

Project Number: 200176 | Project Category: **Development Project**
Project Approval Date: February 05, 2013 | Planned Start Date: January 01, 2013
Actual Start Date: March 15, 2013 | Project End Date: December 31, 2017
Financial Closure Date: N/A

Contact Info
Daniar Alymkulov
daniar.alymkulov@wfp.org

Country Director
Andrea Bagnoli

Further Information
<http://www.wfp.org/countries>
SPR Reading Guidance



Optimising the Primary Schools Meals Programme
Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Kyrgyz Republic (KG)



World Food Programme

wfp.org

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

- Achievements at Country Level
- Country Context and Response of the Government
- WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Country Resources and Results

- Resources for Results
- Supply Chain
- Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

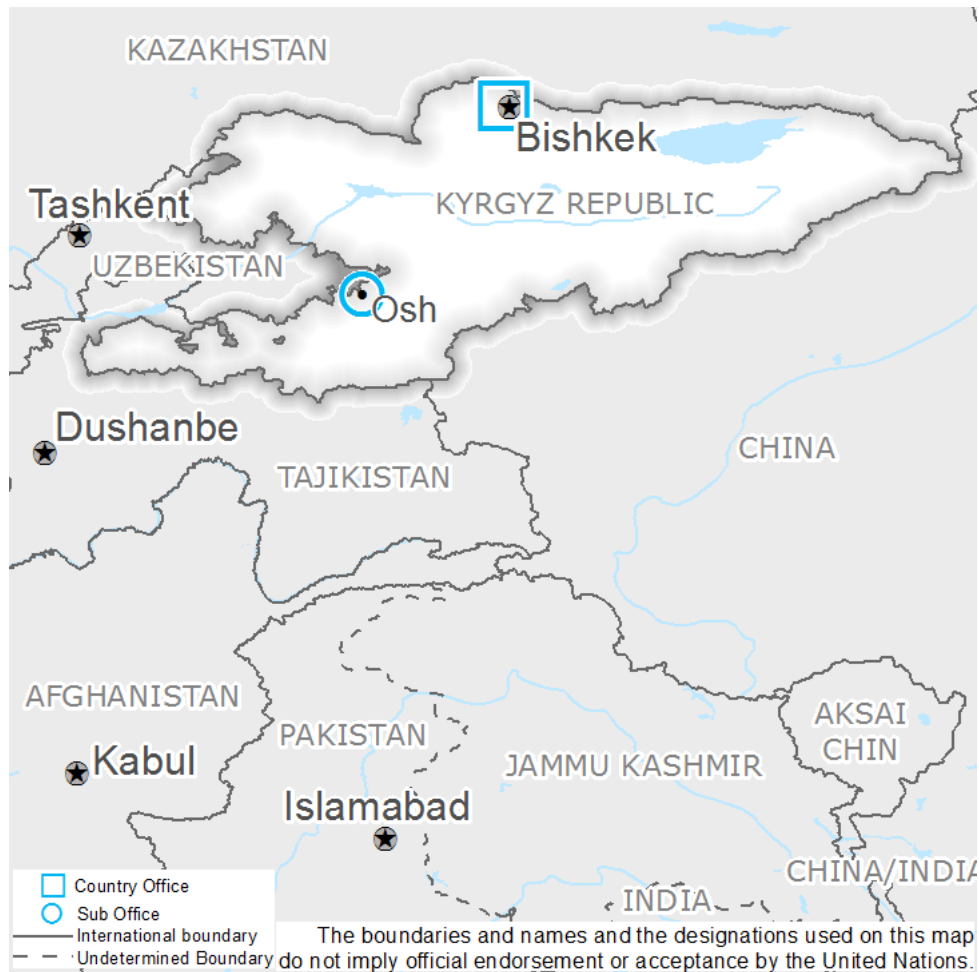
Project Results

- Activities and Operational Partnerships
- Results
- Performance Monitoring
- Progress Towards Gender Equality
- Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations
- The Roots of Nutritious School Meals in Kyrgyzstan

Figures and Indicators

- Data Notes
- Overview of Project Beneficiary Information
- Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality
- Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)
- Project Indicators

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

WFP Kyrgyz Republic has continued to work at multiple levels, including local community project implementation, technical advice, and policy advocacy with relevant ministries and government bodies. In November 2017, the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018-2022 was approved by the WFP Executive Board. Under the new framework for assistance, WFP's humanitarian response is better aligned with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic efforts to address food insecurity. In addition, WFP provides technical and policy assistance to advance the Government in their activities contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2017, WFP supported the National Institute for Strategic Studies to finalise and publish two comprehensive desk data and cross-ministerial studies, 'Food Security and Nutrition Governance Review in the Kyrgyz Republic' and 'Poverty Report'. Both were designed to provide gap analysis in SDGs targets and data on poverty, food security and nutrition. Prior to these studies, a review was launched on 28 September 2016, by the 'Council on improving the life condition of the poor and the vulnerable', and chaired by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic with other cabinet ministers and governors. Its purpose was to serve as the basis for the new National Development Strategy to be introduced in 2018. The findings and recommendations included a need to develop a unified understanding of food security and nutrition problems, their root causes and consequences, to develop an effective food security monitoring and reporting system, to improve nutrition of the poorest through improving access to income generation activities, and to continue efforts to progress wheat flour fortification. These reviews have also served as the basis for WFP's CSP which would be implemented from 2018, thereby ensuring its alignment with both the national development strategy and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. In addition to these, WFP also provided technical assistance to the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, and the Labour and Social Development.

This included facilitating discussion regarding the strategic framework of the new National Development Strategy, the new Social Protection strategy, strengthening knowledge related to the SDGs adaptation process, and development of sectoral and inter-sectoral strategic documents under the new national development action plan of the Government's "40 Steps to a New Era" (2018-2022).

Under Development Project 200176 key achievements in 2017 included continuing pilots for school level procurement processes in two districts to provide evidence to the Government of the benefits of decentralizing school procurement and opening the school meals market to local farmers. In addition, technical assistance resulted in over 200 schools implementing optimized school meals themselves, highlighting positive progress in the national implementation strategy for school meals. Notably, WFP has been able to transfer funding of the food component for the first four rounds of pilot schools that implemented optimised school meals between 2013 and 2016 to the Government. These schools are now fully sustainable; they rely on their own budgets and parental contributions to continue implementing optimised school meals. WFP has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mayor's office in Bishkek, in October 2017, to support a mapping exercise for the implementation of optimizing school meals in the country's capital. This increased WFP's work in urban areas, which has been limited due to the budgetary complexities of school meals in Bishkek, lack of infrastructure (often due to the double and triple shift system) and the sizes of urban schools.

Under Development Project 200662, WFP continued to implement productive measures, which focused on improving the food security and nutrition of the community through asset creation or rehabilitation and income generating skills training. These ensured that this social development project, implemented with the Government, focused not only on protective measures (unconditional transfers to poor families with children), but also provided sustainable benefits for other participants. WFP also introduced cash transfers for the first time since 2014 for activities in urban and semi-rural areas with food transfers continuing in the more rural areas. In addition to these initiatives, WFP further developed the value-chain focus of training activities by providing more than 10 sets of processing equipment to local authorities. The productive measures pilot was supported by the Council for improving the living conditions of poor and vulnerable people, exploring new ways to lift people out of poverty and food insecurity.

WFP provided policy support and technical assistance at ministry level, through support to national plans and policy frameworks within the Ministries of Labour and Social Development, Education, Agriculture, Industry and Melioration; Emergency Situations; and State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forests. This included improving monitoring and evaluation systems, mechanisms for the Government to provide evidence base for adapting national programmes and policies to manage food security and nutrition for all in an efficient and sustainable manner. The Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit also provided tools for government institutions to utilize which included monthly price monitoring bulletins and Safety Nets Alert Platform system. At a local level, WFP ensured that the needs of poor and vulnerable beneficiaries were included in local authority development plans. For example, it worked with local self-government administrations in 29 districts and 5 town administrations to produce a booklet on their communities needs identified during WFP's community consultations. Information gathered during these exercises could equally be used as fundraising tools by local communities, WFP projects and other international development agencies.

