

## **Emergency Operation, the Kyrgyz Republic 10804.0**

**Title: Kyrgyzstan Winter Emergency Food Aid Response**

**Duration: 1 January – 30 June 2009**

**Number of beneficiaries: 580,000**

**WFP food tonnage: 9,570 mt**

**WFP food cost: US\$ 4,988,838**

**Total cost to WFP: US\$ 8,303,404**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Kyrgyz Republic, like the rest of central Asia, experienced extremely cold temperatures during the first months of 2008 and saw a large-scale depletion of the country's hydroelectric resources. Two successive drought years and, additionally during 2008, a sequence of locust infestations, hail storms, lack of precipitation and spring frosts inflicted serious damage on the agricultural sector and reduced growth to only 1.2 percent during the first five months of 2008, despite an increase in land under cultivation. A sharp increase of food prices, largely due to a wheat price increase (estimated at 20.4 percent since the beginning of the year) and compounded by a 23.3 percent increase for fuel and utilities and sharp reductions in remittances from expatriate Kyrgyz, due to the global economic downturn, make it very difficult for people to achieve a minimally acceptable dietary intake, especially vulnerable groups or people in poverty. There is increasing evidence that the poorest are resorting to negative coping strategies.

According to the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) of October/ November 2008, based on analysis of household food security data collected by the Kyrgyz National Statistics Office in the first quarter of 2008, one household in five is at high nutritional and health risk because of poor food consumption. Their diet is extremely low in calories and the consumption of fats and oil shows a decreasing trend since 2006. Even though food insecurity is chronic in nature, the high food and fuel prices and the coming winter call for urgent relief assistance to severely food insecure households in order to stabilize and improve their dietary intake. The majority of the vulnerable are located in rural areas and in districts where over 20 percent of the population live below the Guaranteed Minimal Consumption Level (GMCL), which is at a level below the threshold used to define the 'extremely poor'. Numbering 580,000 people, they live in districts which are remote and require support. These districts have been further prioritized according to their vulnerability, so those which have more than 50 percent of the population living below the GLMC have first priority for the receipt of assistance.

A one time bulk distribution of 75 kg of wheat flour and 7.5 kg of vegetable oil to pre-identified families living below the GMCL is foreseen. This ration has been designed to bridge the energy gap which exists between current intake and actual minimum requirements and to allow for a fast efficient distribution to achieve the greatest possible impact in the shortest timeframe. The ration is expected to cover the food gap of up to 450 kcal (per day) for 580,000 beneficiaries over three winter months. The objective of the operation is 'to reach vulnerable communities whose food and nutrition security has been adversely affected

by shocks', WFP Strategic Objective (SO) 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies and MDG 1 to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

The Government requested the UN to assist with the coordination of donor actions to avert the potential winter difficulties and requested specific assistance from WFP. A response plan, of which food assistance is a vital component, was developed by the UN and focuses on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable groups during winter. A related UN Flash Appeal was launched on the 27 November 2008. WFP has already initiated its response through the approval on an IR EMOP to cover initial start up costs and to provide a limited amount of vegetable oil.

WFP does not have an operational presence in the Kyrgyz Republic; therefore this intervention has been designed to be a short-term humanitarian response to an impending acute crisis. WFP is establishing an office in Bishkek, which will be managed by an Emergency Coordinator, under the leadership of the Country Director in Tajikistan.

## 1. SITUATION ANALYSIS AND SCENARIOS

### (a) The overall context

1. The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked country of 5.2 million people. It gained independence in 1991. The collapse of the Soviet Union caused a dramatic rise in poverty, but the country's economy has been recovering since 1996, experiencing economic growth of about 3.7 per year since 2000. The poverty rate has been reduced from 63 percent in 2000<sup>1</sup> to 39.9 percent, or 2.072 million people in 2006.<sup>2</sup> On the Human Development Index the Kyrgyz Republic is ranked 116<sup>th</sup> out of 177 countries.
2. The country's economic growth is fragile and has mainly been supported by private consumption as a result of a sharp increase in foreign remittances, as opposed to domestic investment and production. This trend was reversed this year by a combination of global and local climatic and economic shocks.
3. Kyrgyzstan is predominantly an agrarian society with two thirds of its population living in rural areas, where poverty tends to be higher than the national average. Widespread unemployment causes massive labour migration, with possibly one million people, or half of the working age population migrating to Russia and Kazakhstan annually.
4. During the 2007-2008 winter period, the Kyrgyz Republic like the rest of central Asia experienced extremely cold temperatures for a prolonged period, making it the coldest winter in 44 years. While the same situation in Tajikistan resulted in the need for urgent humanitarian intervention, Kyrgyzstan was able to ensure essential energy and food support to its population during the winter 2007/8, averting extreme hardship. This, however, was achieved through the severe depletion of state grain and energy-generating water reserves.

