



MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION IN KYRGYZSTAN

Adapting Program Activities During
Covid-19 Lockdown



Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

November 2020



MERCY CORPS IN ASIA

We work in 13 Countries across Asia: Afghanistan, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan

	Respond to humanitarian emergencies and reduce risks of future disasters and vulnerability to climate related shocks.		Ensure food and water security , with a focus on improved child nutrition, and safe water and sanitation.
	Improve economic opportunity for the disadvantaged, and unlock investments in businesses and people from skills to markets.		Help communities adapt to climate change , diversify sources of energy, value ecosystems and limit environmental degradation.
	Amplify marginalized voices for accountable and equitable governance , social cohesion, and inclusive communities.		Improve public health by increasing access to services, and promoting behaviors and practices.



MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION 2017-2021

- › Comprehensive multi-component program that complements hot meals with behavior change, capacity building, infrastructure rehabilitation and literacy promotion
- › Key 2017-2020 results:



commodities (mt)

2,200



primary grade students

105,000



school kitchens repaired

510

COVID-19 IN KYRGYZSTAN

- › In March KR goes into national lockdown
- › March 16: all schools close
- › July: peak of the first wave
- › Schools remain closed for the rest of the school year
- › Sept: cautious and partial reopening on a case-by-case basis

ENGLISH

15:18, 22 July 2020, Bishkek - 24.kg news agency

Kyrgyzstan takes 1st place in world with highest number of deaths from COVID-19



Kyrgyzstan took the first place in the world with the highest number of new cases and deaths from COVID-19 over the past seven days. The New York Times [reports](#).

According to the media outlet, the number of new cases in the republic during the week reached 16,807, which is 266 cases per 100,000 people. The number of deaths is 930 (15 per 100,000 people).

	TOTAL CASES	PER 100,000	CASES IN LAST 7 DAYS	▼ PER 100,000	WEEKLY CASES PER CAPITA	
					FEWER	MORE
Kyrgyzstan	28,251	447	16,807	266		
Oman	69,887	1,447	10,319	214		
Bahrain	37,316	2,378	3,238	206		
Montenegro	2,381	383	1,094	176		

Source:

https://24.kg/english/160332_Kyrgyzstan_takes_1st_place_in_world_with_highest_number_of_deaths_from_COVID-19/



Program Adaptation

SCHOOL FEEDING: TAKE-HOME RATIONS

336 METRIC TONS OF
REMAINING
COMMODITIES



TAKE-HOME RATIONS
FOR OVER 74,000
FAMILIES



Repackaging and distribution at schools was organized and paid for by the MoES

CAPACITY BUILDING: ONLINE TRAININGS

Monthly routine monitoring visits and thematic workshops



A series of online thematic follow up workshops for key school staff



Over 400 online sessions for 665 school staff conducted in April-May 2020

CAPACITY BUILDING: DIGITAL COOKING COURSES

Yearly professional cooking course for school cooks in regional TVET schools



Digital course using video lessons, Zoom for theory and WhatsApp for practice



- Screenshots of cooks' home practice and trainers' feedback
- 85 cooks trained in August 2020

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION: WHATSAPP GROUPS

Monthly community
meetings followed by HH
info dissemination



WhatsApp groups for each
community to share key
messages and materials



SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION: DIGITAL MATERIALS

Thematic brochures and
printed materials for each
community



Short animations and
infographics shared in
WhatsApp groups and on
Facebook



Play video

SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION: DIGITAL MATERIALS

- › Using national and regional TV channels and platforms to create and disseminate key SBC messages on a regular schedule
- › Produced four new shows about good hygiene and dietary diversity in the pandemic
- › Latest episodes can be viewed [here](#)



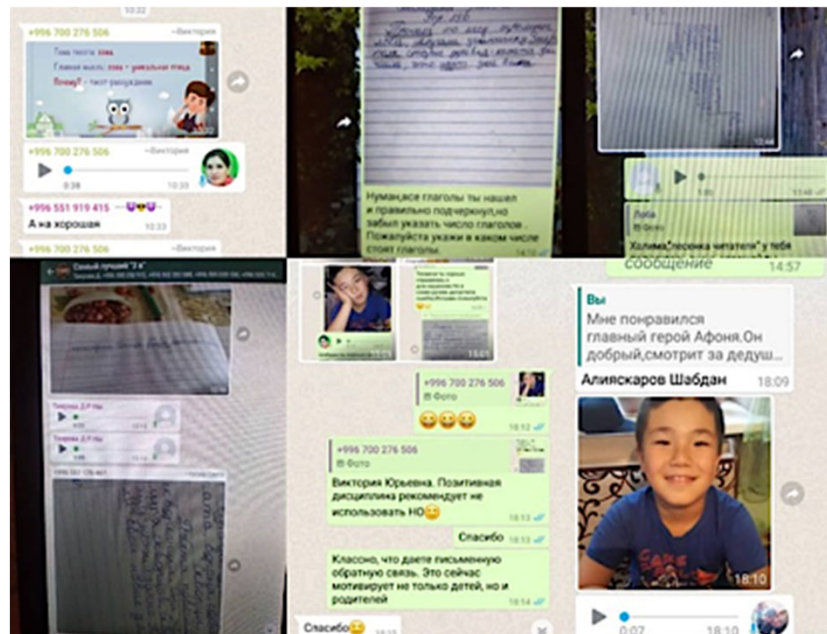
An episode about dietary diversity from a popular show Teleklinik that aired on national channel KTRK on June 21

LITERACY PROMOTION: POSITIVE DISCIPLINE ONLINE

Monthly lesson observations in classrooms and on-the-job feedback for teachers



WhatsApp for homework review, lesson observations and feedback by text, voicemails and short videos



WhatsApp screenshots from a primary grade teacher in Chuy province. In these messages, she is providing feedback to one of her students on his homework and at the same time consulting with one of the MC Literacy Promotion Field Specialists on how to best incorporate positive discipline practice into providing feedback in this format.