Country Context and Response of the Government

The Kyrgyz Republic is a small, land-locked, mountainous country located at the centre of the Eurasian continent with a territory of 199,000 sq. km. The country borders China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. It has a population of 6.14 million [1], of which over two-thirds live in rural areas. The Kyrgyz economy is relies heavily on agriculture, employing a third of the population. This sector contributes up 13 percent [2] of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). More than 1,000,000 Kyrgyz citizens work abroad, mainly in the Russian Federation. Remittances sent to Kyrgyz Republic contribute to more than 30 percent [3] of its GDP. Since May 2015, the Kyrgyz Republic has been a member of Eurasian Economic Union. This has enabled an easier flow of people and goods between the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. Despite the recent economic recovery in the region, the downturn of 2015 to 2016 continues to have an impact on the Kyrgyz Republic, with GDP growth only at 3.8 percent[4] in 2016; reflected in a decrease in the poverty rate, decreased from 32 percent to 25.4 percent [5] of the population.

Although there have been shifts in Kyrgyz Republic's economic growth, a quarter of the population live below the national poverty line. For this section of society, they still face poverty and their exclusion from its economic development remain major challenges. It is worth noting that the national poverty line is USD 1.3 per day (National Statistics Committee, 2016), which is lower than the international poverty line set at USD 1.9 per day (The World Bank). Lowest income households are estimated to spend 69 percent [6] of their already limited income on food

alone. Even when spending the majority of their budget on food, these households are still not able to meet their dietary needs; their food consumption consists primarily of locally available starchy food, for example potatoes and bread. Chronic health problems related to nutrition cost the country USD 32 million per year through lost productivity as a result of increased mortality and reduced cognitive and physical development (World Bank, 2014). Additionally, severe deficiencies in the quality of food and micronutrients intake from an unvaried diet are the main reasons for high levels of anaemia. According to the Demographics and Health Survey 2014, stunting was prevalent in 43 percent of children and 35 percent of women aged 15 to 49. Moreover, 13 percent of children aged 24 to 59 months (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014) are suffering from chronic malnutrition as a result of the inadequate consumption of nutrient-rich foods.

The Kyrgyz Republic ranks the third most vulnerable country to climate change among 28 Central Asian and Eastern European countries. The scale and frequency of the natural disasters associated with climate change increase by 1.5 times every 10 years [7]. According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, for example, floods (30 percent), landslides (16 percent), earthquakes (9 percent), and meteorological hazards such as strong wind and hail (9 percent) are the most prevalent natural disasters. The number of natural disaster hazard-prone areas have increased up to 22 percent within the 5 years from 2012 to 2017. The impact of climate change causes risks to the livelihoods, especially for the most vulnerable and poor, which further increases their chances of experiencing food insecurity and nutrition deficiencies.

The Kyrgyz Republic ranks 90 out of 159 countries in the 2015 Gender Inequality Index. Gender inequalities therefore remain significant impediments to social and economic development, particularly among women and girls. In most rural areas, women have de-facto limited access to property, assets and financial services. All of which contribute to the feminization of poverty (United Nations Common Country Assessment 2016). Further indicative of this is the economic participation rate among women, 40 percent, compared to 60 percent among men (United Nations Common Country Assessment 2016). In rural areas, women predominantly work at the production level of value-chains, generating low and unpredictable incomes by undertaking the low skilled and low paid tasks at the beginning of the agricultural production line, such as, fruit picking and sorting. Women in unpaid work and outside the labour force account for 72 percent of the working-age population living below the poverty line.

The Government of Kyrgyz Republic has developed the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) for 2013 to 2017, which emphasizes the need for the improvement of food security and nutrition. WFP's main priorities are well integrated and aligned with relevant national programmes under the NSDS. However, the current NSDS will be replaced by a new development strategy which to be introduced in 2018 and will also integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2022 for the Kyrgyz Republic, approved on 15 November 2017, continues to advocate for the prioritisation of SDG 2 and SDG 17. The CSP aligns with the national development programme of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic "Jany Doorgo Kyrk Kadam" (40 Steps to New Era) 2018-2023, with linkages to several key steps including "Step 28: Equal opportunities. The basis for development of societies/communities" where WFP's work with the vulnerable members of the population helps to expand their knowledge in order to generate income and improve their livelihoods. The CSP is also aligned to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2018–2022) and Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. Linkages are also made with the Government's nation-wide digital transformation initiative "Taza Koom", especially with regards to Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in emergencies, high-quality statistical data and online agriculture. WFP supports the development of the national Food Security and Nutrition programme for 2018-2022, a cross-ministerial programme managed by the Council of Food Security and Nutrition chaired by the Vice-Prime Minister. aligned with the national Social Protection Development Strategy for 2018-2022.

[1] National Statistics Committee, 2016

[2] Information Bulletin for Food Security and Poverty, 2016; National Statistics Committee

[3] National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2016

[4] Ministry of Economy, 2016

[5] Poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2016

[6] Information Bulletin for Food Security and Poverty, 2016; national Statistics Committee

[7] Monitoring and Forecasting of hazardous processes and phenomena in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2016; Ministry of Emergency Situations

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Aligned with WFP's Strategic Objectives 3 and 4, WFP has pursued three key objectives in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2017: 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; and 3) to enhance the capacity of rural communities to cope with shocks, including natural or man-made disasters. WFP's contributions to these areas included support to policies and systems and field level interventions. WFP's two development programmes finished at the end of 2017. Its activities however, will continue under the framework of the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) which will commence on 01 January 2018.

WFP's development project DEV 200176 (2013-2017) was launched in January 2013 with a budget of USD 15.9 million. The project aims to optimise the national school meals programme using an allocated USD 7 million each year. The school meals policy for pilot schools (2014) was formulated with the support of WFP. The policy set the strategic direction for the development of the national school meals implementation strategy. In addition to these activities, WFP continues to provide nutritious and affordable meals to children in mainly rural food insecure areas. The project also focused on supporting school administrations, local authorities and communities to manage school meals more effectively, whilst rehabilitating school infrastructure, and providing training to school cooks. Additional training included interactive nutrition training, school gardens, and co-financing initiatives with the support of local authorities, schools, and parents to further extend the coverage of optimised school meals modalities.

WFP launched DEV 200662 (2014-2017) with an approved budget of USD 26.6 million to enhance the government's capacity to contribute to sustainable food security and nutrition, and resilience among the poorest and most food-insecure members of the population. The project used a combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers, which started in 2017, to provide a one-time transfer to food insecure households in exchange for participation in asset creation and training courses designed to lower dependency and create job opportunities. Government training activities focused on rural development, social protection, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. In these areas, assistance was provided to *policy development* (e.g. advocating for change in the legal framework to support optimised schools meals and supporting the Government in the creation of the new national development strategy and social protection strategy 2018-2022), *systems optimisation* (e.g. support to Government agencies to utilise the Safety-Nets Alert Platform for early warning regarding food price changes) and *field level interventions* through building resilience and improving the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, e.g. construction of gabion nets in communities susceptible to flooding through Food for Assets activities. Interventions range from policy level support to public works activities, and skills and knowledge training for productive livelihoods. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, the project also included a cross-border peace-building component, that focused on local level community activities in the sensitive border areas between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

WFP's support in the implementation of activities identified in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2017 was the second largest among all UN agencies, in relation to funds and programmes. Particular attention was given to the creation of the new UNDAF 2018-2022, following its approval from the Kyrgyz Government in May 2017.

The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in the Kyrgyz Republic, of which WFP is an active member, has been recognized for its progress by the Global SUN movement. The Kyrgyz Republic was awarded the SUN 2017 Champion Award for its achievement in nutrition policy impact during the SUN Global Gathering in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in November 2017. The Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2016 to formalize the SUN Network, consisted of representatives from the government, civil society, academia, businesses, donors. Having gained the support of the UN, the network became very active. The SUN Network is committed to accelerating progress in reducing malnutrition and stunting, and focuses on implementing evidence based nutrition interventions. A UN-specific SUN Network is chaired jointly by WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and a UN Nutrition Strategy to bring together all UN agencies working on nutrition is being turned into an action plan, to seek endorsement by the Kyrgyz Government.

Partnering with donors and development agencies, WFP worked closely with FAO to develop a joint work-plan that ensured the coordination and complementary nature of community and government level activities. Additionally, WFP and FAO continue to co-chair the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development (AFSRD) working group under the aegis of the Development Partner's Co-ordination Council (DPCC), and the Social Protection Working Group jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). These provide platforms to regularly convene meetings for stakeholders engaged in food security, nutrition, and social protection for coordination and exchange of information.

WFP collaborated with the University of Eastern Finland to support the Government in strengthening the capacity of social workers. Together, they developed training modules and training specialists of small fishery management in income generating activities for the poor and vulnerable; and the provision of data analysis and reporting on nutrition (including school meals menus). Furthermore, WFP worked with the commission of the 'Council on improving the life condition of the poor and the vulnerable' chaired by the Prime Minister. This was alongside the

National Institute for Strategic Studies of Kyrgyzstan and the National Statistics Committee to conduct reviews of food security and poverty in the country, which supports the government in policy direction and programming, and serves as the basis for WFP's own planning.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

In 2017, WFP operations in the Kyrgyz Republic, consisted of the two development programmes: DEV 200662 DEV 200176 remained well resourced due to the considerable support from (in alphabetical order) Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and United Nations common funds (Norway, Sweden and Peacebuilding), as well as locally provided funds (British Embassy in Bishkek) and the private sector (Japan Association for WFP). WFP focused on increasing and diversifying the donor base, including targeted fundraising with non-traditional donors and the private sector, to ensure continued and reliable programming in the Kyrgyz Republic. Both programmes ended on 31 December 2017.

DEV 200662 'Support for National Productive Safety Nets and Long-term Community Resilience' was well funded to the end of 2017. During the project year, WFP introduced Cash Based Transfers (CBT) as one of the transfer modalities for the Food-for-Assets and Food-for-Training activities. Additionally, it undertook a budget revision to better align with United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). It also established a basis for the Country Strategic Plan (CSP), and incorporated an increase in needs of beneficiaries mid-year. This revision increased the budget from USD 24.1 million to USD 26.6 million and resulted in an increase in the number of beneficiaries who received assistance from 384,000 to 456,000. This consisted of 52,000 new people through food assistance and 20,000 new people through cash based transfers (CBT).

DEV 200176 'Optimising Primary School Meals Programme (OSMP)' experienced a shortfall of USD 3 million, which led to adjustments in programming. For this reason the sixth round for the implementation of hot school meals was postponed until September 2018 when anticipated funds will become available. Despite the adjustments, WFP was still able to implement the fifth round of school meals programmes to 64 schools in March and four schools in September 2017, taking the total of supported schools to 335. Thanks to the success of the school meals activities, WFP was able to handover the food component for the first to fourth round pilot schools (260 schools) to the Government. All schools identified were deemed to be fully sustainable in implementing their own hot school meals with local authority funding and parental contributions. WFP also received USD 270,000 from the Japan Association for WFP which will be utilised in the provision of hot meals in more than 20 schools. WFP also assisted their implementing partner Agency for Development Initiatives (ADI) to attract USD 83,300 by supporting their request for funding to the Embassy of Japan who then provided direct support to 16 schools for the implementation of hot school meals with WFP's technical assistance.

WFP continues to work in partnership with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic who provide financing for elements of all WFP community level activities. Local authorities, with support from the Ministry of Education, continue to pay for the relevant infrastructure and renovations required for schools to shift to hot meals. This includes updating school infrastructure and school water supplies, so that kitchen equipment can be installed and hygiene standards maintained. For DEV 200662, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development provides support at ministerial and field level. Such assistance includes logistical and warehouse support for the food storage, handling and transportation, as well as advocating for support to WFP's interventions across the Government. Additionally, under DEV 200662, Food-for-Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Food-for-Training (FFT) activities are only implemented once local authority contributions have been agreed and delivered. The contributions include construction materials for irrigation channels, instructors for off-farm skills development, and premises for agricultural practices training among others. Additionally, the local authorities assist with community mobilization to enable project activities to be carried out and transfers made to the relevant households. In order to keep warehousing costs to a minimum, food for both development programmes is stored in the same warehousing facilities whose costs are covered by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In order to ensure that all funding opportunities were monitored by WFP during 2017, a Resource Mobilization Strategy was drafted, including an extensive donor mapping exercise; the strategy also supported the new CSP for 2018-2022. The resource mobilization strategy is based on: i) mobilizing resources for the CSP by positioning WFP as a partner of choice for the Government, diversifying the donor base through targeted fundraising with non-traditional donors and the private sector, working on joint programmes and fundraising with United Nations agencies and development organizations, enhancing relationships with existing donors and encouraging multi-year funding; ii) mobilizing resources for the Government by facilitating its access to regional development funds to support joint activities by the Government and WFP; and iii) re-prioritization of government resources, so that the Government can allocate USD 3.5 million to schools.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	31,323	31,323	62,646
Children (5-18 years)	108,202	105,769	213,971
Adults (18 years plus)	75,175	75,175	150,350
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	214,700	212,267	426,967




Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	8,289	729	-	-	-	9,018
Total Food Distributed in 2017	8,289	729	-	-	-	9,018



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Development Project	436,999	-	-
Total Distributed in 2017	436,999	-	-

Supply Chain

The Kyrgyz Republic is a land-locked country. Road travel therefore remains the primary means of transportation and is used for more than 90 percent of all cargo in the country. The Kyrgyz Republic's largest trade partners:

China, Turkey, Iran, Russia and Europe, all use roads for the transportation of consumer goods. As a result, there is no shortage of trucking companies. Rail transportation is the second mode in the Kyrgyz Republic. However, while its cost is low, rail infrastructure is poorly developed with limited connections across the country. Despite these internal challenges, there were no major fluctuations in fuel price during 2017. Additionally, the country's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union in May 2015 has resulted in an easier flow of goods between the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In respect of food storage and distribution, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic provided two warehouses at zero cost to WFP, to contain the fortified flour and vegetable oil that WFP distributes in the Kyrgyz Republic. WFP has been using Government warehouses free of charge for 3 full years (late December 2014 until 31 December 2017). These warehouses are managed by WFP staff and located in two major cities, Bishkek for covering the northern provinces of Talas, Chuy, Issyk-Kul and Naryn, and Osh for covering the southern provinces of Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken. The warehouse complex in Bishkek consists of a main building with a storage capacity of 852 square meters and two Wiikhalls with a combined capacity of 320 square meters. The overall storage capacity of Bishkek warehouse is 1,700 mt. Osh warehouse consists of a main building with the storage capacity of 1,944 square meters and one Wiikhall with a capacity of 320 square meters. The overall capacity Osh warehouse is 3,300 mt. Additionally, under DEV 200662, the Government hired a handling company for the off-loading of food at central warehouses in Bishkek and Osh, and organizing in-country transportation of food commodities from the warehouses to final distribution points. Overall, the Government's contribution for logistics arrangements under DEV 200662 during 2015-2017 was estimated at USD 600,000.

In line with donor requirements, the majority of food commodities were purchased regionally. However in 2017, local food procurement made up 41 percent of the overall tonnage (4,145 mt) of food commodities procured during the year. Local prices were competitive in comparison to regional and international markets, with locally procured food constituting 26 percent of the overall commodity value for 2017. Contributions from the United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF), the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) project, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Government of Japan were used for local food procurement. Following this, food commodities were delivered to the central warehouses, from there they were transported by the Government to the final distribution points, after the project completion was confirmed by management.

For cash modalities, WFP is concentrating the distribution in urban or semi-urban areas, where the market and banking service availability is better. In rural areas, there is poor access to the banking sector and beneficiaries spent a share of the cash transfer on transport to reach the nearest banking facility. The choice of transfer modalities for activities in target areas considers the preferences of women and men, availability and access to banking facilities, market functionality, price of commodities and access to markets.

Prior to launching Cash-Based Transfers (CBT), the Supply Chain unit conducted an assessment of micro credit retailers in all five target towns: Naryn, Talas, Uzgen, Kyzyl-Kiya and Tash-Komur, to ensure that there was capacity for the management of CBT. There was also an assessment of accessibility to markets for people to purchase food. The overall situation, regarding the supply of food commodities such as, wheat flour, vegetable oil and vegetables, was found to be well established and stable.

Although the Kyrgyz Republic is a mountainous country and regions differ in climate and road conditions, the overall logistics of food to all regions are similar. As most road connections between regions go through mountain passes, some minor delays of deliveries might occur due to road closures connected to natural and artificial control of avalanches or cleaning of passes. However, these closures do not create critical delays in the supply of food commodities to remote regions.

Every six months, the Local Transportation, Storage and Handling (LTSH) rate was monitored and analysed for both programmes and all rates were reviewed against the contract rates. Post-delivery losses for 2017 were negligible for out of handled food commodities which were lower than in 2016.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Vegetable Oil	153	224	377
Wheat Flour	1,540	2,228	3,768

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Total	1,693	2,452	4,145
Percentage	40.8%	59.2%	

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

During 2017, a series of evaluations were undertaken that were directly related to WFP activities in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The National Strategic Review of the food security and poverty situation in the Kyrgyz Republic served as the basis for WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2018-2022, and is aligned with WFP's corporate Integrated Road Map (IRM) process. The CSP was approved by the Executive Board at the 2016 Second Regular Session in November. The recommendations in the national strategic review of the food security and nutrition situation provided the direction for the four strategic outcomes identified for WFP's CSP for the Kyrgyz Republic. The CSP, in which WFP continues to advocate for the prioritisation of SDG 2: Zero Hunger, and SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals, was approved on 15 November 2017 .

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022 was signed by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic on 19 May 2017 for the total amount of USD 221 million covering the four major priorities: 1) Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrial, rural and agricultural development, and food security and nutrition; 2) Good Governance, rule of law, human rights and gender equality; 3) Environment, climate change, and disaster risk management; and 4) Social Protection, Health and Education.

The new UNDAF was based on the final evaluation of the previous UNDAF for Kyrgyz Republic 2012-2017. The latter evaluation highlighted the continued need for technical assistance and operational support from the United Nations to improve food security and nutrition in the country. This reaffirmed the importance and appropriateness of the role of WFP and its activities related to achieving food security and nutrition for all.

WFP continues to play an active role in identifying priorities under UNDAF 2018-2022. It also chairs Results Group 1 with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation on UNDAF Outcome 1: By 2022, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is increased through agricultural, industrial and rural development, decent work, improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition. WFP is an active member of Result Group 2 on UNDAF Outcome 2: By 2022, institutions at all levels are more accountable and inclusive ensuring justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable peace for all. Results Group 3 is co-chaired by WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and UNDP on UNDAF Outcome 3: By 2022, communities are more resilient to climate and disaster risks and are engaged in sustainable and inclusive natural resource management and risk-informed development. WFP is an active member of Result Group 4, which is chaired by UNICEF, UNFPA (now United Nations Population Fund, formerly United Nations Fund for Population Activities) and the World Health Organisation, on UNDAF Outcome 4: By 2022, social protection, health and education systems are more effective and inclusive, and provide quality services.

In October 2017, a Synthesis Report of Operation Evaluations (2016–2017) was conducted by WFP's Office of Evaluation from HQ in Rome. Fifteen WFP operational evaluations were analysed from 13 countries conducted between mid-2016 and mid-2017. This included the two 2016 mid-term evaluations for the development programmes implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic (DEV 200662 and DEV 200176). The purpose was to provide global lessons learned for all WFP operations. The report highlighted a number of points related to its activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. These included:

1. WFP activities are implemented together with the Government, including through a solid coordination with ministries and civil society, resulting in multiple actors working together towards common objectives, improving the potential for sustainability. This also includes the strengthening the alignment with national monitoring systems.
2. The development of policy and programmatic instruments, including on food security, nutrition, social protection and mainstreaming WFP tools into the national social protection programmes was recognized as an important achievement. The development of the National Food Security Atlas highlighted aspects of poverty and food access not previously recognized as drivers of food insecurity.
3. Government and other partners praised WFP's role in modelling innovations, by piloting information and communications technology solutions for disaster risk reduction.

4. The range of project outcomes include strengthened livelihood capacity, including expansion of cultivated areas, increased/diversified household incomes and/or reduced indebtedness, improved resilience through environmental/climate protection measures, increased health-seeking behavior, improved social cohesion and social mobilization.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

During 2017, the Scoping Study to support the Theory of Change work initiated in 2016 was completed. The study highlighted how the Optimising School Meals Programme (OSMP) can be re-framed as a social safety net programme, providing a direct transfer to families including those most vulnerable to economic pressures and food insecurity. Activities also contributed to nutrition, hygiene education, sanitation, community engagement, as well as increasing children's engagement in learning. In addition, it emphasised the OSMP contribution to the main goal of ensuring all schoolchildren in the Kyrgyz Republic are healthy, educated and food secure through four impact pathways: institutional development, food security, education, and health and nutrition. The safety net component of the school meals programme runs through each of these pathways. This is consistent with global results indicating school meals programmes as having multiple positive results, including higher retention rates for education and increased overall nutrition for students, in addition to serving as a safety net function incorporated into social protection. This approach has been integrated into the new Country Strategic Plan for WFP 2018-2022.

WFP's OSMP continued to engage with stakeholders both at community and Government levels, through local authorities and central ministries. The activities undertaken included working directly in schools with school management, teachers and cooks; providing technical and monitoring assistance in schools replicating the school meals models alongside local authorities; and policy advice to continue the implementation of the school meals policy and advocate for legislation changes.

The National School Meals Programme (NSMP) is funded by the national budget through the Ministry of Education and Science to cover provision of snacks to all children attending primary school. Despite a high state budget deficit, the Kyrgyz Government annually allocates funds from the national budget to provide school meals to primary schoolchildren (7 and 10 Kyrgyz Soms (USD 0.10 - 0.15) per child per day based on geographical location) in accordance with the Kyrgyz Law On School Feeding in General Education Schools of the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2017 the Government allocated USD 1.8 million for food for pilot schools, an increase of USD 0.8 million from 2016 as a result of more schools utilising optimised school meals models.

During 2017, the OSMP directly implemented hot and nutritious meals in 333 schools. This resulted in 99 percent of pilot schools across the country upgrading school meal models to the provision of hot meals and soup, porridge and fresh baked buns, to almost 114,000 primary schoolchildren. The majority of the pilot schools (90 percent) were located in rural and food-insecure areas of the country. WFP activities in pilot schools involved the introduction of 146 nutritious recipes into school kitchens; the development of the technical designs for the canteen and kitchen areas; and the procurement, delivery and installation of canteen equipment (up to 22 different types per school). Other activities included the provision of wheat flour to schools, technical support to parent/school committees; and awareness raising among all stakeholders of nutrition, hygiene, safety, and sanitation aspects of school meals management. WFP has allocated more than USD 2.2 million to kitchen equipment in the 335 schools (USD 6,582 per school, and approximately USD 24 per child) and provided 60 grams of fortified wheat flour per child per school day.

