



## DEVELOPING CAPACITY TO STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN ARMENIA, KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

The rural populations of Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are particularly affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. This project was designed to support national efforts to combat these issues and break the cycle of rural poverty through an innovative approach that linked school feeding programmes, social protection and migration to agriculture and nutrition interventions.



### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Enabling a policy and legal environment at national, regional and global levels was the focus of Output 1. Support was provided for the development of national food security and nutrition (FSN) policies, regulations and a related curriculum. Under this Output, more than 950 decision-makers and other high-level actors benefited from training on FSN and social protection. At regional and global levels, the project promoted the participation of stakeholders in policy dialogues and brought together good practices and instruments for policy dialogue and learning about FSN strategies, including nutrition-sensitive social protection and school feeding programmes. The project contributed to three global and two regional reports. Support was also provided for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).

Under Output 2, cross-sectoral coordination and communication were boosted through policy dialogues on FSN, social protection and school feeding programmes. Awareness-raising campaigns were carried out, and the project received a considerable amount of media coverage, raising its visibility and disseminating its results.

Implementing pilot programmes to build functional links between agriculture, nutrition and social protection was the focus of Output 3. Through the school food and nutrition pilot, greenhouses, fruit and vegetable drying units, orchards and gardens were established at schools in the three targeted countries. In Kyrgyzstan, a Logistic Center to procure food for schools was also established, with fruit and vegetable storage and laboratory facilities. Linkages were formed with local farmers for the procurement of produce for the Center. Under the second pilot, a Cash+ programme was established, fostering an increase in nutrition and boosting the financial resources of 283 vulnerable households in Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Under the third pilot, families were provided with matching grants that encouraged them to invest remittances received from family members who had migrated to other countries for work into local agribusiness ventures. The lessons learned through this pilot, which was the first FAO project to focus on migration and matching grants, contributed to the development of the 2019 FAO Migration Framework. These lessons are also being developed into a FAO programme that supports the creation of small and medium-sized agribusinesses through a grant-matching scheme.

### KEY FACTS

**Latest Approved Budget**  
USD 6 143 305

**Duration**  
May 2016 – March 2022

**Resource Partners**  
Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation

**Partners**  
Ministries of Agriculture, Labour and Migration, Social Protection, Education, Finance, and Health; Statistics Agencies/Committees and local authorities in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations; Professional networks; non-governmental and community-based organizations (NGOs and CBOs), academia and the private sector

**Beneficiaries**  
School communities, vulnerable households and families of migrants; small-scale farmers; local community leaders and authorities; media representatives; and government officials



# IMPACT

Overall, the project contributed to the creation of an enabling environment for food security by strengthening the capacities of government institutions to draft FSN policy, legislation and frameworks. Through the implementation of its pilot programmes, the project boosted the food and nutrition security of rural populations in the three targeted countries.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

# ACTIVITIES

- Country-specific capacity-development and advocacy products for FSN training and campaigns were produced.
- Best practices and lessons learned for policy dialogue on food security, nutrition-sensitive social protection and school feeding programmes were collected.
- Partnerships were formed with the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) and the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS), as well as non-governmental and civil-society organizations, private sector service providers, local authorities, parent councils and local community leaders.
- The project collaborated with other international agencies and organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- South-South Cooperation was a key element of the project, facilitating expert exchanges and study tours on the Georgian experience of monitoring SDG indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 and on the Republic of Moldova’s Programme for Attracting Remittances into the Economy (PARE 1+1).
- With the collaboration of the FAO’s Global Food Security and Nutrition Forum (FSN Forum), the project facilitated online discussions and consultations to exchange information, experiences and ideas on sustainable food systems, school food and nutrition programmes, and food security and nutrition policy relevant to implementation in the Europe and Central Asia region (ECA).



**Project Title**  
Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia

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**Contact**  
Mauricio Rosales (Lead Technical Officer)  
[Mauricio.Rosales@fao.org](mailto:Mauricio.Rosales@fao.org)



The Russian Government

Partnerships and Outreach  
For more information, please contact: [Reporting@fao.org](mailto:Reporting@fao.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy