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# WFP Newsletter

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## 2016: WFP updates its strategic directions

The importance of the coming year for WFP was highlighted at the Global Management Meeting in Rome in December 2015. The focus for WFP's leadership and stakeholders in 2016 will be to create a new strategic plan anchored on *Sustainable Development Goal 2 the global goal of Zero Hunger*, while also recognizing the interdependent nature of the SDGs. Executive Director Ertharin Cousin has urged WFP to ensure it remains well equipped to serve the world's most vulnerable people in a fast-evolving humanitarian and development setting. She noted that the job of leaders and managers is to shape WFP into an organization that is valued for all the work it does, including building capacity for governments, facilitating cash-assistance programmes, and joining efforts to help smallholder farmers to establish secure food systems. Assistant Executive Director Ramiro Lopes da Silva highlighted the importance of the coming year for WFP. "The November



Board in 2016 will be very important as it will be the one to design the future legacy of WFP and to frame the way we contribute to a world without hunger," he said.

2016 will also to be a historic year due to a number of key events that provide an opportunity to "form a nexus or crossroads between the humanitarian and development world, and the political world of governments and donors" stated Deputy Executive Director Amir Abdulla who called on WFP to grasp this opportunity to improve: "there is no middle ground for us" he said "we must step up".

Work is already in progress to update corporate and financial processes and align them better with the changes in WFP. This includes the testing and rolling out of a new country strategic planning approach which is designed to support local government partners and ensure better alignment with local national priorities.

## Supermodel turned WFP Japan ambassador visits projects in the Kyrgyz Republic

Kurara Chibana is a name synonymous with fashion, catwalks and Miss Universe but this supermodel has been a National Ambassador against Hunger for WFP Japan since 2013. For a week in November 2015 she visited the Kyrgyz Republic on a mission to raise awareness of WFP activities for the Japanese people. She travelled across the country visiting a WFP school meals programme in Nekrasov, Karakol, which is one of 261 pilot schools in the Kyrgyz Republic where WFP has helped to introduce cost-efficient and sustainable school meals models. She also visited the sites of the multi-agency Empowering Rural Women Farmers through Training and Technical Support in Boz-Uchuk, and visited WFP Japanese funded women's empowerment projects in Talas, which included sewing courses



for vulnerable rural women, and vegetable gardening and food processing in Amanbaeva Village, Talas. After returning to Japan she conducted interviews with the Japanese media, wrote articles for international magazines and gave guest lectures at universities about her experiences in the Kyrgyz Republic.

## Ministry of Labour and Social Development showcases WFP's productive safety net project

At the annual meeting to discuss the 2015 results of WFP's productive safety nets project (PSNP) the Minister of Labour and Social Development (MLSD) extended his thanks to donors of the programme by formally presenting the ambassadors of Russia and Japan with a thank you letter. Representatives from sub-district levels presented their projects and the group also reviewed budgets, processes and lessons learned. The meeting further underlined the important role played by the MLSD in poverty reduction in the Kyrgyz Republic, with the MLSD committing to utilizing WFP's implementation model for national level exercises through an expansion of the current programme. Earlier in December 2015, ten ministries and agencies endorsed and signed a temporary regulation to launch a pilot in two districts with more than 20,000 poor and vulnerable people. The PSNP approach will be piloted during 2016, and in 2017 a final evaluation and recommendations on handover will be prepared.

Ambassador Andrey Krutko of Russia and Ambassador Takayuki Koike of Japan



## WFP embraces role in new multi-agency cross border peacebuilding project

In December 2015, a multi-UN agency cross border peacebuilding project was signed after the endorsement of the Kyrgyz and Tajik governments. The project has been funded through the UN Peace Building Fund (PBF). The project is the first PBF intervention to be implemented in two countries with cross border tensions. It aims to increase cooperation and trust between communities in pilot Kyrgyz-Tajik village clusters where there are risks of cross-border tensions and violence. A Korean-funded UN Volunteer is working in the WFP Osh office to exclusively manage this exciting and innovative project.

## JICA and WFP "sow" new partnership for income generating activities



Together with JICA, WFP has commenced a new set of activities for women members of jamaats in Jalalabad and Talas provinces. This will involve training in vegetable seed production in order to provide beneficiaries with opportunities for a sustainable income. In 2015, WFP conducted a small scale survey to determine the level of knowledge of training participants and JICA, using these results, has prepared specifically adapted training materials. In February 2016, 15 women from two provinces will be attending three days of training delivered by an experienced JICA recruited seed specialist.



## WFP signs broad ranging MoU with Ministry of Emergency Situations

WFP has continued to strengthen its institutional working relationship with the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES). An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed to formally cement this long term, mutually beneficial partnership. The MoU sets out the terms for the joint implementation of disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities. The main area of cooperation centres on the successful implementation of an Information Analysis and Management System (IAMS) within the Crisis Management Center of the MES, that provides information on emergency and crisis situations. The system will ensure the tracking of emergency response and relief -related activities such as monitoring and warning the public of hazardous events and managing search and rescue operations. Other activities undertaken cooperatively include integrating Sendai Framework priorities into field level interventions under the National Strategy for Comprehensive Safety of Population and Territories 2020; as well as disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation activities in ayil okmotus where WFP is present. Further WFP interventions will also be included in the Ministry's forthcoming work plan.