An addition 102 schools successfully replicated WFP's proposed school meals model using their own financial resources, receiving complementary technical support from WFP. Through the provision of WFP's technical support, 28 schools successfully launched their own gardens with the harvested produce contributing to the sustainability of school meals. In addition, 56 schools have developed learning plots; these small areas of land or garden provided practical experience to schoolchildren in growing and cultivating fruits and vegetables.

At a policy level, WFP continued to be engaged in the implementation of the state policy for school meals, as well as strengthening national capacity towards the effective management of the OSMP implementation strategy. WFP's OSMP contributed to the consultative process for drafting the National School Meals Strategy and reviewed the law on the organization of school meals.

The National School Meals strategy will include the handover plan of all WFP supported schools to relevant state bodies, thereby committing government ownership to the NSMP. The strategy is being drafted based on the national comprehensive assessment conducted by the Social and Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI), WFP's primary cooperating partner in the Kyrgyz Republic. The strategy includes the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system with defined monitoring and reporting responsibilities, and identified additional resources and capacity development needs. WFP also provided technical assistance in drafting an amendment to resolution 842 [1] (28 December 2017) for the Government regarding the creation of cooks' positions in more than 800 schools across the country (pilot and non-pilot schools). The amendment outlined a ratio system allowing up to three cooks positions in one school based on the number of schoolchildren receiving hot school meals. Previously there was no

requirement for the formalization of school cooks positions in the staffing structure for schools as there was no provision of school meals.

WFP continues to focus on being a partner of choice for the Kyrgyz Government and has remained closely engaged with the Ministry of Education and Science, provincial and district authorities, district educational departments, local authorities and communities and parents to create conditions suitable for the introduction of improved meals.

WFP pays significant attention to the capacity strengthening of its implementing partners and regularly trains and coaches them through needs-based consultations, coordination workshops, field visits and monitoring exercises. Partners actively engage with local and district level authorities regarding pilot and technical support schools. They highlight problems, prioritise and advocate for budget support by including these topics in the agenda of local council discussions, the outcomes of which are further integrated into local development plans supported through local and external budgets.

WFP worked with three main complementary partners to implement the Development Project (DEV) 200176. Technical support to WFP was provided by the Social and Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI), an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) which has supported WFP's OSMP from 2013, with its expertise in the field of school meals. SIFI was involved into the development of policy, concept papers and guidelines on modalities of implementation, and worked in collaboration with WFP on comprehensive school meals assessment in the country. A second cooperating partner is the Centre of Activation and Development of Rural Initiatives (CADRI), which worked as a third-party monitoring agency to coach stakeholders, monitor schools, and provide capacity development support for field activities. The third cooperating partner was the Agency for Development Initiatives (ADI); a local NGO which provided support to WFP in capacity development and implementation of school gardens, the institutionalization of cooks training and school gardens, the design of province level plans and advocacy activities. ADI was involved in development of normative and legal documents related to school meals programme in the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, they conducted various assessments and delivered complementary training on agricultural techniques and project management.

As part of the partnership agreement signed with WFP in 2016, the University of Eastern Finland has provided WFP's OSMP with nutritional menu analysis, and a desk research report analysing the impact of school meal programmes; focusing on the Kyrgyz Republic, it was compared with global practices and trends in the country. So far, two reports have been published "Impact and Benefits of School Feeding Programmes: Focus on the Kyrgyz Republic" and "Desk Review for the World Food Programme, Country Office of the Kyrgyz Republic".

WFP coordinated its activities in the field of nutrition, water and sanitation with UN Agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). These agencies, as well as others, attended the WFP facilitated multi-stakeholder Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) exercise in 2017, contributing their expertise towards this exercise.

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and UNICEF, WFP's OSMP and UNICEF's water and sanitation programme collaborated in the development and launch a pilot Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)/Nutrition project in 29 schools in Kemin district. Five 3-day Training-for-Trainer sessions were conducted in May 2017 for school staff, including Deputy School Principals, Primary School teachers, biology teachers, social workers, as well as representatives of local Village Health Committees, Sanitary and Epidemic Surveillance Services local medical workers, WFP and Mercy Corps.

[1] Measures for improving school meals management for Primary school children Grades 1-4

Results

WFP's Optimising School Meals Programme (OSMP) has two main outcomes: first, ownership and nutrition sensitive school meals to increase access to education at regional, national, and community levels, and second, increased equitable access to and utilization of education.

The national capacity index (NCI) for school meals was established by WFP in 2014 in order to measure the first outcome. The NCI exercise was conducted in 2015 and again in 2017 through a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) validation workshop, comprising of multiple working groups that convened a wide range of OSMP stakeholders including government representatives, teachers, OSMP implementing partners and WFP. In 2017, the increased score of 3 (from 1.6 in 2013 and 2.8 in 2015; out of 4) reflected strong improvement in government capacity, indicating increased institutionalization of basic core capability characteristics which include the adoption of the 2014 National School Meals Policy and the subsequent ongoing work in the National Implementation Strategy. The SABER exercise provided

WFP and the Government with evidence for the progress made and next steps to strengthen national capacities in effective national school meals management. The exercise engaged key government and non-government stakeholders in order to review policy gaps against the five SABER [1] standards, identify key gaps, which should be addressed in national school meals strategy. The Social and Industrial Food Services Institute (SIFI) presented findings of their comprehensive country assessment and key priorities for National School Meals Implementation strategy. A comprehensive legal review followed SABER exercise and preliminary consultations with the Government and the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic. The results of the SABER exercise were used by WFP to formulate its Capacity Development Strategy (2018-2022), which will be operationalized during the WFP Country Strategic Plan for Kyrgyz Republic for (2018-2022).

Attendance and enrolment levels in schools are the main indicators of measurement of the second outcome and are based on equitable access to and utilization of education. The baseline mark for attendance was 98.5 percent in 2014. The baseline mark for enrolment was 3.3 percent (out of 6) in 2014. Following the provision of WFP support to the implementation of the optimised school meals enrolment and attendance were stable compared to previous years, with a continuing positive enrolment rate and high attendance by the end of the 2016/2017 school year, which constituted 97.24 percent of attendance rate and 4.8 percent of enrolment rate.

Through the dedicated work and the active involvement of community stakeholders, including teachers and parents, WFP's Optimising School Meals Programme contributed to changing community norms that considered schooling as exclusively the responsibility of the Government. The participation of parents and teachers in the process of identifying priorities in schooling and participation in school meals implementation, positively strengthened the sense of ownership of the community and increased the level of voluntary contributions. Additionally, there were larger than planned numbers of local government officials, district Department of Education staff, staff from the local Sanitary Epidemiological department, and implementing/cooperating partners trained in water and sanitation and overall schools meals management. This was due to the high interest in the OSMP and the need for additional expertise at local/district levels.

There has been a significant improvement in the calorific value of the hot meal in WFP supported schools. This has resulted in the improvement in schoolchildren's overall well-being, physical development and attentiveness. Prior to the start of the OSMP, primary schoolchildren received a snack of 335 kcal with little nutritional value in terms of diversity and micronutrients. In 2017, the average calorific value of the improved school meal had increased to approximately 636 kcal. This was achieved thanks to the inclusion of more diversified foods including cereals and pulses, meat, dairy, vegetables and fruit. The menu list, containing 146 recipes and developed with the technical support of WFP in 2016, increased the number of food groups consumed by schoolchildren from 3 to 9 a week, significantly increasing the micronutrient intake of schoolchildren. The meals available in pilot schools now achieve 139 percent and 95 percent of the Ministry of Health recommendations for iron and protein, respectively. In 2017, hot meals were served in 99 percent of pilot schools, compared to 27 percent before the project started. This was the result of the improved infrastructure, the improved hygiene and sanitary conditions, and school staff receiving training on the adherence to strict national sanitary and hygiene requirements.

