



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%)	0.5 m (42%)

*June - November 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 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)	24.1 m	29.5 m	-

*June - November 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

- On May 19, 2017, the UNDAF 2018-2022 was signed by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov and the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Alexander Avanesov.
- In May WFP's Optimising School Meals Programme and UNICEF's WASH Programme teamed up to launch a pilot WASH/Nutrition project in 29 schools of Kemin district covering over 4000 children.

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 supports 1,141 different activities in 98 sub-districts across the country and aims to impact 272,000 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): 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

89,492 schoolchildren assisted

8,907 people assisted under DEV 200662

People Assisted
May 2017



Operational Updates

- In May, WFP's Optimising School Meals Programme and UNICEF's WASH Programme teamed up to launch a pilot WASH and Nutrition project in 29 schools of Kemin district reaching over 4000 children. This joint collaboration included assessments of each school on WASH knowledge and practices; laboratory screening of school children; and lectures from experts for school staff, social workers, and local medical workers on sanitation practices, healthy and safe food and other relevant WASH topics.
- WFP facilitated a field visit for the Deputy Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr Alexei Mzareulov, to Aitmatov pilot school in Novopavlovka village to monitor the progress of the implementation of the fifth round of the pilot for optimising school meals.
- On 11 and 12 May 2017, WFP's Country Director took part in Demand-Driven South-South Cooperation (SSC) Symposium in Beijing to explore ideas and potential areas of collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of China.
- On May 25 and 26 2017, WFP and UNDP jointly hosted a media visit to Osh to feature the success of their joint disaster mitigation project at the request of Kyrgyz National Television. The project was launched in 2014 ago and has brought good long-term results. The Pistachio trees that were planted on mountain slopes for disaster mitigation and income generation have benefitted local communities.
- WFP accompanied an oversight mission headed by the Minister of Labour and Social Development, Ms Taalaigul Isakunova who visited WFP's productive safety nets project sites in Osh and Jalalabad provinces between May 23 and 26, 2017. The mission also visited the recent landslide affected areas in Uzgen.

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. WFP, FAO, UN Women and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are jointly implementing a rural women's economic empowerment project. WFP is also working with UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and UN Women on a cross-border peacebuilding project.
- 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.

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

Contact info: Emma Goatman
(emma.goatman@wfp.org)

Country Director: Ram Saravanamuttu

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan