



MERCY CORPS: 15 YEARS OF IMPROVING NUTRITION IN KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek

October 2018





Mercy Corps is a global team of humanitarians who partner with communities, corporations and governments to transform lives around the world.



Our mission: to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities.



Our 5,000+ team members work with people in the world's most vulnerable communities across 40 countries. 87% of our team is from the countries where they work.



History

25 years of operation in
Kyrgyzstan

- › 1994-2004: microfinance services to entrepreneurs throughout Kyrgyzstan
- › 2004: consolidation of 5 MC-affiliated microcredit organizations into one **Kompanion MFI**
- › 2015: official registration as a commercial bank



History

- › 2001-2012: Food and humanitarian assistance
 - More than **800 kindergartens**
 - Orphanages, TVET schools

- › 2010-2011: Emergency assistance
 - NFIs
 - Food assistance
 - Small grants
 - Conflict mitigation

- › 2012-present: **McGovern-Dole Food For Education & Child Nutrition Program**

Current Program Portfolio

School-based comprehensive programming

- I. Food For Education & Child Nutrition, 2012 – 2021
- II. School Orchards, 2016-2018
- III. Handwashing in Schools, 2018
- IV. Potable Water Innovation, 2018 – 2019



Food Insecurity in Kyrgyzstan

› *Demographic & Health Survey 2012*

› Stunting in **18%** of children under age 5

› Anemia in **43%** of children under age 5

› *Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in the Kyrgyz Republic, 2014*

› Stunting in 12.9% (moderate), 3.4% (severe) of children under 5

› Exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months – 41.1%

› *Food For Education (FFE) 2017 Baseline*

› **25%** of children do not have breakfast

› *SPRING Baseline 2014 (next slide)*



2014 SPRING Baseline

In program implementation areas the study showed that the overall HH nutrition status of the target communities is still rather poor

Iron & folic acid during pregnancy = 16%

Women's Dietary Diversity Score = 38%

Exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months = 29% of mothers

Children's Dietary Diversity Score = 42%

Junk food consumption in children among 12-23 month = 67%

Food For Education & Child Nutrition

- › Donor: United States
Department of Agriculture
- › Total Program duration:
2012 – 2021
- › Total number of targeted
institutions
 - › 2012-2019: **215**
 - › 2018-2021: **440**



*Powered by
the belief
that a better
world is
possible.*



*Биз жакшы
дүйно
мумкун
экендигине
ишенүү
менен
аракеттебиз.*

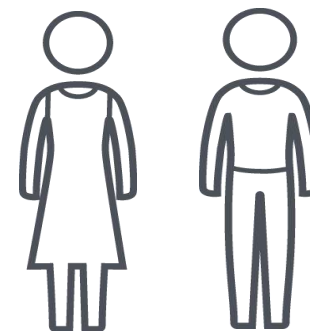


*Мы
движимы
уверенностью,
что лучший
мир
возможен.*



During 2012-2017, we achieved the following results

Distributed food: iron-fortified flour, vitamin A-enriched vegetable oil, peas, and rice



over 1900 metric tons

of food provided to 635 primary schools and kindergartens

over 54 million

hot meals served

over 82 000

children fed



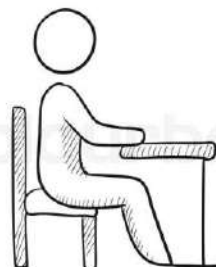
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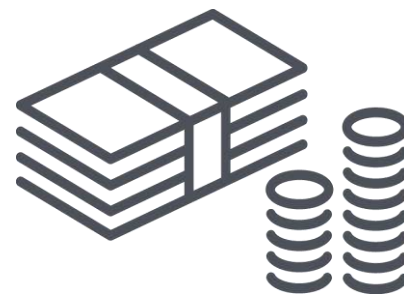
154 kitchens
repaired and
equipped



over 350 projects
completed for infrastructure
repair



over 550 projects
completed for furniture
supply



over \$2.30 million
in grants for repair and
furniture

During 2012-2017, we achieved the following results



832 school and kindergarten cooks
received professional training



137 communities
trained on sanitation, hygiene and nutrition



over 30 000 books
distributed to primary school children

1,000 +
children participated
in summer reading camps

School Orchards

- › Project Duration: **2016 – 2018**
- › Project Goal: to improve food security, nutrition and well-being of primary school children
 - › Reach over 19,000 children by establishing or improving school orchards in 75 schools
 - › Improve business and marketing skills by building capacity of 75 school orchard management teams



Handwashing in Schools

- › Project Duration: **2017-2018**
- › Coverage: **40 FFE schools** with 7,559 primary school students

Project Results:

- › Students in all 40 schools have an access to handwashing facilities to wash their hands before meal
- › Observation: only 2% of kids didn't wash hands before entering the dining-room



Potable Water Innovation

- › Project Duration: **2018 – 2019**
- › Coverage: **130 schools** under FFE 2017 with 26,000 primary grade students
- › **70%** of FFE schools have water reservoirs for daily use (even with plumbing)
- › MC will provide a ready-to-use, innovative and sustainable water treatment



Lessons Learned



Only collaborative approach can work. Our partners: Ministry of Education & Science, Ministry of Health, WFP.



Community buy-in and support from everyone



Leadership on the spot

2016 Original Research: Vulnerable to Manipulation



Fault lines along religious expression create space for manipulation by violent extremist or other groups



Youth are frustrated by unmet economic expectations and the pressure to migrate



Counter-narratives on the risks of going to Syria are heard but not fully understood

Current Research Priorities



Nutritional status and anemia in adolescent girls

Feminization of out-migration



NAZGUL ABAZBEKOVA

Director of Programs

nabazbekova@mercycorps.org

Tel: 0312 98 67 01

15 Ajibek Baatyra str., Bishkek