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Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 10–11 February 2014

REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Agenda item 7

*For information**



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DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1 JANUARY–31 DECEMBER 2013) – KYRGYZ REPUBLIC 200176

Optimizing Primary School Meals Programme

Number of beneficiaries	25,000
Duration of project	18 months (1 January 2013 to 30 June 2014)
WFP food tonnage	837 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
Food	746,350
Total	4,035,912

* In accordance with the Executive Board's decisions on governance, approved at the Annual and Third Regular Sessions, 2000, items for information should not be discussed unless a Board member specifically requests it, well in advance of the meeting, and the Chair accepts the request on the grounds that it is a proper use of the Board's time.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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ABSTRACT

1. After a period of impressive economic growth between 1998 and 2008, the Kyrgyz Republic has been hit hard by the global financial crisis, recurrent political crises, social unrest, inter-ethnic violence, public financing shortfalls and food price volatility, with heavy impact on vulnerable households. Earlier gains in poverty reduction are being reversed: absolute poverty rose from 34 percent in 2010 to 37 percent in 2011, increasing the need for efficient and effective social safety nets.
2. Since 2006, the Government has implemented a nationally owned, universal primary school meals programme for 400,000 schoolchildren. The programme enjoys strong political backing and financial support of USD 10 million per year, although policymakers have expressed concerns about its efficiency and the quality of meals provided. The Government asked WFP to assist in redesigning the programme.
3. WFP provides technical assistance to develop national capacity to improve the quality, efficiency and sustainability of the programme. Assistance focuses on supporting the Government in developing a sound policy framework and an implementation strategy that is aligned with international quality standards for school feeding.
4. Through a small pilot project, WFP demonstrates implementation modalities that are cost-efficient, transparent and accountable. The pilot provides nutritious and affordable meals for schoolchildren within the Government's existing budget for school meals. It is being conducted in selected food-insecure areas and is expected to promote school attendance, which can vary according to season.
5. The project is aligned with Strategic Objectives 4 and 5. It will contribute to the second pillar of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which focuses on increasing social protection for vulnerable groups through improved food security, nutrition, education, and social protection services and benefits. The project contributes to achieving Millennium Development Goals 1 and 2.¹

¹ Millennium Development Goals: 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2 – Achieve universal primary education.