



# FAO'S ROLE IN THE REVISED KYRGYZSTAN FLASH APPEAL 2010

Launch date:  
23 July 2010

## Background

Humanitarian needs remain high in southern Kyrgyzstan as 400 000 people struggle to recover from the severe outbreaks of violence in Osh (10 June 2010), Jalal-Abad (13 June 2010) and surrounding districts. The crisis caused devastating losses to human life, property and livelihoods.

In the affected area, which is home to a considerable Uzbek minority, one-third of the population was impacted directly: 300 000 people were internally displaced, 75 000 fled to Uzbekistan and 25 000 remained in the conflict zones.

Overall, security has stabilized since the constitutional referendum of 27 June, enabling 80 percent of displaced persons to return and increased access by humanitarian partners to identify and address needs. Currently, 37 500 people lack shelter, less than three months prior to the rainy season and onset of winter. Recovery from the extensive trauma and losses, and addressing protection and human rights concerns require considerable and urgent action.

The Kyrgyzstan Flash Appeal was launched on 18 June 2010 to mobilize life-saving and time-critical support. With increased access by humanitarian partners to assess the affected areas, the Appeal was revised on 23 July to reflect a more comprehensive and evidence-based account of needs and required funding. The Revised Appeal seeks USD 96.45 million in response to the protection and humanitarian needs of 400 000 people.

## Challenges facing food security and agriculture

Agriculture provides a livelihood to 65 percent of the population and a main source of food to urban areas, mainly through small farms and household plots, which generate 98 percent of gross agricultural output. The sector, however, is highly inefficient and subject to recurring natural- and human-induced disasters, such as the June floods and civil unrest in April that halted agricultural activity at the peak of spring planting. The rise in global costs has drained household earnings, leaving poor families unable to meet their basic needs or to replenish livelihood assets in order to secure food and income.

Prior to the June crisis, 37 percent of affected households were food-insecure. The food security situation is expected to deteriorate in areas hosting displaced persons in the next five months and particularly in winter, due to lack of safe access to land, pastures and markets, distress sale of assets, lower stocks for winter and reduced agricultural income.



Nearly two-thirds of Kyrgyzstan's people rely on agriculture to provide for their families.

An estimated 37 000 ha of land sustained 20-100 percent yield losses, which will likely reduce the income of 0.5 million people. Increased grain loss and reduced cereal yields may occur if harvesting is delayed.

According to assessments carried out by the Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 19 652 ha of irrigated crops lack sufficient water, with farmers likely to miss the October-November planting season. Results from a

FAO/World Food Programme (WFP) Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission will soon be available, which will further inform interventions in the agriculture sector.

It is anticipated that the humanitarian needs of food-insecure families throughout the country will increase into the winter lean season (January-June 2011). Urgent assistance is needed to ensure basic food security for 353 000 people. Without timely support, affected families risk falling into longer-term hunger and destitution.



## FAO's response

FAO has worked with WFP and partners to develop the Food Security and Agriculture Response Plan of the Revised Kyrgyzstan Flash Appeal. FAO and WFP are co-leading the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster to ensure a coordinated and effective response, reaching families most in need.

Under the Revised Appeal, FAO seeks **USD 5.7 million** to:

- provide **time-critical agricultural inputs** and **technical assistance** (e.g. seeds, fertilizers, veterinary support);
- rehabilitate **small-scale irrigation infrastructure**; and
- support the **effective coordination** of emergency agriculture and rehabilitation interventions.





## FAO's COMPONENT OF THE REVISED KYRGYZSTAN FLASH APPEAL 2010

**Total FAO requirements: USD 5.7 million**

**Project title:** Immediate time-critical assistance to restore the food security and agriculture-based livelihoods of food-insecure returnees and other conflict-affected vulnerable farmers in Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces (KGZ-10/A/33358/R)

**Objectives** To provide urgent and time-critical agriculture support to the most vulnerable and food-insecure IDPs and other conflict-affected families to resume and recover their farming-based livelihoods and to restore their household-level food security.

**Beneficiaries:** 10 000 households (5 500 returning families and 4 500 other conflict-affected families), including women-headed households.

**Implementing Partners** NGOs, CBOs, provincial and district authorities.

**Funds Requested: USD 4 315 740.**

There is a time-critical need to assist IDPs, returnees and affected families in planting winter crops. Compared with last year, over 30 percent of winter wheat has not been harvested yet and further delay may result in at least a 15 percent loss of production. An estimated 4 700 tonnes of emergency seed inputs, mainly wheat seeds, is needed to save the winter cropping season. Livestock deaths have also caused distress to vulnerable displaced families. Over 5 200 cattle/ruminants and 22 000 chickens were lost and access to pastures and essential livestock supplies is limited.

With donor support, FAO seeks to distribute improved winter wheat seed, nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer and farming tools to ensure the resumption of food production. Project efforts also aim to avert further livestock losses through the deworming and vaccination of 30 000 animals.

**Project title:** Urgent assistance to revitalize small-scale, community-based irrigation to recover agricultural production and farming-based livelihoods of the most vulnerable, food-insecure returnees and other conflict-affected families (KGZ-10/A/33689/R)

**Objectives:** To provide urgent financial, material and technical assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure returnees and other conflict-affected families in order to rehabilitate damaged small-scale irrigation infrastructure, recover farming-based livelihoods and ultimately restore their food security.

**Beneficiaries:** 33 000 people (5 500 families: 3 000 returning families and 2 500 other conflict-affected families), including women-headed households.

**Implementing Partners:** NGOs, CBOs, provincial and district authorities.

**Funds Requested: USD 840 950.**

About 1.07 million ha of land have been developed for irrigation, covering 80 percent of arable land in the country. However, much of the infrastructure has fallen into disrepair. Torrential rains in April-June caused severe damage to small-scale irrigation infrastructure. Preliminary FAO/Government assessments revealed six districts of Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces to be silted and damaged, which was exacerbated by the conflict. Over 19 652 ha of irrigated crops are short of water.

If irrigation systems are not cleared/rehabilitated soon, farmers will miss the winter planting period. The project aims to provide construction materials and technical support to Water Users Associations for the rapid rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation canals, based on FAO's Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques modernization methodology. The intervention also includes a cash-for-work programme for the urgent cleaning of irrigation and drainage canals.

**Project title:** Effective coordination of emergency agriculture and rehabilitation interventions to strengthen the overall food security response (KGZ-10/A/33688/R)

**Objectives** To ensure effective coordination of agriculture emergency and rehabilitation interventions (including crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry) as part of the overall food security sector response.

**Beneficiaries:** 43 government, NGO and UN agencies.

**Implementing Partners:** NGOs, CBOs, WFP and other UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

**Funds Requested: USD 498 740.**

The project will ensure that the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster response implements a coordinated, integrated, evidence-based response. It will contribute to assuring that the support delivered by partners is built around common objectives, a shared strategy and, where possible, joint programming and planning. These efforts will lead to improved response to the crisis.

FAO will work with WFP to organize regular Food Security and Agriculture Cluster coordination meetings, covering livelihoods restoration, emergency and early recovery initiatives. Other activities include preparing technical leaflets, providing technical support, sharing tools (e.g. needs/impact assessment tools, 3W matrices, maps), food-security monitoring and preparation of a strategic framework to provide the foundation for a cluster plan of action.

For more information please contact:

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