---

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Kyrgyz Republic Poverty Assessment, Oct. 19 2007

<sup>2</sup> National Statistical Committee figures

5. Following the harsh winter, additional damage was inflicted on the agricultural sector (estimated at US\$65 million) as a result of locust infestations, hail storms, a lack of precipitation and spring frosts.
6. Compounding the situation, global increases in the prices of key food and energy commodities are fuelling inflation and causing significant shortages in family income. It is estimated that inflation rose from 4.4 percent and 5.1 percent in 2005-06 to 20.1 percent in 2007. The consumer price rise for food was 18.5 percent in 2006-07. By the end of 2008, it was projected that inflation may reach 29 percent, despite the more recent easing of food and fuel prices.
7. The fragility of Kyrgyzstan's economy is further highlighted by the country's application for a loan under the IMF's Exogenous Shocks Facility of at least US\$ 60 million, which will be used to address the consequences of global price increases and energy shortfalls in the country. This loan has not been approved yet.
8. In addition to increased food insecurity, the country is struggling with an energy deficit. The Government has announced that it anticipates electricity supply to provide only 67 percent of the requirements during upcoming winter. A number of measures have been put in place to reduce the impact during the winter months, but in the event of another harsh winter the effects on the most vulnerable may nevertheless be severe. It is anticipated that electricity shortages during a harsh winter would further push up prices of fuel and other sources of heating, and therefore aggravate the food security situation.

(b) Livelihoods and Food Security

9. Agriculture makes up only 29 percent of national GDP but employs 65 percent of the workforce.<sup>3</sup> Kyrgyzstan has about 1.4 million hectares of arable land, which is only about 7 percent of the country's total territory. The Tian Shan and Pamir mountain ranges cover about 65 percent of Kyrgyzstan, while 90 percent of the country lies more than 1,500 metres above sea level. Despite privatization of 75 percent of agricultural land, the productivity of the sector remains low due to lack of investment and environmental degradation. The country is a net food importer, importing 43 percent of wheat, 44 percent of vegetable oil and 66 percent of sugar requirements.
10. As a result of increasing food prices, farmers responded to the market signals by increasing the area sown under wheat for the 2008 cropping season<sup>4</sup>. Agricultural production rose by 2.9 percent in the first half of 2008, partly owing to an increase of 31,000 ha (2.8 percent of total area) under cultivation.
11. The food supply situation in 2008, however, has been precarious, owing to high cereal prices and a ban on exports of wheat and vegetable oil from Kazakhstan (the main source of imports) during the final months of the 2007/08 marketing year. The ban on wheat exports was lifted in September. However, food security has been further undermined by rises in the costs of coal, electricity and other heating sources. Importantly, the risks identified cover both rural and urban areas. Food insecurity is more widespread and

---

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Agriculture. 2008

<sup>4</sup> An Overview of Fertilizer Situation in the Context of Food Crises - World Bank, Bishkek 26 June 2008

severe in rural areas, where WFP assistance will be focused, but the situation in urban areas will also be monitored and WFP will intervene if required.

12. In addition, fodder for livestock has also been depleted due to weather conditions as well as overgrazing. These high hay prices have contributed to a considerable rise in the early slaughter and sale of animals, leading to a depletion of assets at the household level. It has been estimated that there will be a loss of 30 percent of the national herd this winter.
13. Some of the main concerns for the next winter and next planting season are:
  1. lack of wheat seeds: poor wheat harvest in some areas has restricted the availability of seeds;
  2. lack of hay and fodder for animals in areas when the drought in the spring of 2008 affected pastures and crops;
  3. high prices of fertilizer, rendering their already limited use even more difficult;
  4. possible disruptions to irrigation due to the very low level of water in the main reservoirs.
  5. electricity cuts may also affect the working schedules of wheat mills in remote areas, hence making it difficult for families to obtain flour.
14. Widespread unemployment causes massive labour migration. Sending migrants to the periphery of major towns (Bishkek, Osh) and abroad (Kazakhstan, Russia) remains an option for those with able-bodied members - essentially young men - but does not guarantee when and how much remittances will be sent back given the uncertainties on the employment possibilities and type of jobs available. A recent study<sup>5</sup> indicated that about 21 percent of migrants did not send any remittances back and more recent reports suggest that the level of remittances has declined sharply as a result of the global economic downturn and consequent lack of employment opportunities.
15. Assessments suggest that food will be available in major markets in towns, nevertheless, the sharp price increases for food coupled with those for fuel and utilities make it difficult, especially for vulnerable groups or people in poverty, in remote areas, to obtain adequate nutrition. Negative coping strategies have become more common. At the extreme, parents are sending their children to orphanages where they will be assured food. Less extreme is the early sale of livestock at very unfavourable prices.
16. During the winter, households will face increased expenditures for heating and many fear that difficult choices will have to be made between spending on fuel and food.
17. Considering the absence of opportunities to increase food access in the very short-term, the diet of the severely food insecure households can be expected to deteriorate, during the coming winter months, especially those living in remote areas.

---

<sup>5</sup> A Study on International Migrants' Remittances in Central Asia and South Caucasus. Country Report on Remittances of International Migrants and Poverty in the Kyrgyz Republic – Draft for discussion at the Country Seminar in Bishkek, November 2007 – S. Ibragimova, T. Burzhubaev, A. Temirov, Center for Social and Economic Research (SocEconic), November 2007.

(c) Nutrition Situation

18. According to a food security analysis of data collected at household level in the first quarter of 2008, one household in five is at high nutritional and health risk because of poor food consumption. Their diet is extremely low in calories (below 2,100 kcal) and their consumption of fats and oil shows a decreasing trend from 2006 to 2007. The vast majority of these households also lack economic access to food and are thus severely food insecure.
19. WFP's EFSA reported that at the national level, per capita calorie, protein and fat intake<sup>6</sup> showed a decrease in 2007 compared to 2006, while the proportion of households with an unsatisfactory diet (poor or borderline) increased in 2007 (48 percent) compared to 2006 (38 percent). All wealth quintiles decreased their kilocalorie and protein intake between 2006 and 2007. The vast majority of households with unsatisfactory diet are also poor and severely food insecure.
20. Households with poor diets face serious nutritional and health risks. Their diet is clearly bringing insufficient calories and is likely to lack good quality proteins, vitamins and minerals to cover basic nutritional requirements. There is a particular risk for vulnerable members, including children, the elderly, chronically sick and pregnant and lactating women. According to the 2008 EFSA, the proportion of underweight<sup>7</sup> (low weight for age) children was not high but has increased between 2006/07 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008, mainly because of an increase in the proportion of underweight children in severely food insecure households.
21. The proportion of children under 5 years of age who are stunted<sup>8</sup> (low height for age) has increased, particularly between 2006 and 2007, and is currently affecting almost 30 percent of the children. This rate is much higher than the 13 percent stunting reported in the MICS survey of 2006. More important is the deteriorating trend observed for stunting rates among children of severely food insecure households in rural areas, which may be due to poor quality food consumption, health, water, sanitation and care practices among these households over the past two years.
22. In rural areas, the proportion of stunted children was higher among severely food insecure households than moderately food insecure or food secure households (47 percent stunted children in severely food insecure households versus about 24-25 percent in other households) in early 2008. As a response to the high stunting rates Mercy Corps are expanding their vulnerable group feeding programmes.

---

<sup>6</sup> The per capita food intake is estimated on the basis of a comprehensive food diary maintained for a period of two weeks by the households randomly selected in the quarterly Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey conducted by the National Statistics Committee.

<sup>7</sup> Underweight reflects the combination of chronic (long-term) and acute malnutrition. It is defined by a ratio of weight-for-age below -2 Z-scores of the WHO Growth Standards (April 2008). Severe underweight corresponds to a ratio weight-for-age below -3 Z-scores, and moderate underweight to a ratio weight-for-age between -3 and -2 Z-scores.

<sup>8</sup> Stunting reflects chronic (long-term) malnutrition. It is defined by a ratio of height-for-age below -2 Z-scores of the WHO Growth Standards. Severe stunting corresponds to a ratio height-for-age below -3 Z-scores, and moderate stunting to a ratio height-for-age between -3 and -2 Z-scores.

#### (d) Natural Disasters

23. Due to its geographic location in a seismically active and mountainous region, the country is highly susceptible to natural disasters with frequent incidences of earthquakes, flooding, mud slides, avalanches, snow storms, and mountain lake spills. Serious earthquakes have hit Batken (2006), Naryn (2007) and Osh (January and October 2008) Oblasts recently. According to the Ministry of Emergencies there were 179 natural disasters in the first six months of 2008. High vulnerability to natural disasters is also exacerbated by limited state and local government resources available for disaster reduction and response.
24. Climate change also increasingly poses a threat to Kyrgyzstan's development. Large glaciers in the mountains play a key role in the water balance and in maintaining climate conditions in the whole of central Asia. Average annual atmospheric air temperature rose by 1.6°C or 16 percent in the 20<sup>th</sup> century compared to a global average of 0.6°C, with the frequency of atmospheric drought almost doubling in the last twenty years.<sup>9</sup> It is projected that river flows will increase by 10 percent in the next 20-30 years, but then drop to 25-30 percent of current flow by 2030 if no action is taken to maintain water sources.

#### (e) Contingency Planning

25. After the severe winter of 2007, the UNCT in Kyrgyzstan called together all actors to undertake a contingency planning exercise to mitigate the potential for a repeat of the crises during the winter of 2008/9.
26. The objectives of this contingency plan were defined as follows:
  1. Verify that food access for food insecure people is guaranteed during winter;
  2. Protect 250,000 specifically vulnerable people from the consequences of electricity and water shortages during the winter;
  3. Ensure minimum standards of critical services during the winter by complementing government efforts.
27. The contingencies were foreseen as follows:
  1. Increased risk of food insecurity.<sup>10</sup>
  2. Collapse of the energy sector in early 2009
28. During winter 2007-2008, Kyrgyzstan was able to ensure provision of essential energy and food to its population, averting extreme hardship. However, this was achieved through the severe depletion of energy generating water reserves. The lowest water level in 50 years in the Toktogul reservoir, which feeds the main electricity artery of the country, was coupled by a reduction in gas imports from Uzbekistan.

---

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/GRID-ARENDAL and Ministry of National Protection, *Environmental State of the Kyrgyz Republic*, <http://enrin.grida.no/htmls/kyrgyz/soe2/english/climats.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Akipress, 25 July 2008

29. The situation is aggravated by the fact that water supply is limited and that there are difficult trade-offs to be made between its use for electricity production (winter flow) and agriculture (spring and summer flow).
30. The Government has announced that it anticipates electrical supply to provide only 67 percent of the requirements during the upcoming winter. This may become acute in the event of another harsh winter. Kyrgyzstan's urban population and most of its social infrastructure is dependent on supply of electricity for meeting the basic needs in heating, cooking and light and water. The Government has announced that it does not intend to cut off electrical supply to hospitals and other critical social infrastructure but this may be unavoidable. There is some concern that this could give rise to a level of social unrest.

## **2. POLICIES, CAPACITIES, ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS**

31. The Government plays the lead role in ensuring donor support to the country. This support is based on the Country Development Strategy for 2007-2010. Within the Government, the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade has been assigned to coordinate the Government's measures to avert a winter crisis situation. Other key Ministries and Agencies with whom donor coordination on humanitarian assistance is essential include: the Ministry for Emergency Situations, the Ministry for Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Fuel Resources, the National Agency on Local Self-Government, and the Ministry of Agriculture.
32. Upon receiving the request in August 2008 from the Government to coordinate donor preparedness actions for the winter and for WFP to provide assistance, the UN in Kyrgyzstan carried out a rapid needs analysis, with the support of the regional Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Almaty. A meeting was then held on 4 September to report back on the findings, with the participation of the Government, donors and implementing agencies. Based on the analysis, it was agreed to activate four sectors of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit (DRCU)<sup>11</sup> and to develop sector plans to prepare for the winter.
33. In response to the deteriorating food security situation, the Government revised national legislation on food security. In order to offset the impact of growing food inflation on vulnerable groups, the government is utilizing the Universal Monthly Benefit (UMB) as the main government safety net and poverty reduction system in the Kyrgyz Republic. The programme provides cash transfers to poor families. The programme supports approximately 25 percent of households below the poverty line with US\$3.5 per month. The World Bank has contributed to increase this to US\$4.5 per month for the winter period, and the European Commission will continue this support, from the spring until November 2009.
34. Though the system is effective at targeting the poor, funding constraints limit its reach to only 25 percent of the poorest in the country. In addition, the reference for eligibility -

