



# 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	12.8 m	0
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	59.2 m	n.a.*	

\*Will be reported starting January 2018  
\*\*Funding requirements for DEV 200662 and DEV 200176 will fall under the 2018 CSP.

### GENDER MARKER 2A

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 assists around 90,000 children and 335 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 other 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)	26.6 m	29.7 m	0

\*December 2017-May 2018

### GENDER MARKER 2A

In mid-2014, WFP launched a productive safety nets and long-term community resilience project to enhance the Government's capacity to contribute to sustainable food

## Highlights

- On 15 November 2017, Kyrgyz Republic Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022 was approved by WFP Executive Board during the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board. Supporting comments were given by the permanent missions of Afghanistan, Panama, the Russian Federation, and the United States, on behalf of the Lists and were related to further continued support, partnership and gender transformation.

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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. Gender equality is supported through emphasis on women's leadership and economic empowerment in rural areas. The project supported 2,741 different activities in 190 sub-districts across the country and aimed to impact more than 518,000 beneficiaries both directly and indirectly across the lifecycle of the project by the end of November 2017.

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 infrastructures, roads, irrigation and drinking water systems. WFP applies the 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

## In Numbers

25,454 schoolchildren assisted

29,845 people assisted under DEV 200662

People Assisted  
November 2017



## Operational Updates

- On 01 November 2017, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Deputy Country Director, Ms. Youn Jung Joo, 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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