LITERACY PROMOTION: ONLINE READING CAMPS

Developed video tutorials for teachers focusing on how to use technology for reading activities and literacy promotion



Conducted voluntary training workshops for interested teachers and helped set up WhatsApp, Skype and Zoom platforms for teachers and provided digital reading materials



Launched the online camps initiative in June 2020 and regularly checked in with teachers, librarians and parents to provide technical (and sometimes emotional) support

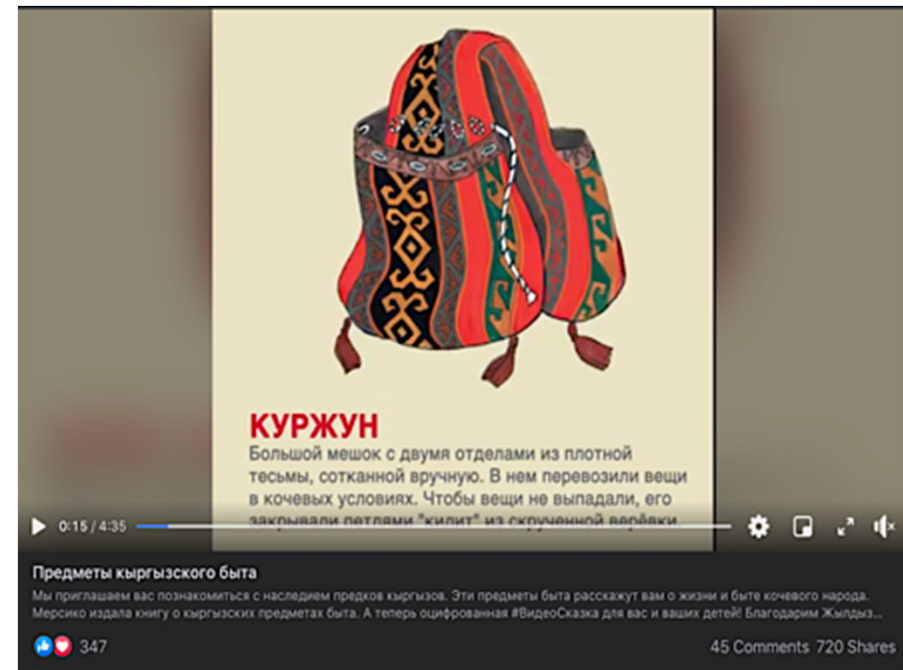
No.	Sample Reading Camp Day Plan:
1	Attendance and registration.
2	Group singing: Two songs to start the day and build team spirit.
3	Lesson plan: Teacher provides the schedule and necessary materials.
4	Time to read: Read together one story, ask questions and discussion to measure understanding.
5	Exercise: Let's use fitness to practice phonetics, the alphabet, and vocabulary.
6	Arts & Crafts – be creative!
7	Fill out your folder with your artwork and what you learned today.
8	Say goodbye, until tomorrow 😊

LITERACY PROMOTION: DIGITAL BOOKS

Over 80,000 books given to schools and libraries



12 titles digitized for online distribution (Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.)



Full video can be viewed [here](#).

SCHOOL HYGIENE FACILITIES: EXPANDED ACCESS

- › Every school with a school feeding program has sinks with running water, but mostly in the kitchen and accessible to primary grade students only
- › During lockdown, we started installing sinks in the hallways and by school entrances to ensure access for everybody (staff, visitors, older grade students)
- › July-Sept 2020: 38 schools had new sinks with hot water installed in hallways, more under review



LATEST DISTRIBUTION, SEPT-OCT 2020

- › Distributed a two-month supply of commodities to program schools
- › This allows for flexibility if schools close again
- › Next distribution is planned for after the holidays
- › THR remains an option at the Gov of KR request





Hot meals for the cold winter! In Sept.-Oct., the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its partner Mercy Corps delivered over 90 tons of food for more than 350 schools across Kyrgyzstan. This latest shipment will be used to prepare 900,000 nutritious meals for first graders this year. Earlier this year, in response to the pandemic, we provided more than 300 tons of food to support over 74,000 Kyrgyz school children and their families. Since 2012, the US Dept. of Agriculture McGovern-Dole Program in Kyrgyzstan has resulted in more than 60 million hot meals for students across the country." See Less

106

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Aida Tologonova

Большое спасибо!!! Ваша поддержка очень нужна нашей стране!

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Рахат Камбардинова

LESSONS LEARNED

Host government engagement in the program is crucial for swift and efficient program pivot in a sudden-onset crisis

- NEXT STEP: Continue engaging with MoES and MoH closely to ensure their support for THR and other program adjustments, if needed

Trainings and workshops for busy professionals might benefit from a combined approach: on-site practice and online theory and refreshers to allow for a flexible schedule

- NEXT STEP: Include online elements into regular workplan even if no second lockdown

LESSONS LEARNED

WASH in schools is crucial but expensive even with govt support; requires planning in advance

- NEXT STEP: Include min WASH requirements into all school rehabilitation projects

In lockdown, parents' role becomes even more crucial; they need continuous support from the program to keep practicing new behaviors learned in school and through SBC

- NEX STEP: Capitalize on the established SBC network of change agents to continue engaging parents into their children' education