---

<sup>11</sup> The DRCU was set up as part of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Disasters. It is made up of UN agencies, donor organisations, the Red Cross Movement, and international and national NGOs, with the aim of maintaining a unified policy and strategy in disaster response and decision making in humanitarian actions.

Guaranteed Minimum Level of Consumption (GMCL) - is fixed by the available budget, and not by actual consumption needs, and is well below the poverty line<sup>12</sup>. Donors and the banks have provided grants to support the increase of UMB transfers, in support of the Government's programme to subsidize fortified flour, to augment strategic grain reserves, and to purchase winter wheat seed, and by expanding their support to school feeding programmes.

35. A World Bank grant of US\$1 million will support the Government's programme to address nutritional vulnerabilities by training health staff and village health committees in nutrition, through public awareness and information dissemination, and vitamin A supplementation. UNICEF will donate US\$170,000 for technical support to the Ministry of Health for (a) developing a national nutrition strategy (b) social marketing of home-based food fortification (c) improving infant and young child feeding practices nationally. UNICEF input was designed in conjunction with the World Bank and the inputs are, therefore, complementary.
36. USAID is planning a US\$ 300,000 intervention to provide 280 tons of seeds for planting and reproduction and to provide US\$700,000 worth of livestock feed at subsidized prices for livestock farmers in January – February 2009. Mercy Corps intends to expand its school snack programme to more schools and its vulnerable group feeding programmes. GTZ will provide food assistance in the sub districts where they have projects.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF WFP ASSISTANCE**

37. Even though food insecurity in Kyrgyzstan is chronic in nature, the high food and fuel prices and the coming winter call for urgent relief assistance to severely food insecure households in order to stabilize and improve their dietary and nutritional status. Given the short time available before the winter and limited number of implementing partners, it will not be possible to assist all. The urgency to restore adequate food consumption considering the gap in kilocalorie and fat intake and the importance of bread in the diet, food transfers providing a combination of wheat flour and oil are recommended for three months during the winter period January to April 2009.
38. The objective of the assistance is 'to reach vulnerable communities whose food and nutrition security has been adversely affected by shocks', which falls under the Strategic WFP Objective 1: Save Lives and Protect Livelihoods in Emergencies.
39. The expected outcome of the WFP emergency operation will be the improvement of food intake of the severely food insecure people that will contribute to maintaining their health status.

### **4. BENEFICIARIES AND TARGETING**

---

<sup>12</sup> GMCL represents 200 Som available income per person per month, an equivalent of approximately US\$ 5.15



