

IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

- **Government Institutions:** Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic, Republican Center for Health Promotion, Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Retraining and Continuing Education
- **Civil Society Organizations:** Kyrgyz Village Health Association, “For Food Security and Nutrition” Public Foundation, Scaling Up for Nutrition Movement
- **U.N. Agencies:** World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Food Programme
- **Implementing Partners:** Mountain Societies Development Support Programme, Agriculture Productivity and Nutrition Improvement Project, Mercy Corps, M4H

RELATED PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS

- Guideline for Trainers: Infant and Young Child Feeding, 2020
- Guideline for Health Workers at Primary Health Care: Infant and Young Child Feeding, 2021
- Training Manual for Participants: Nutrition and Anemia among Women of Reproductive Age and Adolescent Females, 2021
- Guidelines for Conducting Supportive Supervision on Infant and Young Child Feeding, 2020
- Building the Competency of Health Professionals in the Kyrgyz Republic for the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
- Nurturing Care to Improve Early Childhood Development: Kyrgyz Republic Country Profile



Photo credit: Maxime Fossat

USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Strengthening National Efforts to Improve Nutrition



OVERVIEW

USAID Advancing Nutrition in the Kyrgyz Republic worked for five years (2018–2023) to improve the nutritional status and health outcomes of populations vulnerable to malnutrition, especially women of reproductive age and children under five, with a focus on the critical 1,000-day window of opportunity. Collaborating with partners in national and local governments, village health committees, health centers

in oblasts and districts, as well as other nutrition stakeholders, we aimed to—

- Improve nutrition-related behaviors through enhanced social and behavior change at the individual, household, and population levels
- Improve the quality of nutrition services within the health system.



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ACHIEVEMENTS

1



STRENGTHENING NUTRITION SERVICES WITHIN THE HEALTH SYSTEM AND IMPROVING NUTRITION-RELATED BEHAVIORS

- Trained 4,859 community activists on nutrition, anemia, hygiene, and responsive care and early learning (RCEL), benefiting more than 44,000 households and reaching about 27,900 children under two in Batken, Jalal-Abad, and Issyk-Kul.
- Trained 2,866 health workers on infant and young child feeding, anemia, RCEL, and the baby-friendly hospital initiative. The project also engaged 77 mentors, resulting in 324 trainings and 131,033 consultations, impacting more than 23,857 children under two and 19,900 pregnant women.
- Exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months has increased by 22%, while the consumption of sugary or processed foods by children aged 0–5 months decreased by 9% and 6–23 months by 12% in Batken and Jalal-Abad.
- The number of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet increased to 5%, with a 7% increase in the number of children receiving food the minimum acceptable number of times.

2



IMPROVING COORDINATION FOR MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION

In 2021, USAID Advancing Nutrition helped establish and strengthen the Multi-Sectoral Platform (MSP) on nutrition and food security in Jalal-Abad, Batken, and Issyk-kul. The MSP brings together the regional government and stakeholders from various sectors to collectively address nutrition and food security challenges in the areas. Through joint efforts and shared expertise, the platform aims to implement effective and sustainable solutions to improve the nutritional status and overall well-being of vulnerable populations.

3



ENHANCING INFORMATION ACCESS AND SHARING AMONG NUTRITION STAKEHOLDERS

We strengthened the country’s health reporting system by introducing vital nutrition indicators for women and children, including minimum meal frequency, minimum acceptable diet, and exclusive breastfeeding. These will help policymakers and health professionals to assess and monitor nutrition outcomes accurately and to make informed decisions and tailor interventions to address malnutrition effectively.

4



STRENGTHENING SUPERVISION FOR IMPROVED SERVICE PROVISION

USAID Advancing Nutrition made mentoring a crucial responsibility for clinical supervisors in the regions by providing ongoing guidance to effectively implement nutrition and anemia interventions. The project developed an approved Guideline on Supportive Supervision, offering a standardized framework for mentoring sessions and promoting best practices in nutrition and anemia services.