



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%)	0.4 m

*February – July 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 61,000 children and 266 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 the 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	-

*February – July 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 development, social protection, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and gender equality.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Elizabeth Zalkind
Caption: Children enjoying kefir introduced as part of the school meals optimisation programme in Sooronbaev School, Ak-Suu district, Issyk-Kul province

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.
- WFP held a validation workshop for key government stakeholders on the re-positioning of the Optimising School Meals Programme from a sole focus on education to a strategic national social safety net.
- WFP signed an agreement with the UK Embassy for a USD 18,600 grant to support peacebuilding activities in Batken province.

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 activities in order to enhance the economic growth of poor families, develop infrastructure and invest in human capital.

In Numbers

65,798 schoolchildren assisted

15,541 people assisted under DEV 200662



Total Beneficiaries
January 2017



January 2017

Operational Updates

- On 17 January 2017, WFP held a high-level government stakeholder meeting to present and discuss the theory of change and scope of study undertaken to reposition the Optimising School Meals Programme from a solely education-oriented initiative to a social protection measure for food insecure families. The government stakeholders endorsed the re-positioning of the programme towards a social protection measure. The programme can benefit the education, health and economic sectors within the country.
- On 20 January 2017, WFP and the UK Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic signed a grant agreement for 15,000 GBP, which will be used to supplement WFP peacebuilding activities in the south of the country until the end of March 2017. The grant is to be used to train project management committees to understand and share information with communities particularly on natural resource management.
- On 21 January, conflict between Tajik and Kyrgyz groups was reported in Kok-Tash village, Kyrgyz Republic where WFP has some operations. This was the first such incident in over two years. The relevant authorities quickly restored control and the reasons for the incident are under investigation. UNSSD is monitoring the situation.
- 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 absence of a MoU 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 for final clearance. The signing of the MoU is a big milestone for the sustainability of the national school meals programme.

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.

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 budget 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