40. The results of the EFSA concluded that the highest proportions of severe food insecure people live in Naryn (38 percent), Yssyk-Kul (32 percent), Jalal-Abad (28 percent), Osh (26 percent) and Talas (21 percent) Oblasts.
41. Food insecure households live in poor dwellings with no access to in-house running water, adequate toilet facilities and connection to central sewage systems, and possess very few assets, including land.
42. The food insecure eat less than their average kilocalorie requirements (less than 80 percent for the severely food insecure) and their expenditures are by far below the official poverty line. They have no land or only small plots and cannot rely on their own production for most of their food consumption requirements. As a result, they need to buy most of their food and are thus highly vulnerable to market food price rises. Food expenditures represent about 3/4 of total expenditure for the severely food insecure and about 2/3 for the moderately food insecure.
43. Informed by the results of its Emergency Food Security Assessment, as well as surveys and available data from ongoing programmes of other organisations, WFP will assist approximately 580,000 people identified as the most vulnerable, those living below the GLMC (which is below the threshold used to define the extreme poor) of the 1,818,000 people (35 percent of the total population) who are currently affected by food insecurity. The figure of 580,000 is based upon government statistics and may be revised up or down as the beneficiary lists and targeting criteria are developed and in view of other agencies' complementary programmes.
44. With the objective of achieving the greatest possible impact in the shortest time, the most critically vulnerable populations and districts have been prioritised for urgent intervention. These populations are located in rural areas and in districts where over 20 percent of the population live below the Guaranteed Minimal Consumption Level (GMCL). These districts are remote and difficult to access and thus require an immediate intervention. The districts have been prioritized according to vulnerability, so those which have more than 50 percent of the population living below the GLMC have first priority for receipt of assistance.
45. For the household targeting, the food aid co-ordination group endorsed a set of specific criteria and WFP will apply those relating to access to and level of income generating opportunities, ownership of land, animals and other assets, number of household members and its demographics, in order to identify the most food insecure households.
46. There is some concern regarding the situation of people migrating to Bishkek and other urban centres. A recent study has indicated that 9 percent of this population is food insecure. Their situation will be monitored over the winter months and WFP will intervene if required but priority remains with the rural poor. As availability of food is not an issue in urban centres, a more appropriate response (cash/vouchers) would be designed.
47. In designing the response, WFP has considered the planned government response, on-going programmes and new initiatives such as those by the World Bank, United States

Agency for International Development (USAID), Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, German Agro Action, Mercy Corps and others.

## **5. NUTRITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RATIONS**

48. The perspectives for the next 6-12 months do not point towards an improvement of access to food for the food insecure. Even though food prices have started to decrease in the last quarter of 2008, they remain substantially higher than in previous years. While market food availability is not expected to be problematic, economic access to food will remain difficult and in the case of the identified sub-districts physical access is also difficult. The various measures announced or already implemented by the Government to increase social benefits, build food reserves and decrease taxes, as well as the funding announced by donors such as the World Bank, the European Commission, USAID and others, are positive, but they are unlikely to reach all of the severely food insecure, or all of their basic food requirements.
49. In rural areas with difficult access to market, in-kind food rations are appropriate to restore adequate food consumption, and address the calorie gap. As bread is an important staple, most people bake their own in their homes, so food rations containing fortified wheat flour and oil will be given priority.
50. A one time bulk distribution of 75 kg of fortified wheat flour and 7.5 kg of Vitamin A and D-fortified oil to the pre-identified families living below the GMCL is foreseen. This ration has been designed to meet the calorie gap which exists between current intake (1,800 kcal or less) and actual minimum requirements and to allow for a fast efficient distribution to achieve the greatest possible impact in the shortest timeframe. By providing 100 grams of wheat flour and 10 grams of oil per person per day, an equivalent of around 450 kcal per day, this quantity will complement what people have available themselves and will bring their nutritional intake up to acceptable level for a three-month period over the winter.
51. Mercy Corps will expand their feeding programme and will provide a hot meal to vulnerable members of the community (young children, pregnant and lactating women, the elderly and the chronically sick) using the schools they assist as the platform for distribution.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

52. UNDP received a request in August from the Government to coordinate donor preparedness actions for the winter. A Food Security Group was activated on 4 November 2008, after the initial findings of the World Food Programme's Emergency Food Security Assessment indicated a need for additional programmes in this area
53. Within the government, the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade has been assigned to coordinate the Government's measures to avert a winter crisis situation

54. The coordinated food aid intervention to be led by the World Food Programme will closely involve the NGO partners ACTED, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, Aga Khan Foundation and Red Crescent Society in a range of roles, including targeting, distribution and monitoring. Community level identification of beneficiaries will be undertaken with NGOs, government officials and representatives of community organizations. WFP's own staff will ensure independent monitoring of targeting and distribution processes and will also conduct post distribution monitoring activities. WFP is establishing an office in Bishkek that will be managed by the Emergency Coordinator, under the leadership of the Country Director in Tajikistan.
55. Prior to WFP's arrival to Kyrgyzstan, a Food Security Group had been set up, led by ACTED. The strategic programmatic priorities have been agreed by the Food Security Group in consultation with the Government of Kyrgyzstan, donors and agencies involved in relief and development activities. These include agreement on geographic areas to provide assistance to and targeting criteria. In addition to free food distribution for 580,000 beneficiaries, supplementary feeding including fortified food for young children will be provided to severely food insecure households hosting vulnerable members by NGOs at schools and maternity wards in targeted areas.
56. Logistics arrangements: A proportion of wheat flour will be purchased in the country to ensure rapid distributions, while the rest will be purchased at most cost-effective locations, most probably in Kazakhstan or Europe. Vegetable oil will most likely be purchased internationally, but regional possibilities will be reviewed, as well. A procurement mission has been requested to help the new office identify local suppliers and help speed up the food purchase process. Imported commodities will either be purchased on a DDU basis, as would be the case with Kazakhstan, or imported by the most effective combination of sea, rail and land routes and transport modalities. A central warehouse in Bishkek is envisaged and another one in Osh, to ensure storage capabilities of WFP close to the beneficiary locations. The LTSH costs will be applied as per the LTSH matrix. All necessary Compas and WINGS arrangements will be put in place as per the corporate standards.