One of the biggest results for WFP's OSMP was, as specified in the joint programme agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Health in 2016, the handing over of the food component for the first four rounds of pilot schools (260 schools throughout the country). These schools now receive funding for food from other sources including the national budget and parental contributions. This handover was completed on 01 September 2017, when WFP stopped food transfers to the 260 pilot schools and focused solely on the monitoring component. The monitoring component is planned to be handed over to the Ministry of Education and Science in 2018. This demonstrated that WFP and the Government have successfully started the process to ensure the sustainability of the optimized school meals models and the Ministry of Education and Sciences can have full ownership of the optimized school meals implementation in the near future.

At the start of the OSMP, WFP primarily assisted rural schools in remote areas of the country, however during 2017 they were expanded to urban schools. Working with Urban schools requires a different approach due to the different issues such as drinking water and sanitation, size of the schools, the double and triple shift system in place in some schools, and the different budget structure. In October 2017, WFP signed a letter of agreement with the Bishkek City Administration on the optimization of school meals which is a road-map for optimising school meals in city schools.

[1] 5 SABER standards:

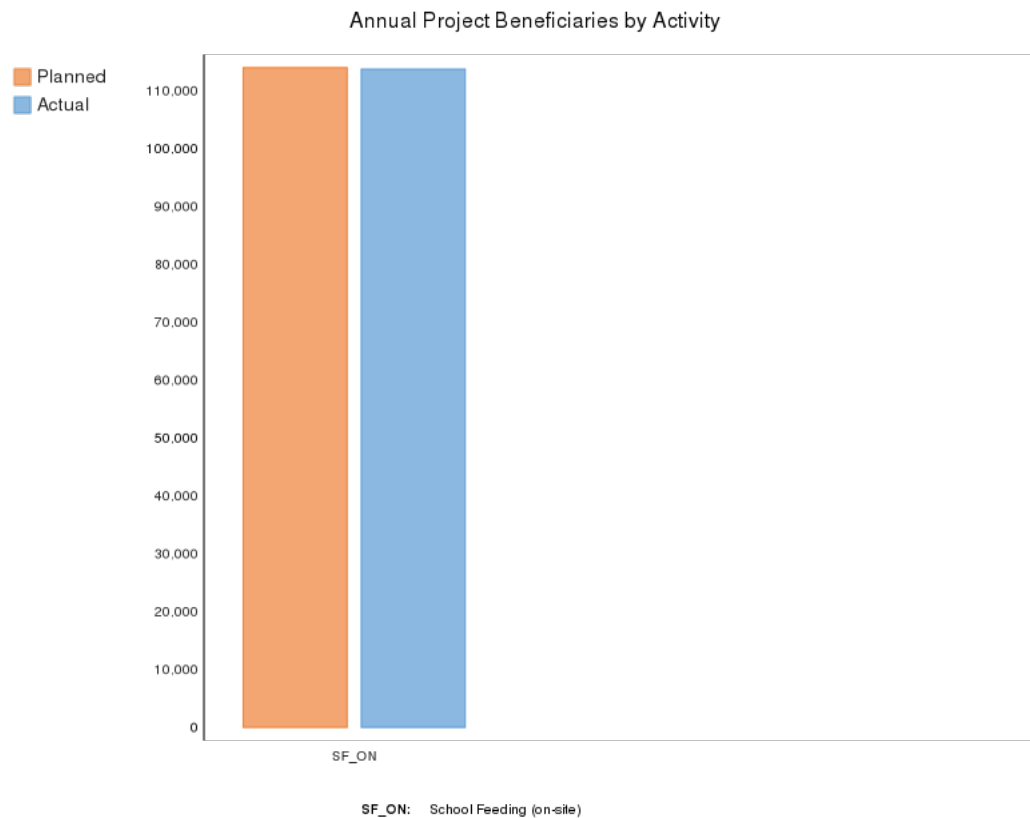
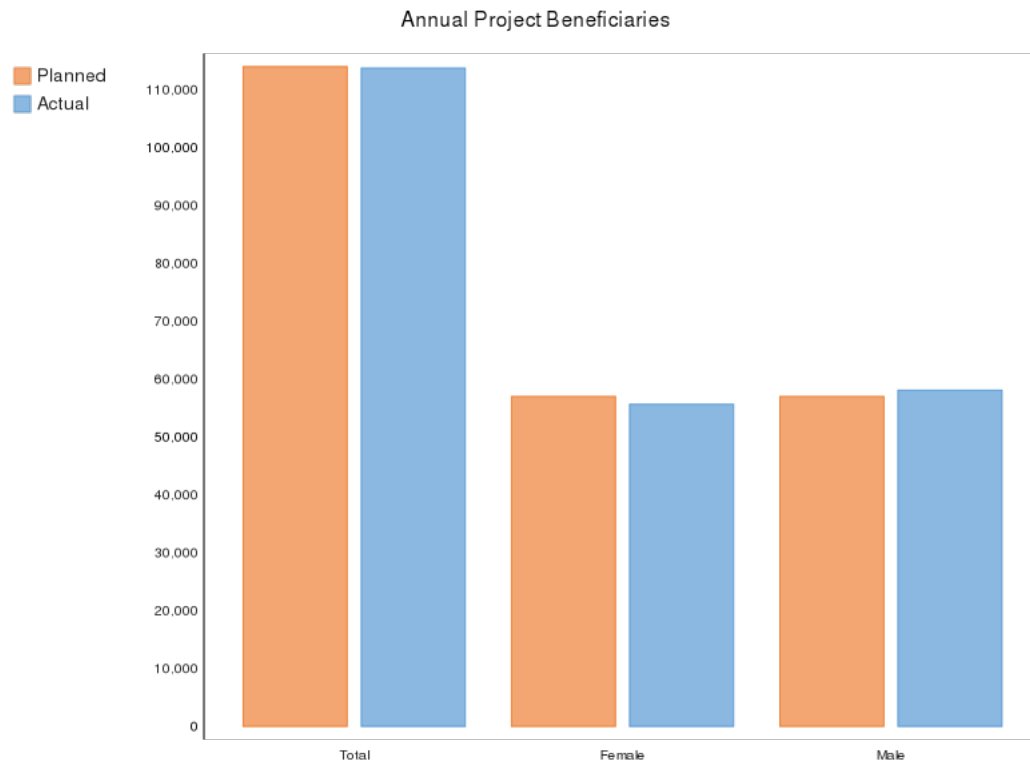
Policy frameworks (overarching policies for school feeding in alignment with national-level policy)

Financial capacity (governance of the national school feeding program through stable funding and budgeting)

