

# Nurturing Care to Improve Early Childhood Development:

## Kyrgyz Republic Country Profile

### Introducing Nurturing Care

Research indicates that poverty, poor health, nutrition, and other adversities threaten 43 percent of children under five years of age in low- and middle-income countries, preventing them from reaching their developmental potential (Black et al., 2016). In Kyrgyz Republic, 26 percent of children under five years of age are at risk of poor development based on a composite indicator of stunting, extreme poverty, or both (Lu et al., 2016).

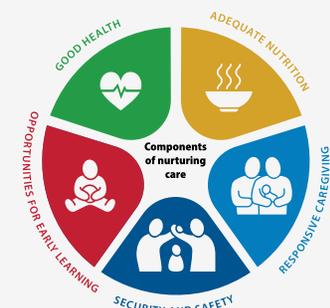
The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recognizes early childhood as a critical stage of human development. Children’s early experiences directly affect their physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development, with lasting impact on later success in school and life (Georgieff et al. 2018). The first 1,000 days—from pregnancy to age two years are the foundation for lifelong learning and development. The brain develops more rapidly during the first 1,000 days than at any other period in life (Georgieff et al. 2018). Children grow best in an environment with nurturing care, which includes safe and secure surroundings, responsive parenting/caregiving, adequate maternal and child health care and nutrition, and opportunities for stimulation and early learning (see Figure 1; Britto et al. 2017).

There is growing momentum for integrated early childhood programming that engages multiple sectors, based on compelling new global evidence on the importance of reaching pregnant women and young children with holistic services. The 2016 Lancet series on early childhood development (ECD) and 2020 World Health Organization (WHO) *Guidelines for Improving Early Childhood Development* emphasize the importance of holistic nurturing care through integrated services (WHO 2020). Evidence from low- and middle-income countries indicate that combined caregiving and nutrition interventions are effective in improving children’s cognitive, language, and motor development compared with the current standard of care or nutrition interventions alone (Jeong et al. 2018). To date, there has been limited integration of responsive care and early learning in health and nutrition services. The Nurturing Care Framework (see figure) provides guidance to help children and families thrive through care for the individual child within a broader enabling environment of capable caregivers, empowered communities, supportive services, and enabling policies (WHO 2018).

This profile compiles national data alongside information on national policies and programs to highlight both the needs and opportunities for promoting optimal child development in Kyrgyz Republic.



Photo Credit: Save the Children



**Figure 1: Components of Nurturing Care** (WHO 2018)

-  QUICK LINKS
-  OUTCOMES
-  DATA
-  DATA
-  DATA
-  DATA
-  ENVIRONMENT
-  POLICIES
-  PROGRAMS
-  REFERENCES
-  DEFINITIONS

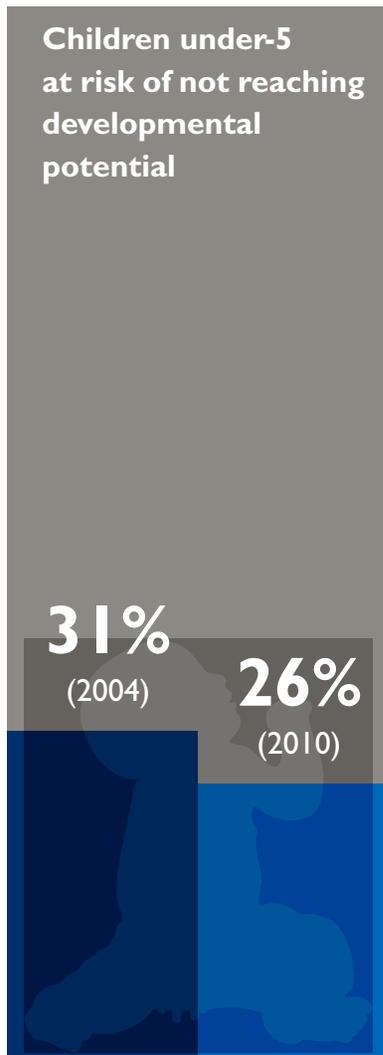
# Key Nurturing Care and Early Childhood Development Indicators

