



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 (78%)	-

*March - August 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	29.3 m	-

*March - August 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A DEV 200176

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

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Shamil Usabaliy
Caption: An irrigation canal constructed as part of WFP's productive safety nets project in Kochkor district.

Highlights

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, underpinning the commitment of the Government to optimising the school meals programme with the models piloted by WFP.
- The Japanese embassy in Bishkek announced a donation of USD 83,000 for canteen equipment in WFP supported schools.

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 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), consisting of Integrated Context Analysis, Seasonal Livelihood Programming and Community Consultations 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 a productive measures of social development approach in two sub-districts which focuses on the creation of sustainable income sources. This will ensure the transition of activities from protective measures to productive

In Numbers

70,974 schoolchildren assisted

13,861 people assisted under DEV 200662

Total Beneficiaries
February 2017

49%



51%



Country Background & Strategy

Operational Updates

- On 07 February, WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education and Science to confirm joint commitment to optimising the national school meals programme. The signing of the MoU is a big milestone for the sustainability of the national school meals programme. Consequently, all canteen equipment and wheat flour for the implementation of the fifth round of optimising school meals was delivered by the end of February. This takes the total of WFP supported schools to 333.
- WFP held annual meetings for both project teams in Bishkek during the week 06-10 February. The achievements and challenges of 2016, as well as the way forward for 2017, were discussed with all WFP staff as well as implementing partners.
- On 09 February, FAO, UN Women and WFP carried out a joint monitoring visit to Batken and Osh provinces for the Rural Women's Empowerment project. The trip focused on monitoring the social mobilization of rural women after train-the-trainer sessions were conducted in December 2016.
- On 20 February, Ms. Kadenova, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development visited WFP's productive safety nets project sites in Bazar-korgon. The results of the project during 2016 were discussed as well as the plans for 2017. These include the launch of the cash based transfers projects in the pilot towns of Kyzyl Kiya, Tash Komur, and Uzgen.
- On 21 February, the Japanese Embassy in Bishkek announced that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan had approved USD 83,000 grant for the provision of kitchen equipment for 16 pilot schools in Chui and Issykul oblasts. This project will be implemented by WFP's local partner ADI.

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 also 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.



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**

2015 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