**SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)**

School year: 2020–2021

- McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

**Lead Agency:** Ministry of Education and Science

**NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS**

- National school feeding policy
- Nutrition
- Food safety
- Health
- Agriculture
- Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget...

- Yes
- No
- No response

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Most schools in Kyrgyzstan have electricity, piped and clean water, dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias and kitchens. School meals are prepared on-site (on school grounds); kitchens are typically equipped with closed cooking areas, piped water, storage facilities, electricity, refrigeration, serving utensils, and electric stoves.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Population and enrollment numbers from the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) were used to complete this report. The U.S. Department of Agriculture lists Mercy Corps as receiving support from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program in 2021 for school feeding activities in Kyrgyzstan.

**MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Snacks
- Take-home rations
- Other

- Grains, cereals
- Roots, tubers
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Dairy products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Green, leafy vegetables
- Other vegetables
- Fruits
- Salt
- Sugar

- Dairy milk
- Yogurt drink
- Fruit juice
- Tea
- Water
- Other

Prohibited food items: None

**FOOD SOURCES**

- Purchased (domestic)
- Purchased (foreign)
- In-kind (domestic)
- In-kind (foreign)

**COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES**

- Handwashing with soap
- Height measurement
- Weight measurement
- Testing for anemia
- Deworming treatment
- Eye testing/eyeglasses
- Hearing testing/treatment
- Dental cleaning/testing
- Menstrual hygiene
- Drinking water
- Water purification

**COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- Food and nutrition
- Agriculture
- School gardens
- Hygiene
- Health
- Reproductive health
- HIV prevention
- Physical education

The checked items were provided in most or all participating schools.

**BUDGET**

Total: USD 4,567,757

- Government: USD 1,304,218
- International donors*: USD 3,263,539
- Private sector: USD 0
- Other donors: USD 0

Includes funding from the United States Department of Agriculture

- Yes
- No
- No response

*International donations by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

**SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS**

**CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2020–2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th># Enrolled</th>
<th># Receiving food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>640,128</td>
<td>260,668</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>551,185</td>
<td>565,711</td>
<td>66,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>743,553</td>
<td>729,304</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1,934,866 1,555,683 66,443

**COVERAGE:**

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,294,738

Receiving school food:

- 66,443

Food was also provided to some students in...

- Pre-schools
- Vocational/trade schools
- Other
NUTRITION
School feeding program(s) included/involved the following:
- Fortified foods
- Bio-fortified foods
- Micronutrient supplements
- Nutritionists involved
- Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition
- Objective to meet nutritional goals
- Objective to reduce obesity

Food items fortified/biofortified:
Not applicable

Micronutrients:
Not applicable

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Produce from school gardens is consumed by students, and fruit beverage (compot) is prepared from dried fruits. Efforts to prevent or mitigate overweight/obesity include nutritional requirements for food baskets, food restrictions on or near school grounds, and food and nutrition education. Cooks/caterers also receive special training in nutrition, portions/measurements, menu planning, food safety/hygiene/storage, and kitchen equipment usage.

STUDIES CONDUCTED
A nutritional status evaluation is being conducted by U.N. agencies, Mercy Corps, the World Bank, and the Advancing Nutrition Project.

RESEARCH NEEDED
Assessment of the nutritional status of school-age children.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooks and food preparers</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-site processors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food packagers and handlers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food service management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and quality inspectors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If blank, no response was provided.

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...
- Yes
- No
- No response

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...
- Yes
- No
- No response

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...
- Women
- Other groups
- Youth
- No response

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)...
- Yes
- No
- No response

Were there links between food banks and the school feeding program(s)?
- Yes
- No
- There are no food banks in this country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
The private sector is engaged in food transport. Some students’ families contribute to the program by providing products such as vegetables, and in some places, parents contribute to the salary of cooks/caterers. Additionally, community-based Change Agents (members of local committees, government, etc.) encourage the community to engage with the school feeding program using small incentives.

SUCCEEDS AND CHALLENGES
Recent successes related to school feeding include the adoption of the National School Feeding Law in December 2019, improved access to running water in the program’s target schools, and the establishment of and access to improved sanitation facilities. Challenges include the high turnover of school cooks due to their low salary, the program’s maintenance which requires support from national and local governments and parents, and the COVID-19 pandemic which undercut the sustainability of the program. To address any potential corruption/mismanagement concerns, the program requires constant monitoring on the part of local and national government and parents.

EMERGENCIES/COVID-19 PANDEMIC
During the entire 2020–2021 school year, some schools were open while others schools were operating remotely. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of students fed and the frequency of school feeding decreased, and school feeding operations temporarily ceased. In addition, there were temporary changes in beneficiaries (e.g. switching from targeting students to targeting families), in venue (location) of distributing/receiving food (e.g., fewer children eating together at the same time), and in feeding modality (e.g., switching from in-school meals to take-home rations). The establishment of food banks would have been helpful to better support getting food to children during a pandemic.

CONTACTS: KYRGYZSTAN
Agency: Ministry of Education and Science
Website: https://edu.gov.kg
MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Science, Department of School Feeding

OBJECTIVES:
- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:
- In-school meals
- Take-home rations

FREQUENCY AND DURATION:
- 5 times per week during the school year

TARGETING:
Based on criteria that include, among others, access to running water, and support of local government

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School level</th>
<th># Students</th>
<th>% Girls</th>
<th>% Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>66,443</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS:
- Grains, cereals
- Legumes, pulses, nuts
- Oil
- Fruit juice

FOOD SOURCES:
- 60% Purchased (domestic)
- 0% Purchased (foreign)
- 0% In-kind (domestic)
- 40% In-kind (foreign)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
The McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program began operating in 2017 and reached 356 public schools in the 2020–2021 school year. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, take-home rations were provided once in May 2020 to primary school students in target schools. There are plans to serve 75,974 students in the upcoming school year.