Consultations. The latter is 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

26,500 people assisted under DEV 200662

People Assisted
July 2017



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 25.4 percent in 2016, and around 1.5 million people live below the poverty line.

As of 2016, GDP per capita stands at USD 1,077 (World Bank). Two-thirds 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**

2015 Gender Inequality Index: **90 out of 159**

Donors

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

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Operational Updates

- On 6-8 July, the planning session of the joint action plan was conducted with Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic on implementation of the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022 with participation of government partners to ensure that necessary arrangements are in place for full achievement of the objectives.
- On July 7, training of trainers (TOT) on nutrition took place at the Republican Health Promotion Centre in Osh for 14 volunteers from seven villages where there are no Village Health Committees. The graduates of TOT will conduct training as part of the nutrition awareness campaign to Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) project participants in their villages within two weeks.
- On 11-12 July, two WFP project sites in the cross-border area in Batken province, such as joint WFP-UNDP construction of irrigation canal and short-term vocational training courses have been showcased to the Peacebuilding Fund donor. The mission delegates interacted with the beneficiaries and local authorities on the overall impact of the projects.
- Implementation of Cash-based transfers (CBT) was launched in July with a total value of more than 4 million KGS (close to USD 60,000) reaching 741 beneficiaries from vulnerable and food insecure families in fully in five small towns under Food-for-assets (FFA) and Food-for-training (FFT) activities.
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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.
- Under the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) project, WFP is working together with FAO, UN WOMEN, and IFAD to advocate for the increased rights and economic opportunities of rural women in the Kyrgyz Republic.