This profile presents data on nurturing care and early childhood development. The WHO's (2020) *Guidelines for Improving ECD* provide useful definitions of these two terms:

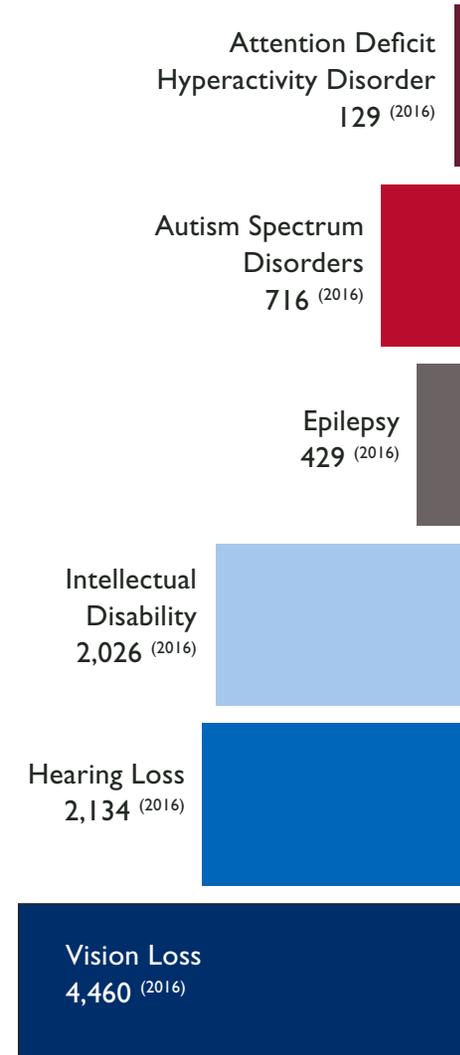
**“Early childhood development:** Refers to the cognitive, physical, language, motor, social and emotional development between 0–8 years of age.

**Nurturing care:** Characterized by a caregiving environment that is sensitive to children’s health and nutritional needs, responsive, emotionally supportive, and developmentally stimulating and appropriate, with opportunities for play and exploration and protection from adversities.”

In brief, nurturing care supports children to survive and reach their full potential and ECD represents the outcomes measured. Nurturing care is important for everyone, and is especially important in the earliest years of a child’s life from ages 0 to 3 as this is a period of rapid brain development that sets the foundation for later health and wellbeing. Data are presented for only four—nutrition, safety and security, health, and early learning—of the five domains of nurturing care because there are currently no global indicators and data on responsive caregiving. Detailed indicator definitions and sources are located at the end of the document. To access an indicator definition, click on the title of the indicator. The data presented here provide a country-level overview, and there is likely in-country variability due to population demographics or geography.