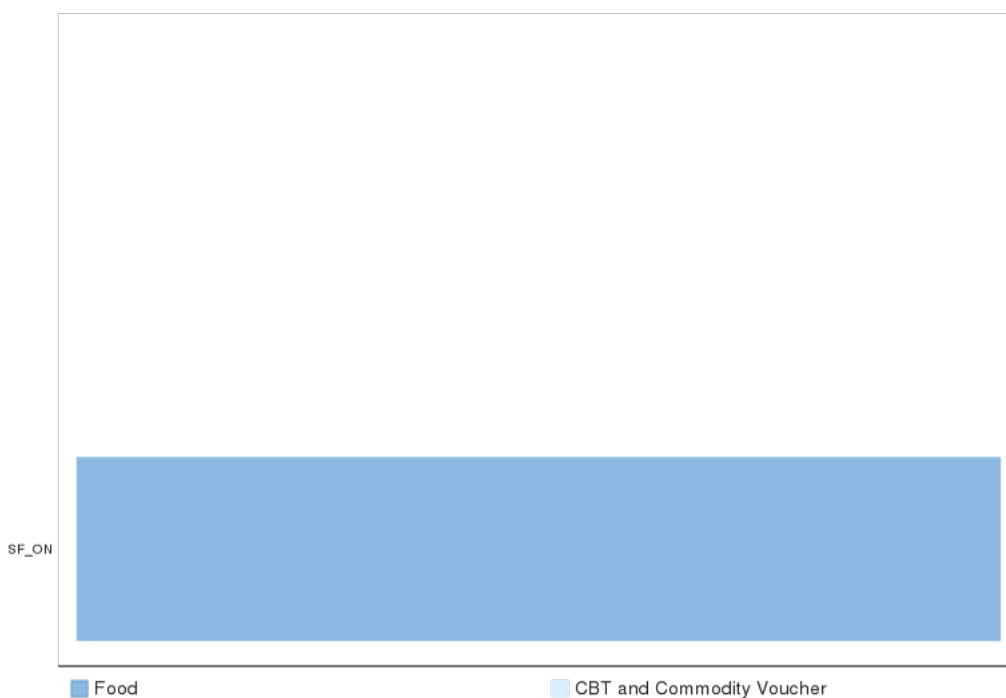
Institutional capacity and coordination (school feeding intersectoral coordination and strong partnership; management and accountability structures, strong institutional frameworks, and monitoring and evaluation)

Design and implementation – quality assurance of programming, targeting, modalities, and a needs-based and cost-effective procurement design

Community roles (strong community participation, accountability and ownership)



Modality of Transfer by Activity



SF_ON: School Feeding (on-site)



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Wheat Flour	766	548	71.6%
Total	766	548	71.6%

Performance Monitoring

The monitoring and evaluation system for the Optimising School Meals Programme (OSMP) is well established with a comprehensive monitoring system in place. Field data collection in 2017 was undertaken through the mobile data collection system: Geo-referenced Real-time Acquisition of Statistics Platform (GRASP). Concurrently, WFP has started testing the new enhanced Mobile Data Collection and Analysis (MDCA) tool to better harmonize monitoring data and enhance the efficiency of data management.

WFP ensures robust activity monitoring through regular visits to schools by WFP, the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, and outsourced monitors. Around 3,000 visits were conducted by WFP during the 2016-2017 academic year for monitoring school meals quality, safety and efficiency and counselling/coaching purposes which constituted approximately nine visits on average per school a year. As WFP readies itself to handover the monitoring component of the first to fourth round pilot schools to the Government, there is a need for further improvement of the central level ministerial monitoring and evaluation systems, in both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. This includes improving processes for collecting data and the assignment of monitoring tasks to key staff. Additionally training on sanitary norms, school meals management and administration, and development of school meals menu according to approved Ministry of Health standards was carried out with key school staff and local authority representatives.

In 2017, as the pilot schools become more self-sufficient in managing the schools meals processes, a monitoring system was adopted to ensure that new pilot schools were visited more frequently, while the schools from previous rounds were monitored to a lesser extent. WFP and its partner, the Centre of Activation and Development of Rural Initiatives (CADRI), visited each pilot school on average once a month. The 11 field monitors, of which four are women, collected data against a comprehensive checklist. This ensured all aspects of the school meals implementation were monitored for food quality and compliance to menu, to school meals provision, fridge practices, equipment safety and maintenance, and sanitation. If issues arise during visits, field monitors report back immediately and actions to address the concerns are taken. For example when the field monitors reported that there were a number of queries related to parental contribution to school meals, awareness raising meetings were held with local school representatives to explain the process directly to the parents involved.

WFP and partners have invested considerable efforts in working with community stakeholders to increase their participation in school decision-making processes. Some interviewed stakeholders noted that the programme had changed community norms from considering schooling to be solely as the responsibility of Government to one where parents within pilot schools take ownership and make voluntary contributions. This was reflected Evidence for this can be seen in the increases in community cash contributions over the lifespan of the project. In 2017, approximately USD 9.1 million has been allocated from the government in total and parents contributed around USD 900,000 to support school meals.

In June 2017, 60 randomly selected WFP-assisted schools were assessed randomly during post distribution monitoring, analyzing the level of awareness among the beneficiaries of assistance provided by WFP, level of satisfaction with the school meals, roles and responsibilities in the organization process, implemented plans, challenges, changes, future plans. The total number of survey participants was 798: 300 parents, 300 children, 60 directors, 60 cooks, 22 rayon administration and 56 representatives of District Education Department, sanitary epidemiological service, local authorities. Similar to calculation in previous years, 98 percent was derived after counting how many respondents provided correct answers to three questions in the survey. Of this sample group, 94.3 percent of the beneficiaries were able to tell that the schools receive both equipment and wheat flour from WFP, with 97.5 percent of the responses providing a correct referral system in case if there are complaints. More than 99 percent of respondents evaluated the programme as excellent or very good, level of satisfaction with WFP equipment and wheat flour ("very good" and "good") were recorded in 99 percent of cases.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

The Kyrgyz Republic has a strong educational history, with an almost 100 percent literacy rate across both genders and a high coverage of primary and secondary education. There is generally a gender balance in school attendance, though disaggregated statistics reveal girls to be more likely to attend school in the large cities, while boys are more likely to be in school in rural areas. School attendance in ages 5 to 14 is 86.5 percent, whereas children combining work and school, in ages 7 to 14, is 41 percent [1]. Attendance rates are lower in urban areas across all levels of education and lowest in upper secondary (85 percent). Completion of primary school is reported at 95.3 percent for boys and 99.4 percent for girls [2], and can be attributed to the Kyrgyz Republic's strong cultural emphasis on education.

Throughout the duration of the four year project cycle, output data for school populations indicated almost equal representation of boys and girls. According to data gathered during implementation of Optimising School Meals Programme (OSMP) in 2017, girls enrolment is marginally ahead of boys (6.0 percent for girls, out of 6 and 4.5 percent for boys). For attendance, this equates to 97.72 percent for girls and 96.8 percent for boys.

Gender equality continued to be promoted through community participation mechanisms. To foster a sense of ownership and to empower both parents and teachers, WFP worked through parent teacher associations (PTAs) that functioned as project management committees. The majority of PTA members were female (73 percent), of which many of whom held leadership positions; only 27 percent of members were male. PTAs supported the oversight of spending, contributed to planning discussions and mobilised communities to include school infrastructure into local development plan to get local funding. It is anticipated that inclusion of parents and teachers will contribute to a more effective procurement process and ensure the sustainability of high quality, affordable school meals for primary school children. In turn, this will strengthen women in the enhancement of school meals, empowering them to play a greater role in the wider management of schools. Through the promotion of women in OSMP, WFP's positioning of women to demonstrate the positive results of a more gender equitable education system, especially in a society where women struggle to be publicly represented and where female representation at parliament level is decreasing.

School directors, 173 out of 335 of whom are female, endorsed activities, mobilised the community and contributed to policy discussions. Despite this, local authority representation is visibly more male dominated, though gender

composition of all local authorities is not officially recorded. Out of the three cooperating partners involved in implementation of the OSMP, two are led by women.

In 2017, WFP made great progress and achieved remarkable results in promoting gender equality in both programmatic and organizational areas taking into account all 39 benchmarks from WFP corporate Gender Transformation Programme. WFP achieved 87 percent of its benchmarks and partially met 13 percent; comparatively, the baseline result in 2016 was 41 percent. This was the result of gender activities and subsequent analysis which were included into Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2022, resource mobilization, partnership, capacity building, communication and monitoring and evaluation strategies.

[1] Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistic from National Child Labor Survey, 2014

[2] UNICEF (2014) Situational analysis of children in the Kyrgyz Republic

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In 2017 there were no reported safety incidents at any of the schools involved in WFP's activities. This was confirmed through WFP's continued use of the protection and accountability hotline mechanism, introduced in 2016. The beneficiary hotline allows WFP to obtain feedback on project implementation in a real-time and obtain feedback from beneficiaries in any project site at any time. The system's design is based on an automated message recording system, set up by an external call-centre so that a caller can leave a message, which is recorded and automatically transmitted to WFP. Recorded calls are reviewed by an independent committee consisting of staff from different units within WFP on a regular basis. In 2017, four calls required follow-up regarding queries on food allocations which were all dealt with directly by WFP. This highlighted the need for WFP project implementation to be continuously communicated to communities and households so that there is an understanding of WFP's contributions help. The hotline serves as an additional control mechanism to ensure projects are implemented according to requirements and allow beneficiaries to share ideas on project implementation.

Hotline leaflets were posted in all project sites, including schools in local languages with the hotline number and user instructions clearly outlined. Business cards with the hotline number are distributed randomly among parents during monitoring visits. The hotline was also made available to school children, though among the calls that were followed up on, four in total, no children left messages.

A newsletter and magazine focusing on the activities and achievements of the school meals project were distributed on a quarterly basis to all schools, Parent Teacher Associations, district and provincial authorities, and relevant ministries.

WFP, in adherence with its Data Protection Guidelines, and aligned with WFP's Corporate Information Security Policy, considers all beneficiary personal data as sensitive and strictly confidential. The nature of WFP's work means that information, including beneficiary names, contacts, ID, income, consumption and asset data are under its remit of responsibility, and shared with cooperating partners, and service providers. Subsequently, mitigation measures for data protection are continuously implemented. These include ensuring all interviews are conducted only after the beneficiary provides their informed consent and is informed about the use of collected data and its confidentiality. WFP also ensures that appropriate physical, organizational and technological security measures are in place to protect personal data against accidental loss and/or damage, unauthorized access, disclosure, modification and destruction.

The Roots of Nutritious School Meals in Kyrgyzstan

A School Garden Brings Fresh Produce to the Saidakhmatov School

A dream of transforming her school into the best educational institution that provides all the conditions for high-quality education, has turned into reality for Rano Rakhimova, Principle of the Saidakhmatov School, located in the Kyrgyz Republic's multi-ethnic district of Aravan.

Two years ago, Rano Rakhimova advocated for her school to join the WFP's Optimizing Primary School Meals Programme and, particularly, its school garden development component. Since then, they have constructed a 300 square meter greenhouse, which supplies the school with a great variety of vegetables, including cucumbers, cabbage, garlic, hot pepper, and others.

The first successes inspired the expansion of the Saidakhmatov school's garden to include an apple and persimmon orchard, a rice field and a vegetable farm, which now fully covers the school's needs in fresh produce while enabling the school to sell the surplus in the local market.

Thanks to this effort, the Saidakhmatov school can provide its primary school students with diverse nutritious meals every school day! While the children enjoy their daily *mastava*, a rich nutritious soup made of rice, meat, vegetables and greeneries, or *dymdama*, a traditional vegetable ragout, the parents and teachers count the multiple educational benefits such as the better performance of the children in their classes.

“Every success begins with a goal, a well-elaborated business plan and some financial support,” remarked Rano Rakhimova. “WFP supported us with agricultural consultations and coaching, construction materials for the greenhouse as well as with high-quality seeds and training in effective agricultural techniques.”

“Though we initially expected our school garden to support our school meals, it gradually developed into a powerful tool in expanding the resource base for school needs and even improving our educational facilities!” remarked Rano Rakhimova.

Over the last two years, the Saidakhmatov School has used the proceeds from selling the school garden produce to construct a new gym, purchase class furniture and textbooks. Also, biology teachers use the school garden to conduct practical sessions on soil biochemistry and agrotechnology for high-school students.

“While WFP helped us focus on improving the quality of school meals and ensure its sustainability after the project is over, we also learned about business planning and we mastered our skills in decision-making. The Optimizing School Meals Programme has opened a completely new world for us,” concluded Rano Rakhimova.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Elizabeth Zalkind.

School children eating freshly cooked hot meals in Kudaiberdiev school of Issyk-Kul region.

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	57,000	57,000	114,000	58,087	55,652	113,739	101.9%	97.6%	99.8%
By Age-group:									
Children (5-18 years)	57,000	57,000	114,000	58,087	55,652	113,739	101.9%	97.6%	99.8%
By Residence status:									
Residents	57,000	57,000	114,000	58,087	55,652	113,739	101.9%	97.6%	99.8%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)	114,000	-	114,000	113,739	-	113,739	99.8%	-	99.8%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)	114,000	-	114,000	113,739	-	113,739	99.8%	-	99.8%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	57,000	57,000	114,000	58,087	55,652	113,739	101.9%	97.6%	99.8%
Total participants	57,000	57,000	114,000	58,087	55,652	113,739	101.9%	97.6%	99.8%
Total beneficiaries	57,000	57,000	114,000	58,087	55,652	113,739	101.9%	97.6%	99.8%

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2017.12, school records, Base value: 2014.12, Secondary data, school records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, school records, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, school records</i>	=6.00	3.30	4.50	4.80
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2017.12, School records, Base value: 2014.12, Secondary data, school records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, school records, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, school records</i>	=6.00	3.70	5.30	6.00
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2017.12, School records, Base value: 2014.12, Secondary data, school record, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, school records, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, school records</i>	=6.00	3.20	4.00	4.50

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2017.12, school records, Base value: 2012.12, Secondary data, school records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, school records, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, school records</i>	=100.00	98.50	98.18	97.24
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2017.12, school records, Base value: 2012.12, Secondary data, school records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, school records, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, school records</i>	=100.00	98.50	98.41	97.72
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2017.12, school records, Base value: 2012.12, Secondary data, school records, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, Secondary data, school records, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, school records</i>	=100.00	98.50	97.94	96.80
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, Project End Target: 2016.12, SABER exercise, Base value: 2013.07, WFP survey, SABER exercise, Previous Follow-up: 2015.07, WFP survey, SABER exercise, Latest Follow-up: 2017.07, WFP survey, SABER exercise</i>	=2.60	1.60	2.80	3.00

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO4: Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities				
Number of stakeholders who have undergone training that have submitted at least 70% of the correct answers in the final test of the training	individual	75	64	85.3%
SO4: Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities and School Feeding (on-site)				
Actual Kcal value per meal per day per type of school meals programme model against the planned Kcal value	unit	535	656	122.6%
Number of WFP-assisted schools that have school gardens for learning or complementary food input	school	28	28	100.0%
Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	150	1,446	964.0%
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (nutrition, school feeding, safety net)	national programme	1	1	100.0%
Number of pilot schools with hot meals	school	363	333	91.7%
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	24	21	87.5%
Procurement efficiency rate	%	95	103	108.4%
SO4: School Feeding (on-site)				
Number of pilot schools baking bread and pastry products at school level	school	100	100	100.0%
Number of pilot schools that upgraded their feeding models	school	100	99	99.0%
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	370	335	90.5%

Gender Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2017.06</i>	>60.00	70.00	68.00	60.00
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2017.06</i>	>60.00	70.00	68.00	60.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2017.06</i>	=90.00	93.00	97.60	98.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2017.06</i>	=90.00	94.00	98.30	98.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Base value: 2014.12, Previous Follow-up: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2017.06</i>	=90.00	93.00	98.10	98.00

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=737,000.00	2,808,436.00
In-kind and cash inputs provided by local authorities, parents, communities into school meals on top of the government allocation (US\$ per child per day)		
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=0.04	0.07
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=3.00	5.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=100.00	100.00
Share of inputs provided for infrastructure rehabilitation (including canteen, water and sanitation) by local authorities, communities and parents out of total value of costs for infrastructure		
<i>KYRGYZSTAN, School Feeding, Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12</i>	=30.00	100.00