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WFP Newsletter

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WFP finalises the Country Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2022

Through the new Country Strategic Plan WFP positions itself as a **partner of choice for the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic** by focusing on complementing and enhancing the Government's food security and nutrition programmes. **WFP aims to support over 631,000 beneficiaries until 2022, at a total cost of USD 59.3 million.**

Having received government endorsement, **WFP will continue to maintain a strong and wide field presence** in the Kyrgyz Republic and provide support to the most poor and food insecure members of the population.

In partnership with relevant ministries, WFP will focus on the access of primary school children to school meals, support to poor rural smallholders, particularly women, improving communities' resilience to climate change, and strengthening government institutions to ensure sustainability of food security interventions. This will be supported by a **comprehensive monitoring and**

evaluation system.

The details outlined in the Country Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2022, are now available on the WFP Executive Board website <http://executiveboard.wfp.org/country-strategic-plans> and member states are requested to provide any feedback comments and suggestions to the WFP Executive Board Secretariat via their permanent representatives at WFP headquarters.

WFP has ensured, through extensive consultations, that the Country Strategic Plan will be in line with the national development priorities, Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 2 "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture" and SDG 17 "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development"), the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the global WFP Strategic Plan (2017-2021).

Message from new WFP Country Director Andrea Bagnoli



Andrea Bagnoli with WFP Head of Sub-office Shukhratmirzo Khodzhaev and Head of Tepe-Korgon Ayil Okmotu Hamrakul Janykulov

I am very pleased to be here in the Kyrgyz Republic leading the World Food Programme. I commit to dedicating all my efforts to serve the neediest people in the country, together with the Kyrgyz

Government and our partners, with support from our generous donors, to ensure food security and nutrition for all. WFP's expertise and widespread presence on the ground enables us to reach the most vulnerable people in harsh and remote areas. We seek to provide efficient, appropriate and effective assistance that empowers people to improve their livelihoods, and contribute to sustainable economic development of the country. The Kyrgyz Republic has made great steps over the last 26 years and I am looking forward to supporting the Kyrgyz Government with their initiatives to help those in the population who still face problems with food security and nutrition.

Russian Federation, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, WFP and partners undertake a SABER exercise for the National School Meals Programme.

On August 17 to 18, the Ministry of Education, other government ministries together with WFP and the Russian Federation, SIFI and other partners undertook a **Systems Assessment and Benchmarking for Education Results** (SABER) exercise to determine the progress of the national school meals programme. SABER, a large exercise launched by the World Bank's Education Global Practice, requires the establishment of robust policies and institutions to help countries achieve education results and learning. Together, the key stakeholders involved in school meals across the Kyrgyz Republic came together to determine progress since the last exercise in 2015.

They reviewed the five policy areas determined by SABER based on: (1) a national policy framework, (2) sufficient institutional capacity for implementation and coordination, (3) stable funding, (4) sound design and implementation and (5) community participation. Each policy area is supported by key indicators, which the assessors review to determine overall progress.

The main result of the workshop showed that there is a strong Government ownership and commitment to the national school meals programme and a real momentum to keep improving to give the children of



the Kyrgyz Republic the best possible start. The indicators showed a significant increase in finance and budget as well as community roles, and all other indicators increased slightly or stayed the same as in 2015.

The group discussions and the recommendations made, helped identify where the national school meals programme requires improvement and how WFP, as a partner of choice, can continue to support the Government. The support from the Russian Federation has without a doubt ensured the continued success of the national school meals programme.

WFP Kyrgyz Republic introduces Cash based Transfers



In June 2017, the Country Office completed a comprehensive cash based feasibility assessment to

determine the capacity of the financial sector in the Kyrgyz Republic to support WFP's cash based transfer modalities in lieu of food transfers. With positive results from the assessment, WFP was able to design a system of cash based transfers that would suit operational and beneficiary needs, launch a tender and award a contract to a suitable vendor.

The first cash disbursements started in July 2017 and reached 921 direct beneficiaries in August 2017 with a total value of more than 5.2 million KGS.

Cash-based transfers for delivering food assistance will be carried out under the Productive Safety Nets project for asset creation and capacity building activities until November 2017. Food transfers will also be carried out as part of the project activities.

Japanese Private Sector companies confirm support for the School Meals programme

WFP in the Kyrgyz Republic received USD 270,000 from the Japan Association for WFP for the Optimizing Primary School Meals Programme. The selection of schools and planning of the activities under this grant is currently in process and will focus on the rehabilitation of the infrastructure and the setting up of hot nutritious school meals in 30 schools in 3 provinces.

The Japan Association for WFP is a Japan-based, non-profit organization that supports the World Food Programme by uniting organizations and individuals in Japan. This council was established in July 2005 aiming to bring the wisdom of the private sector together to help solve world hunger and to make active contributions worldwide.



The Embassy of Korea shows support to Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP joint projects

On June 13 to 14, 2017, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Jung Byiong-hoo and KOICA Country Director Ms. Sun Jin Park visited five project sites in Suzak district and Tashkomur town in Jalal-Abad province. The projects sites were related to drinking water, capacity building, and disaster risk reduction.

Using the multi-year grant from KOICA (which commenced in 2016 for 3 years), WFP, together with local authorities, have implemented 95 projects to date, benefitting a total of 17,193 people. The projects are developed with the community to ensure they meet the priority needs of the population.