## **7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

57. The Food Security co-ordination group will establish a mechanism for regular collection and analysis of age and sex-disaggregated data, including National Statistical Committee information and additional tools, to promote monitoring of the food security situation, in order to understand and adjust the impact of the humanitarian response on different groups. A follow up assessment is planned by WFP, to assess the impact on dietary intake using WFP's Household Food Consumption Score, with some additional indicators on use and acceptability. WFP's basic output indicators, quantity of food planned versus actual distributed, will also be collected.

## **8. HANDOVER STRATEGY**

58. This intervention has been designed as a short-term humanitarian response to impending acute crises in a country where WFP does not have a presence. The indications are that the country is however facing a severe economic decline and impoverishment is increasing as the capacities of people to deal with the multiple shocks they are confronted with are declining rapidly. Pending an assessment of the food security situation after the winter and based on further consultations with the Government, WFP could foresee a possible role in mid to longer-term recovery activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, under the new Strategic Plan.

**9. SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS**

59. Kyrgyzstan is in UN security phase one and there are no restrictions on movement in the country. As WFP is establishing a new office in the country, the budget will include items necessary to ensure MOSS compliance of the office, staff and assets.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Director and Director-General of FAO are requested to approve the proposed Emergency Operation Kyrgyz Republic 10804.0.

**APPROVAL**

.....

Executive Director of WFP

Date: ... ..

.....

Director-General of FAO

Date: ... ..

## ANNEX IA

## WFP PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

	Quantity (mt)	Average cost (US\$) per mt	Value (US\$)
<b>COSTS</b>			
<b>A. Direct operational costs</b>			
WHF	8,700	423	3,683,838
OIL	870	1,500	1,305,000
...-			
...-			
...-			
...-			
...-			
...-			
...-			
Total commodities	9,570		4,988,838
External transport			308,759
Landside transport			
ITSH			
Total LTSH			1,560,614
Other direct operational costs			86,000
Total direct operational costs			6,944,211
B. Direct support costs (see Annex IB table below for details)			815,980
C. Indirect support costs (7 percent of total direct costs)			543,213
<b>TOTAL WFP COSTS</b>			<b>8,303,404</b>

## ANNEX IB

## DIRECT SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

Staff	
International professional staff	516,180
National professional officers	42,800
National general service staff	-
Temporary assistance	6,000
International Consultants	60,000
Staff duty travel	36,000
Staff training and development	12,000
Subtotal	672,980
Office expenses and other recurrent costs	
Rental of facility	12,000
Utilities (general)	4,800
Office supplies	-
Communication and IT services	6,000
Insurance	600
Equipment repair and maintenance	-
Vehicle maintenance and running cost	6,000
Other office expenses	-
United Nations Organizations Services	600
Subtotal	30,000
Equipment and other fixed costs	
Furniture, tools and equipment	5,000
Vehicles	84,000
TC/IT equipment	24,000
Subtotal	113,000
<b>TOTAL DIRECT SUPPORT COSTS</b>	<b>815,980</b>

ANNEX II - Log Frame Summary of (name the country): EMOP (number)

<http://docustore.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/forms/wfp022350.doc>

ANNEX III - MAP (if available)

ANNEX IV - LTSH-matrix (Not to be posted on WFP website)

ANNEX V - Project Budget Plan (Not to be posted on WFP website)

ANNEX VI - Project Statistics (Not to be posted on WFP website)

List of acronyms (if necessary)