## Monthly price bulletins continue to aid Government food security decision-making

The Monthly Price Monitoring Bulletin is now being issued jointly with the Government and FAO through an inter-agency working group (IWG) which will lead to the eventual phase out of WFP's monthly monitoring bulletin by the end of 2016. WFP continues to provide technical support to this effort which is now producing a key tool for national food security decision makers.

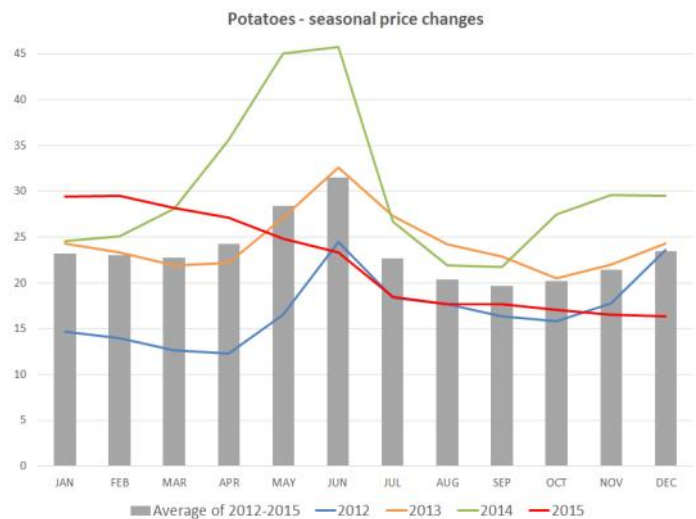


The bulletin presents highlights of the month with analysis and commentary on the prices of wheat flour, rice, meat (beef and mutton), milk, eggs, vegetables (carrot, potato and cabbage), fruit (apple), sugar and vegetable oil. The bulletin also addresses agri-climatic factors such as the impact of the current EL Nino event as well as seasonality. Economic factors are also addressed, such as remittances, the fluctuation of currencies and fuel prices.

### Potato prices show unseasonal trends

Potatoes are one of the important items in the average Kyrgyz diet, providing around 7 percent of total energy intake for each household in the Kyrgyz Republic. Market prices of potatoes present marked seasonal changes, with prices being lower during summer and autumn and higher in winter and spring.

Historical data shows that prices start to increase in October and November in normal years (see 'Average of 2005-2015' in the chart). In 2015, however, the price decreased by 4% during the same period. This is likely due to a higher supply from the 2015 harvest. Domestic production of potatoes reached 1.4 million tons, the highest level in the last decade.



### WFP steps up engagement in national disaster risk reduction initiatives

WFP and the Kyrgyz Government have stepped up their collaboration in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities to prevent future losses and contribute to sustainable development.

WFP is continuing to provide technical support to the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the area of disaster risk reduction, including in the key areas of stakeholder mapping, implementing and coordinating projects in DRR, and supporting preparations for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030.

In addition, WFP is working with a range of partners, such as UNDP, GIZ, OSCE, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to support field level disaster risk mitigation activities.

DRR efforts are also being further supported by the design and implementation of an Information Analysis and Management System, jointly undertaken by WFP and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, which will assist in the regular updating of key information on disasters, and enhance the use of resources for disaster

*WFP is the partner of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*



Национальная платформа  
Кыргызской Республики  
по снижению рисков бедствий  
*Во благо Кыргызстана!*

preparedness and response. The system will be available through both a web and mobile application to facilitate real-time management of government operations, including data collection, analysis of incidents, reporting, mapping, communication, coordination of activities and mobilization of resources.

## Move over Masterchef! WFP celebrates the talents of the school meals chefs with a cooking contest

Gulnara Alimova from the Kudriashov School in Chui Province is all smiles as her group receives the winner's prize at the School Chef Competition organised by WFP and the Ministry of Education and Science. She along with 20 other school chefs, who were rated the best in the daily preparation of school meals in their districts across the Kyrgyz Republic, attended the culinary masterclass led by the famous Kyrgyz restaurateur and food expert Daniyayr Derkembraev to enhance their cooking techniques.

During a day-long masterclass the school chefs practiced cooking vegetable pureed soups, fruit salads, cottage cheese pudding, apple pudding, pumpkin muffins, chicken fricassee and other meals – all using affordable local produce. They then put their preparation, cooking, creativity, technical ability and presentation skills to the test for the WFP School Chef Competition.

Daniyayr Derkembraev has thrown his weight behind the WFP School Chef competition aimed at encouraging the cooks in the WFP-supported pilot schools to pursue their commitment to school cooking. "Schools need well-trained and committed chefs and I'm proud to be

involved in initiatives that encourage school cooks to extend their learning beyond the school canteens and enhance their culinary skills," remarked Daniyayr Derkembraev.

The competitors who split into groups of three were challenged to produce delicious and balanced three-course meals from mystery bags of healthy and seasonal ingredients in 90 minutes to be served to primary schoolchildren.



The meals were then taste-tested by a group of school students as well as a panel of judges including Daniyayr Derkembraev, the Head of the Kyrgyz Chef Association Shavkat Sharipov, trainers from the Bishkek culinary lyceum and representatives from WFP.

Despite a great variety of meals presented for their tasting, the experts unanimously voted for Gulnara Alimova and her group's meal of vegetarian borsch (vegetable soup), apple and carrot salad, milk-based rice and tangerine porridge, and barberry and black currant compote, citing its nutritious composition, cooking techniques, taste and presentation.



### About WFP

The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Established in 1961, WFP pursues a vision of a world in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life.

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

### WFP is 100% funded through voluntary donations

Should you require further information on WFP projects in the Kyrgyz Republic, please contact:

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