Developmental disability in children under **5** per 100,000 population

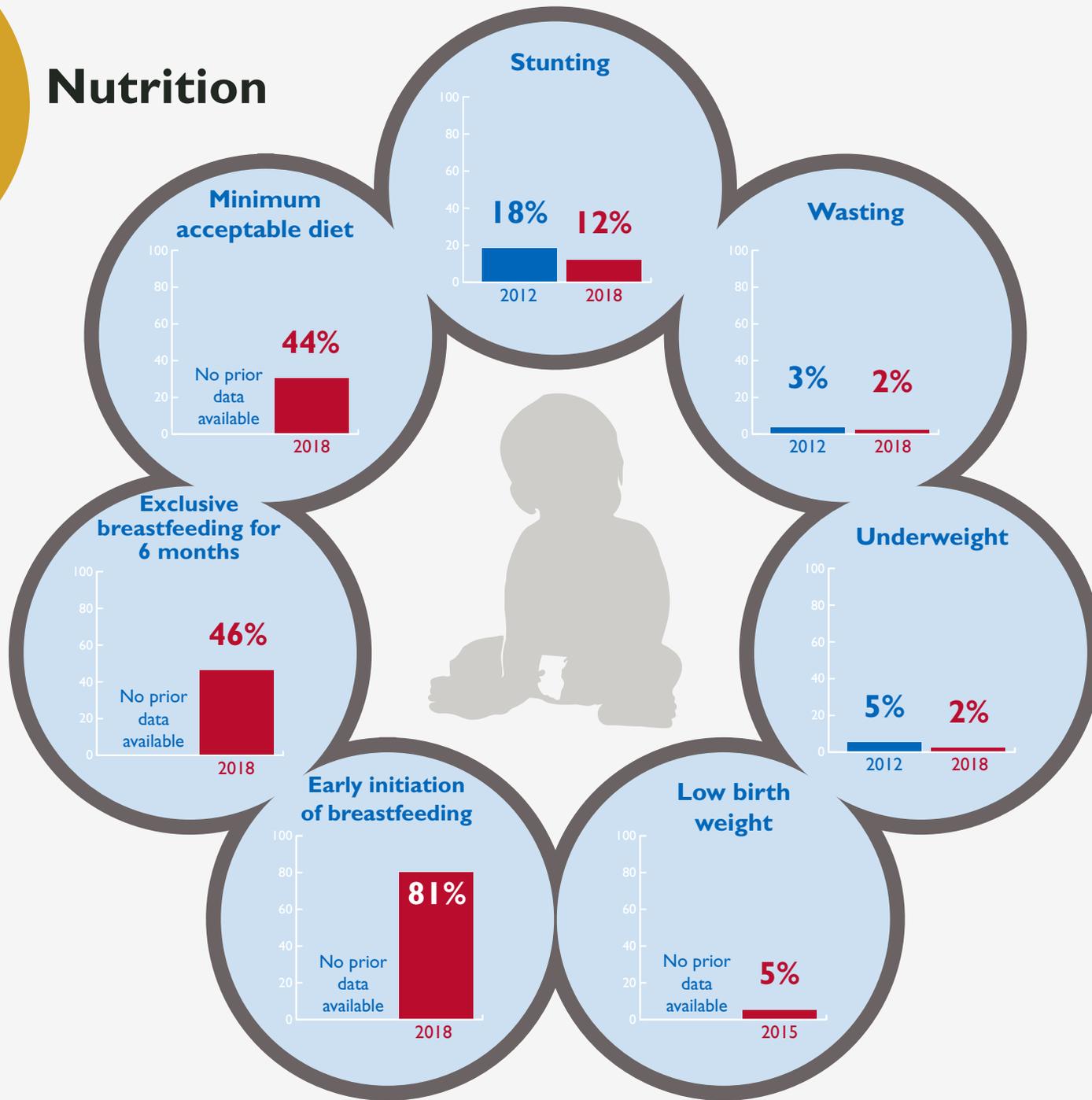


When available, data is presented as a trend for the two most recent years. However, some indicators are available only for one year or not at all.





# Nutrition





## Early Learning



## Health



## Safety and Security



**87%**

Support for learning  
(2018)



**39%**

Attendance in early  
childhood education  
(2018)



**72%**

Availability of  
playthings  
(2018)



**21%**

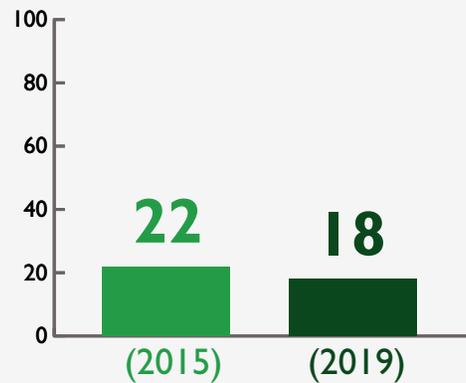
Availability of  
children's books  
(2018)

### Preterm births



**10%** (2014)

### Under-5 mortality rate



**27%**

Positive discipline  
(2018)



**8%**

Inadequate supervision  
(2018)



Children living  
in poverty

No data available

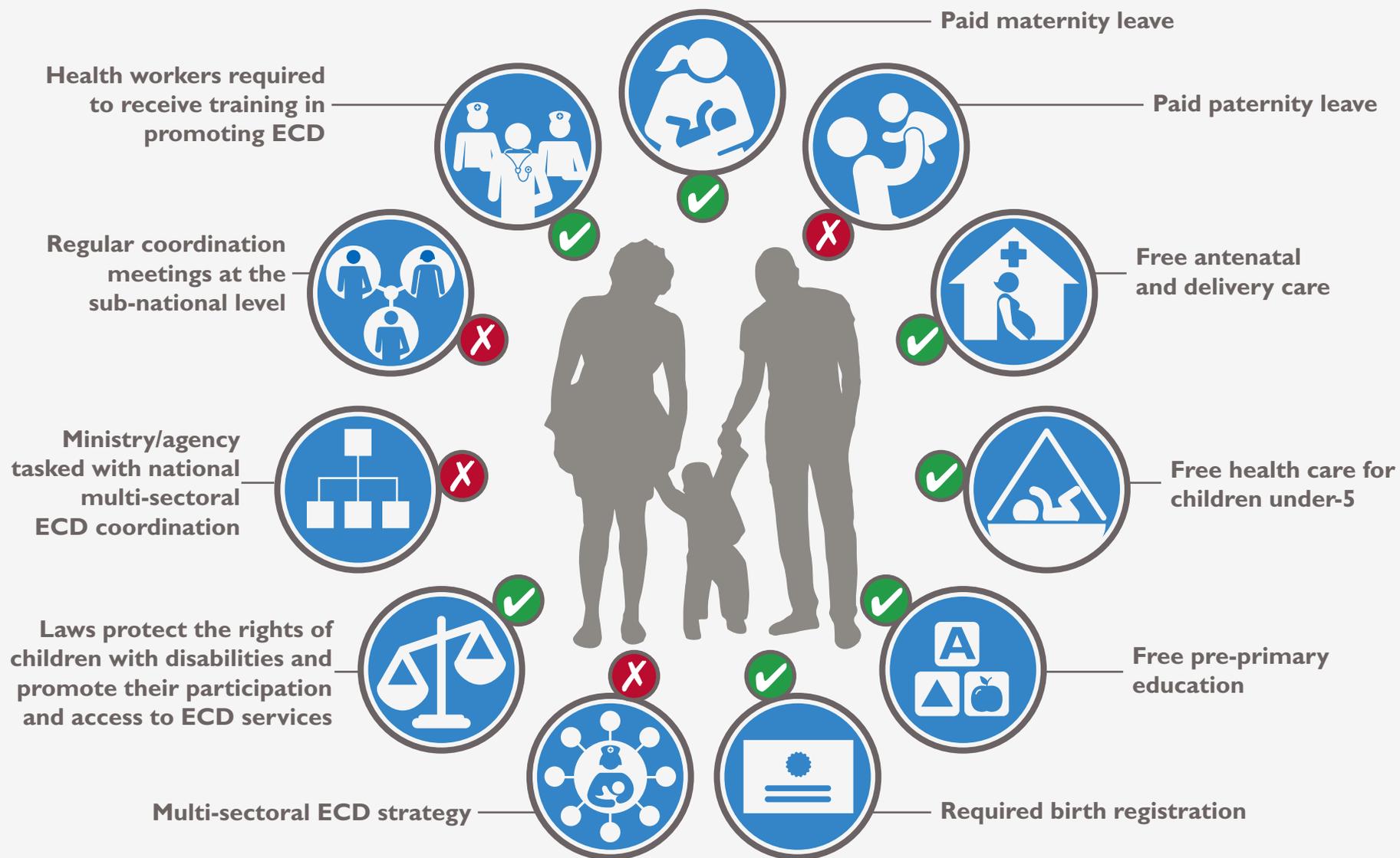


**18%**

Children covered by  
social protection systems  
(2015)



