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WFP Newsletter

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National Institute for Strategic Studies presents national reviews on Food Security and Poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic

The National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISI) presented the findings from their reviews of poverty, and food security and nutrition in the Kyrgyz Republic. These two strategic reviews will provide inputs to the National Development Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic 2018-2022, which is under development. The two studies and their recommendations also serve as inputs for the activities of development partners in the Kyrgyz Republic.



WFP presents new Country Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 to partners

WFP has incorporated the findings from the national strategic reviews into its new Country Strategy Plan for 2018-2022, which was presented to high level government officials and development partners on 10 May 2017, who greeted the new directions with enthusiasm, pledging support to the new programme. WFP outlined its comparative advantage and evidence

based strategic vision with an emphasis on supporting food insecure populations in the Kyrgyz Republic, whilst also providing technical assistance at policy and institution level.



WFP's strategic planning exercise has involved a vigorous needs based approach to define the future strategic objectives of WFP in the Kyrgyz Republic. By reviewing current and past activities, and discussing extensively with government and local partners, WFP is in the final stages of formulating its country programme for 2018-2022.

The Russian Federation continues to support WFP's Productive Safety Nets Programme

On 1 December 2016, the Russian Federation announced a funding package of USD 5 million for WFP's Productive Safety



Nets Programme in 2017. The funding will be used to further improve the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable populations in the most food insecure parts of the country. Based on community consultations, asset creation and training activities will be undertaken together with a robust monitoring of activities.

WFP formalises collaboration with the Republican Health Promotion Centre to promote nutrition nationwide

In November 2016, WFP and the Republican Health Promotion Center (RHPC) signed a letter of cooperation to collaborate on several areas, including data collection and awareness raising on nutrition and health promotion. Under this agreement, WFP and the RHPC will upgrade its data collection and analysis system, develop a mobile application for monitoring the results of public awareness raising on nutrition, and strengthen the capacity of the village health committees through training sessions. This was followed by a roundtable on 22 March, where the results of the nutrition campaign were shared with the Republican Health Committee, confirming that an estimated 22,000 people had received nutrition awareness training since the November 2016 launch.



WFP participates in national disaster simulation exercise with Ministry of Emergency Situations

In December 2016, an Inter-Agency Disaster Response Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) took place with the Ministry of Emergency Situations. WFP, together with other UN agencies, attended the two-day inter-agency simulation exercise on an earthquake scenario and led the Food Security, Logistics and the Emergency Telecommunications clusters. The simulation ensures that the Government and development partners are ready and able to respond to a large-scale national emergency.

Government of Japan reaffirms its commitment to women's empowerment and human capital development



In late December 2016, WFP received a grant for USD 500,000 for the second phase of its economic empowerment of rural women project. The project will continue to enhance the role of women in rural areas through improving income generation opportunities, capacity building and training in entrepreneurship and farming, and improving community infrastructure. The project will be conducted through a series of agricultural activities to improve the productivity of women-led farming, support community infrastructure for farming and enhance the incomes of targeted households. Poor and vulnerable women will be encouraged to build income generating activities by creating small businesses based on market needs.

Additionally, in early February, the Japanese Embassy approved an additional grant of USD 83,000 to WFP's partner ADI (Agency for Development Initiatives) for the provision of kitchen equipment to 16 schools in Chui and Issyk-Kul provinces. The grant will enable these 16 schools to provide optimised school meals to the children.

WFP signs partnership agreement with Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme

In November 2016, WFP and AKF Mountain Societies Development Support Programme signed a memorandum of understanding to develop, promote and strengthen cooperation. Both parties seek to improve the lives of vulnerable poor families through climate change adaptation activities, rural infrastructure improvement and food assistance for assets. This memorandum signalled a commitment from both agencies to work in close cooperation at field level in designated areas to contribute to the strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable households.

WFP signs agreement with the UK Embassy to support peacebuilding activities

On 20 January 2017, WFP and the UK Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic signed a grant agreement for GBP 15,000, which will be used to supplement WFP peacebuilding activities in the south of the country until the end of March 2017. The grant has been used to train project management committees to better understand and share information with communities, particularly on issues of local concern, including natural resource management. The activity has been rolled out in three ayil okmotus on the border with Tajikistan that are currently part of the United Nations Joint peacebuilding project, in which WFP is one of the key partners.



WFP presents new tools to support income generation among the vulnerable

WFP presented two new tools for infrastructure generation and resilience during the Ministry of Labour and Social Development's annual reporting event on 17 February 2017. This include two publications: '100+ Ideas for Small Medium Enterprise (SME)' and the 'Climate Change

WFP begins rollout of Skills, Knowledge and Practice (SKaP) training system for smallholders



WFP provided technical support for the establishment of SKaP (Skills, Knowledge and Practices) training system to support smallholders to access information on improved agricultural practices and techniques. The system is made up of a number of short-term courses to improve skills, knowledge and practices. WFP is continuing to work in close partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Agency for Primary Vocational Education in order to ensure that the system is sustainable and owned by the Government, which is critical to its success. A technical working group is responsible for coordination, preparation of the project implementation plan, identification of experts and materials to develop modules, review legislation and prepare necessary legal amendments.

The system will provide continuous and accessible short-term agricultural and business training services to the population, including the poor and vulnerable through information resource centres established by WFP in 107 ayil okmotus. WFP has overseen the development of 69 modules, 17 of which have been delivered to ayil okmotu specialists, who will then train smallholder farmers within their communities.

Adaption Practices for Agriculture' guidelines. This two information booklets will be distributed widely among communities through information resource centres set up in 144 ayil okmotus where WFP is working.

WFP's Optimising School Meals Programme launches hot meals in Bishkek schools

Based on the success of WFP and the Ministry of Education's reform of the national school meals programme in rural schools, Bishkek City Hall requested the design of a school meals improvement plan for city schools. WFP partnered with the Russian Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) and the city administration to conduct a comprehensive assessment of school meals in Bishkek. The key findings of this assessment served as the basis for the design of the school meals improvement programme and the development of efficient school meals models for city schools.

On International School Meals Day (9 April 2017), WFP, the Ministry of Education and Sciences and Bishkek City Hall launched the first hot meals programme in a city school, thanks to the valuable support of the Russian Federation and expertise from SIFI. More than 1,200 primary school students in Bishkek Gymnasium #64 will now be able to enjoy freshly cooked hot meals every day. This daily access to high-quality meals is seen as



essential to children's development and their school performance. It is also a key social safety net for vulnerable families. With funding from the Russian Federation, WFP procured high-capacity industrial kitchen equipment in school #64 for the preparation of hot school meals.

Over the coming months, WFP will lead the formulation of a plan to improve meals in city schools to enable an upgrade to high-quality nutritious meals. This will be done using funds that the Bishkek municipality has allocated for the project.

WFP finalises Theory of Change exercise for the Optimising Primary School Meals Programme

In order to continuously improve its support to the national school meals programme, WFP's Optimising the Primary School Meals Programme team (OSMP) hosted a validation workshop in mid-January 2017, attended by key government officials, development partners and regional WFP officials, high-level government stakeholder meeting to present and discuss a theory of change in order to better capture the benefits of the school meals optimisation activity. A key direction has been to broaden the conceptual framework of the activity from a solely education-oriented initiative to include other important outcomes, such as health and nutrition and as a social protection measure for food insecure families. The four strategic pathways identified are: food security, health and nutrition, institutional capacity strengthening, and education. The evidence presented confirmed how the school meals programme can benefit the education, health and economic sectors within the country.

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

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