

Since 2011, WFP has re-oriented its programme from emergency response towards development, with a particular emphasis on government capacity development. WFP pursues three key objectives in the Kyrgyz Republic: 1) strengthen social safety nets to improve food security and nutrition; 2) improve and diversify rural livelihoods by increasing income opportunities and food security and nutrition at the household level; and 3) enhance the capacity of rural communities to cope with shocks, including natural or man-made disasters. WFP will strengthen these areas by contributing to policies, systems and field level interventions in support of food security and nutrition and longer term resilience.

WFP has been present in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2008.



OPERATIONS

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Total Funded (%)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*	Top 5 Donors
DEV 200662 "Support for National Productive Safety Nets and Long-Term Community Resilience"	July 2014 – Dec 2016	274,000	19,764,901	19,629,475	99%	-	Russian Federation, Norway, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom
DEV 200176 "Optimising Primary School Meals Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic"	Feb 2013 – Dec 2016	62,000	11,600,503	12,450,744	107%	-	Russian Federation, Netherlands, United Kingdom

*January 2016 – June 2016

Summary of WFP assistance: WFP's goal in the Kyrgyz Republic is to support the Government to improve food security and nutrition and build resilience of vulnerable populations against the impact of recurrent natural disasters and economic shocks.

Optimisation of the Primary School Meals Programme

In 2013, WFP began a four year school meals optimisation project to strengthen the Government's capacity to improve the quality and efficiency of the existing national school meals programme, in line with the five international World Bank System Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results (SABER) quality standards. In December 2014, the Government endorsed a new school meals policy, formulated with the support of WFP and the Russian non-governmental organisation (NGO), the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI). The policy sets a strategic direction for development of the national school meals programme until 2025. In September 2015, WFP increased the number of schools from 200 to 261 and children assisted by nearly 20,000 under the pilot project, which enhances capacities to manage school feeding, diversifies school menus, supports the upgrading of related school infrastructure, improves the efficiency of procurement and develops school gardens. These models are already inspiring replication of the pilot experience outside the project. To ensure the sustainability of the school meals project, WFP supplies only fortified wheat flour, while the Government covers the remaining 87 percent of the school meal cost. The project is implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and with technical support from SIFI.

Support for National Productive Safety Nets and Long-Term Community Resilience

WFP's second development project focuses on rural development; social protection; and disaster risk management and climate adaptation. In these areas, WFP provides support to policy development and systems optimisation. At the field level, WFP builds resilience and improves livelihoods of the most vulnerable through rehabilitation of infrastructure, such as disaster mitigation structures, roads, irrigation and drinking water systems. WFP helps increase incomes through vegetable production and the creation of fruit gardens. WFP applied a Three Pronged Approach (3PA), consisting of the Integrated Context Analysis, Seasonal Livelihood Programming and Community Consultations to identify priority areas and plan resilience and livelihood improvement activities, based on an in-depth understanding of challenges and opportunities faced by each community. As part of the project, WFP also supports the Government's efforts to strengthen evidence based policy decision making. In this area, WFP is providing technical support to the development of the National Food Security Atlas, monthly food price monitoring bulletins and an Interagency Technical Working Group on Price Monitoring for Food Security. WFP also supports the development and implementation of the National Food Security and Nutrition Programme, jointly with FAO and UNICEF. Another key activity has been WFP, GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*), UNFPA and Embassy of Switzerland support to the Ministry of Health to undertake a study, which assessed knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to micronutrient intake in adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing women in four provinces of the country.

These activities contribute to meeting Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, and 7, and are aligned with the Government's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2013-2017. WFP places a strong emphasis on women's economic empowerment and ensures that women and men are represented in decision-making bodies and equally benefit from its activities.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<p>Optimisation of the School Meals Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this quarter, WFP received 223 applications for the fifth and six rounds of the school meals pilot to commence in September 2016 and 2017, respectively. Currently, WFP supports 261 pilot schools, which provide enhanced school meals for approximately 63,000 children. The first meeting of the inter-ministerial working group led by Ministry of Education and Science took place in October 2015 to agree on the methodology of the nation-wide assessment and overall approach to the design of the National School Feeding Implementation Strategy. <p>Support for National Productive Safety Nets and Long-Term Community Resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2015, WFP collaborated with the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction hosted a coordination meeting to discuss the implementation of Sendai Framework priorities under the National Sustainable Development Strategy and National Strategy for Comprehensive Safety of Population and Territories. In November 2015, WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Emergency Situations. It will enhance collaboration in implementing projects on disaster risk reduction at community level, improving information management systems and building capacity of civil protection specialists. In December 2015, the Peacebuilding Support Office approved funding for the peacebuilding and cross-border cooperation project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, jointly implemented by FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, and WFP. In this quarter, WFP in partnership with FAO, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Statistics Committee, the National Bank, and the National Institute for Strategic Studies launched the third issue of the bulletin on market monitoring for food security. This provided timely information and analysis on domestic prices for food and non-food items. The bulletin will be issued on a monthly basis and disseminated to all ministries and national and international food security stakeholders. 	<p>Optimisation of the School Meals Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP continued negotiations on an MoU with the Ministry of Education and Science. The absence of a MoU with the Ministry initially delayed the creation of a school feeding unit under the Ministry. The MoU was cleared by all ministries and forwarded by the Ministry of Education and Science to the Government Office for final clearance. Additional funding for the school meals project is required to implement a comprehensive home-grown school feeding component, which will further improve the efficiency of utilisation of government funds and support development of local agriculture. WFP is working on a budget revision to extend the project until end-2017 in order to align with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). <p>Support for National Productive Safety Nets and Long-Term Community Resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP lacks contributions to plan and undertake cash transfer activities. The shortfall primarily affects the implementation of Cash Based Transfers based productive safety net activities. As a result, food transfers are prioritised, even in areas where cash is assessed as more cost effective.

PARTNERSHIPS

WFP and FAO co-chair the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development Working Group of the Development Partners' Coordination Council (DPCC). WFP also co-chairs the DPCC Social Protection working group with UNICEF. WFP, FAO and UNICEF have assisted the Government in developing a national food security and nutrition programme; the approved programme was presented in a joint meeting with the Prime Minister, Ministers, and three UN Heads of Agencies. The three agencies are also working together in the Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement. WFP, FAO, UN Women and International Fund for Agricultural Development are jointly implementing a project to promote rural women's economic empowerment. 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 - 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 Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry and local NGOs such as Community Development Alliance, Ak-Niet, Bilek and Kyrgyz Association of Forestry and Land Users.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

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 some serious challenges. The poverty rate increased from 32 percent in 2009 to 38 percent in 2012, but has decreased to 31 percent in 2014, with about 1,800,000 people living below the poverty line.

The country is ranked 120 out of 188 countries as per 4th 2015 UNDP Human Development Report, with GDP per capita at USD 1,250 in 2014. Two-thirds of its 6 million multi-ethnic population live in rural areas. Almost 13 percent of children under five suffer from stunting and 43 percent from anaemia.

The country's high dependency on the import of basic foodstuffs, particularly wheat, and the high domestic wheat flour price, continue to impact the most vulnerable food insecure households, who spend over half of their budget on food.