# Policy Environment for Supporting Improved ECD



Key: ✓ policy in place ✗ no policy ? information not available



# Overview of Policies Related to Improving ECD in Kyrgyz Republic

## Ministry of Labor and Social Development

### 1991–Present

#### State Benefits Law

The State Benefits Law upheld by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development is a social assistance program that targets impoverished communities to reduce poverty, especially in households with young children. The Monthly Benefit for Poor Families with children (MBPF) was one of the six social protection mechanisms implemented but it was the only one that provided social cash transfers for the poorest households. Cash transfers were granted as a one time allowance for the birth of a new child, a monthly allowance for each child until the age of 3, a monthly allowance for families that have more than two children under the age of 16 or that have a disability.

## Ministry of Education and Science

### 2011–2020

#### Education Development Strategy

The Ministry of Education and Science developed several programs for children aged 3 months to 2 years who were unable to access pre-primary education as an effort to prepare them for entering the formal education system. These courses aimed to serve as a full preparatory year for young children, which included lessons in literacy along with a curriculum that considered social and emotional behaviors and the promotion of healthy lifestyle practices.



Photo Credit: Save the Children



## Ministry of Health (MoH)

### 2000–Present

#### **Mother and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative**

Initiated in 1991 by the WHO and UNICEF, the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) was created to train, certify, and highlight health facilities that offer optimum support and care for children and mothers. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the initiative was renamed the “Mother and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative” and a national BFHI committee was formed to train and certify health facilities.

### 2019–2030

#### **The Program of the Kyrgyz Republic Government on Public Health Protection and Health Care System Development for “Healthy Person—Prosperous Country”**

This is the fourth strategic document that outlines further development of the health care system and protections of health for the population of the Kyrgyz Republic. The program is led by the MoH to coordinate all stakeholders working in the health sector. The program aims to protect health, ensure access to quality services, strengthen primary health care and decrease financial difficulties for people and communities. The program also focuses on the reduction of maternal, infant and child mortality and reducing stunting in children under 5 years.

### 2012–2018

#### **National Health Reform Program (Den Sooluk)**

Den Sooluk was the national health reform that focused on the country’s provision of high coverage for maternal health services including antenatal and postnatal care along with improving the delivery of child health services. The program also focuses on the well-being of the whole child through the reduction of death, illness and disability, and the promotion of growth and development for children under five years of age.

### 2020–2035

#### **Healthcare Delivery Optimization Plan (Master Plan)**

The purpose of the Master Plan is to analyze and evaluate the existing health infrastructure and performance of the health care system and to develop recommendations for optimizing measures to be implemented in three different time periods spanning 15 years. The Master Plan is a Roadmap for Implementation that provides guidance for the development and implementation of specific efforts at district, regional, and national levels. The goal is to restructure the health system ensuring compliance with relevant international standards, improve access of the population to quality health care, as well as increase equity in the provision of services. The Master Plan includes recommendations specific to the improvement of maternal and child health services. Recommendations vary from investment in more beds and equipment to combining efforts across different facilities and actors that provide services for mothers and young children.



# National Sustainable Development Council of Kyrgyz Republic

 2013–2017

## Sustainable Development Plan

The Sustainable Development Plan was an integrated strategy for the development of the Kyrgyz Republic that focused on the country relying on its own resources, ensuring supremacy of rule of law, and ensuring unity. In relation to ECD, the plan aimed to focus on responsible and positive parenting for the upbringing of children, increased accessibility to preschools and daycares, and an update of the curricula of preschool and daycare to include healthy lifestyle behaviors and inclusion of children with special needs and children from vulnerable families.



