On 15 November 2017, Kyrgyz Republic Country Government long...
Operational Updates

- On 01 November 2017, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Deputy Country Director, Ms. Youn Jung Jo, visited several ongoing and completed KOICA-funded WFP projects in Batken and Osh provinces. Project activities included to both infrastructure and income generation including mudflow protection dams, public bridges, clean water supply system, vegetable production, and sewing/tailoring workshops.

- On 01 November 2017, WFP Country Director and Programme Policy Officer had a meeting with Mercy Corps Country Director to discuss strategic coordination between the two organizations in the field of school meals. WFP proposed to establish a formalised coordination mechanism at the Ministry of Education and Sciences level with quarterly meetings to update on the progress and address critical issues. In addition, WFP proposed to identify 50-100 schools in the most socially vulnerable areas to unite efforts in transitioning from tea and bun to hot meal.

- On 14 November 2017, WFP Optimising Primary School Meals Programme had a meeting with Director for the National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS) and discussed possibility of engaging NISS into drafting National School Meals Strategy. NISS agreed to facilitate inter-governmental working group meeting and expressed readiness to engage in cost-benefit analysis and drafting National School Meals Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

- In November, WFP staff actively participated in events related to 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence, such as participation as a guest lecturer at Ataturk University in Bishkek and a radio interview at Birinchi Radio in collaboration with UN WOMEN on topics of women economic empowerment and gender based violence.

Partnerships

- The school meals project is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health, with support from SIFI and local NGOs, including the Agency of Development Initiatives, and Centre for Activation and Development of Village Initiatives.

- 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 (SUN) 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.

Country Background & Strategy

Since gaining 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 1.6 million people live below the poverty line.

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. As of 2016, GDP per capita stands at USD 1,077 (World Bank). 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 2008.

Population: 6.14 million
2016 Human Development Index: 120 out of 188
Income Level: Lower middle
2015 Gender Inequality Index: 90 out of 159

Donors

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

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