One of the sites visited was the 900-metre drinking water pipeline that was constructed in Doskana village. This project was co-financed with the local authorities who provided construction materials, including polyethylene pipes, gravel, cement, and wiring as well as additional engineering expertise and oversight by a

local water specialist.

WFP supported the project by mobilizing community members through public works schemes to

construct water supply system. 11 villagers, all from poorest families, are working on the construction site, which aims to improve access to safe water to over 80 households in Doskana village. The project participants received food totalling 2.642 tons for the work, which will result in improved access to safe water, leading to improved sanitation and food security status for the whole community.



H.E. Jung Byiong-hoo, Ms Sunjin Park and team visit women's sewing courses in Tashkomur town

Disaster Response: WFP Scales Up Food for Asset Activities in Chon-Alay and Uzgen to Support Communities Hit by Mudslides and Earthquakes

As an immediate response to the earthquakes, mud and landslides in April and May 2017, WFP launched Food Assistance for Assets activities in the affected districts of Chon Alay, Uzgen and Maily-Suu town in the subsequent months. During the earthquake in Chon-Alay district, around 130 households were affected with houses and local infrastructure severely damaged. According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, several landslides occurred in Uzgen district between 29 April and 10 May 2017 that killed 24 people and damaged 86 houses in Zerger ayil okmotu.

In Jalpak-Tash ayil okmotu where mudslides destroyed, houses and a kindergarten, due to well-coordinated work of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, there were no casualties, but it was necessary to repair all the destroyed essential infrastructure, such as water pipes, bridges, irrigation

canals, and roads. Overall, 292 people directly affected by disasters have been engaged in asset creation and infrastructure improvement projects to restore local infrastructure necessary for normal livelihood of the communities.



Community member receives food in return for asset creation work in Jalpak-Tash, Uzgen district

Peacebuilding Fund Donor Group Visit Cross-Border projects in Batken province



Peacebuilding Fund Donor Group at site of WFP-UNDP construction of an irrigation canal in the Karabak sub-district

From July 10 to 14 2017, the Peacebuilding Fund donor group visited the Kyrgyz Republic with the aim of monitoring projects' progress and achievements.

The group was composed of donor government representatives from the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, and they visited several project sites in Osh and Batken provinces.

WFP showcased two project activities as part of the group's site visits in Batken on July 11. These were the joint WFP-UNDP construction of an irrigation canal in Karabak sub-district and the short-term vocational training for youth from the border villages in Karabak and Tortgul sub-districts.

At the infrastructure project site, the complexities of the issues on natural resources between Kyrgyz and Tajik communities were explained to the donor group.

Community members who spoke to the donor group revealed their willingness to further continue to work as problem solvers and to ensure their communities focus on sustainable peace.

Rural Women's Economic Empowerment project seeks additional support

Since 2014, the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment project has been implemented jointly by UN WOMEN, WFP, FAO and IFAD in Osh, Jalal Abad, Naryn and Chui provinces and is one of seven successful pilots implemented worldwide by the UN agencies. In Kyrgyz Republic, the project has brought positive change to the lives of more than 3,000 women. These excellent results were captured in a project wide assessment carried out in mid 2017 which found that as a direct result of the project:

- 2,712 women are now engaged in productive and sustainable agriculture with a productivity increase of 30-70%, average additional income of 488USD per

agricultural season;

- There has been a 63% reduction of share of households with 'poor' or 'borderline' Food Consumption Score;
- The Dietary Diversity Score increased from 6 to 7 food items for vulnerable households;
- 32 women have been elected as members of local councils from among 93 trained;
- Legislation on social insurance tariffs changed to remove discriminatory provisions for rural women and smallholders.

As the project is coming to an end in October, we are approaching development agencies to seek additional contributions for this very successful initiative.

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022 signed by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

On 19 May, 2017, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2018-2022 was signed by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov and the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Alexander Avanesov.

UNDAF 2018-2022 is a framework of cooperation results and strategies that will contribute to the achievement of country strategic priorities, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This framework builds on the successes of the previous UNDAF and continues the Delivering-as-One approach. It describes how the Government and UN system agencies will, drawing on their full range of expertise and resources, work in partnership to achieve development results.

Four major results were identified jointly by the Government, the UN, civil society and other development partners: (1) sustainable and inclusive economic growth; (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. WFP will be involved in three strategic priorities: 1, 3, and 4.



UNSG Highlighted the importance of Taza Koom Government's Initiative During His Visit to the Kyrgyz Republic

On June 10 to 11, 2017, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres visited the Kyrgyz Republic. He held a bilateral meeting with President Almazbek Atambaev, and visited the south of the country to take part in the 7th anniversary of Osh events. He also participated in a high-level forum on "Taza Koom" the government's new online development concept to modernize Kyrgyz society. In his statement the SG supported the inclusivity of the initiative stating that "*Taza Koom is an extremely important tool to make corruption more difficult. Corruption not only diverts and drains essential public resources but also undermines trust in government. We also need mechanisms that give a voice to people, but we need to include the poorest*

and most vulnerable, so that they have opportunities not only to define their needs but also to be part of the efforts to design ways to address them."



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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