

US Government Provides \$3.2 million for Food for Schools in Kyrgyzstan

The United States Government, through the Department of Agriculture, will provide approximately \$3.2 million for food and other assistance to schools in Kyrgyzstan. This grant from the U.S. Government will provide 670 metric tons of food, including fortified wheat, rice and oil. The food will arrive in early 2011 and be distributed by Mercy Corps to the neediest schools, kindergartens and orphanages throughout the country. The food will supplement these schools' lunches for approximately 40,000 students.

In addition to the food commodities distributed to these schools, the U.S. assistance will be used by Mercy Corps to provide training in nutrition and budgeting to the participating schools, to provide grants to 150 schools for infrastructure improvements, furniture and school supplies, and to support 30 youth vocational training programs.

The U.S. assistance is provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and implemented by Mercy Corps. This program has provided similar assistance to children in Kyrgyzstan since 2001.