



SPRING/Kyrgyz Republic

Background

According to the 2012 Kyrgyz Demographic and Health Survey, 18 percent of children under five are stunted. In addition, 43 percent of children under five and 35 percent of women (aged 15-49) have some degree of anemia. SPRING works at both the community and national levels to contribute to reductions in stunting and anemia in the Kyrgyz Republic through the uptake of 11 evidence-based practices. These practices, tailored to the Kyrgyz context, relate to optimal breastfeeding, appropriate complementary feeding of children, dietary diversity throughout the year, reduced consumption of junk food, handwashing, and other household-level behaviors targeting women and children in the first 1,000 days.



Photo: Timothy Williams, SPRING

What We Do

The Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project is a seven-year USAID-funded Cooperative Agreement designed to strengthen global and country efforts to scale up high-impact nutrition practices and policies and improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes. The project is managed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., with partners Helen Keller International, The Manoff Group, Save the Children, and the International Food Policy Research Institute. SPRING provides state-of-the-art technical support and focuses on the prevention of stunting and maternal and child anemia in the first 1,000 days.

Our Work

SPRING/Kyrgyz Republic is working in 11 *rayons* and townships in Jalalabad *oblast*, 6 *rayons* and townships in Naryn *oblast*, and Bishkek. Access to quality nutrition services and increased demand are key to achieving uptake





Photo: SPRING/Kyrgyz Republic

of the project's priority practices and services. To ensure uptake of practices related to consumption of a diverse diet, SPRING works to enhance year-round access to a variety of foods by promoting household-level food storage and preservation practices.

At the national level, SPRING has supported the development of the national anemia technical guidelines and protocol, which includes iron–folic acid supplementation and presumptive deworming provisions for pregnant women. SPRING also led efforts to revise the national guideline on prevention and treatment of parasitic infections. SPRING successfully advocated for the inclusion of nutrition content in pre-service clinical training for doctors and nurses.

SPRING conducts training for health care providers at the national level and in its implementation areas to deliver high-quality nutrition services and counseling, with over 1,200 health workers trained since January 2015. It also supports 27 facilities through training and supportive monitoring to help them achieve Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative certification.

SPRING mobilizes and trains community activists to reach pregnant and lactating women and/or children younger than two years with key nutrition and hygiene messages through household visits and community meetings. Each month, approximately 2,000 community activists reach over 21,000 caregivers and over 7,500 children under two from about 4,000 households throughout SPRING program areas. SPRING is also engaging the media at local and regional levels—including journalists, television programs, and social media—to reach urban audiences with nutrition and hygiene messages.

To enhance access to diverse diets, the project studied the dietary diversity of families, women, and children at different times of the year and assessed existing household-level food storage and preservation practices to provide recommendations on proper methods for safe storage and use of food products. SPRING also provides targeted technical assistance and capacity building to various agriculture projects and organizations to strengthen nutrition program elements or to make the agriculture programming more nutrition-sensitive.

Partnerships

SPRING is working through a myriad of strategic partnerships to improve the capacity of health providers and to support national-level initiatives likely to affect nutrition outcomes. Key partners include the Ministry of Health (Maternal and Child Health Unit, Health Services Delivery Department, Public Health Department, State Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance Department, and Republican Center for Health Promotion), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, the Kyrgyz Association of Village Health Committees, Health Promotion Units, and organizations that also reach 1,000-day households, such as members of the national Scaling Up Nutrition movement. SPRING also collaborates with USAID's Agro Horizon Project to strengthen nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, and to support social and behavior change communication initiatives to improve nutrition.

For More Information

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