Photo Credit: USAID



# Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry, and Melioration – jointly with the Ministry of Health



2015–2017

## Gulazyk (National Nutrition Strategy)

The National Nutrition Strategy focused on improving the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years. The initiative aimed to provide vitamins and minerals to children to reduce anemia and also included the promotion of key messages on ECD to support the cognitive development of young children.



2019–2023

## Food Security and Nutrition Program

The cross-sectoral policy's main objectives are to improve the availability of food for human consumption, improve the nutritional status of the population, improve the safety of foodstuffs, and form a management system that monitors and evaluates the program. The program includes a wide range of initiatives across sectors such as agriculture, health care, education and social protection. The program also developed a framework that provides services and nutrition initiatives to support children under the age of 2, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers with anemia.

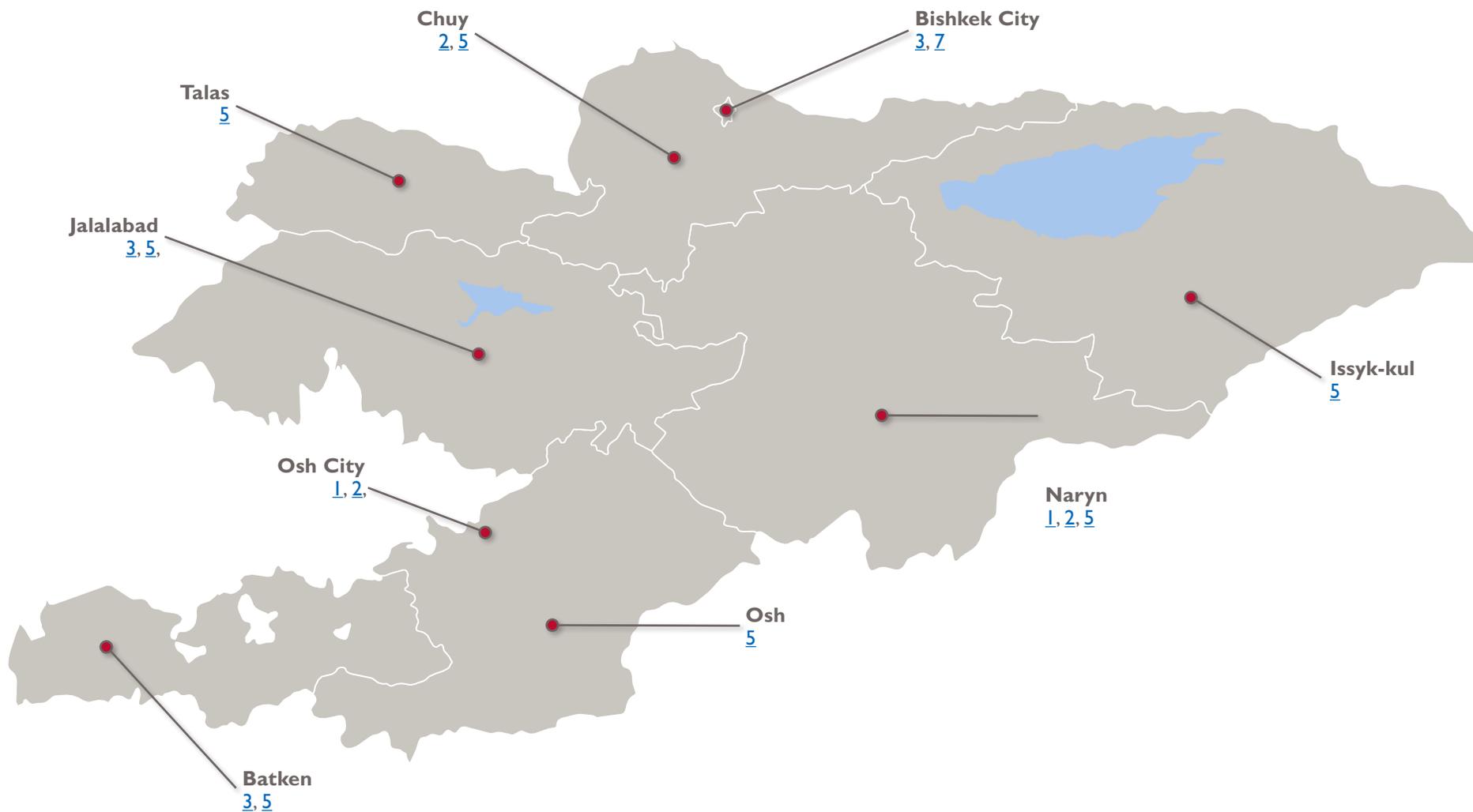


Photo Credit: Save the Children



# Current and Recent Programs for Improving ECD

Each number represents a different program. Click on the number to jump to the next pages to learn more.



[4, 6](#) National with identification of pilot health facilities for certain project components



# Current and Recent Programs for Improving ECD

Program	Overview	Key Activities
<p>1. Supporting Child Development in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</p>	<p>Implementer: Aga Khan Foundation            Years: 2016–2018            Regions: Osh City and Naryn            Key Government Partners: MoH, Kyrgyz State Medical Institute of Continuous Education.            Funders: Johnson &amp; Johnson; Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)</p>	<p>The goal of the project was to improve the overall development of children aged 0–4 years in target communities of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through a three-pronged approach: (1) Refine and deliver UNICEF’s Care for Child Development (CCD); (2) Utilize various media platforms to widen exposure to CCD principles, and (3) Policy dialogue to help ministries of health and education actualize their CCD strategies and integrate the Science of Early Childhood Development (SECD) in their strategies. In Kyrgyzstan, 131 kindergarten staff from 46 villages were trained on SECD, and 330 medical workers from the same villages were trained and supported on CCD, who in turn have conducted sessions for more than 4,000 households comprising 5,740 caregivers and 6,760 children of age 0–4. In addition, the program provided materials on child development, parenting, and nutrition in the government run parental resource centers. The program developed a mobile application BalAPPan and short videos for parents/caregivers of children aged 0–4 with key messages. AKF also strengthened the capacity of institutions and invested in human resources for ECD. The CCD package has been integrated into the current course of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute of Continuous Education. The final evaluation of the project showed an increase in knowledge of medical workers and parents/caregivers on child development.</p>
<p>2. Reading for Children</p>	<p>Implementer: Aga Khan Foundation            Years: 2007–2018            Regions: Osh City, Naryn, Chuy            Key Government Partners: District, village and school libraries            Funder: Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)</p>	<p>In order to revive the culture of reading in the country, AKF has supported the establishment of 85 parental resource centers which have been visited by more than 34,260 users since 2007. Although the resource centers target parents, the centers also support children in the first 1,000 days with over 10,000 children aged 0-6 visiting the centers since their establishment. To ensure access to reading materials in parental resource centers and other libraries in the country, AKF has developed and published 55 contextually relevant and age-appropriate books in local languages by local authors and illustrators. An interactive mobile app with these stories was later developed and has been used by many children and families across the country. The findings from an impact evaluation of the program show that children from communities supported by AKF’s interventions had higher reading outcomes compared to those who did not have access to such opportunity.</p>

BACK TO MAP



Program	Overview	Key Activities
3. USAID Advancing Nutrition Kyrgyz Republic	<p>Implementer: USAID Advancing Nutrition            Years: 2019–2023            Regions: Bishkek City, Batken, Jalalabad region            Key Government Partners:            MoH, Republican Center for Health Promotion            Funder: USAID</p>	<p>USAID Advancing Nutrition is building on the success of Strengthening Partnerships and Results Globally (SPRING), a project that was implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic from 2014–2018. USAID Advancing Nutrition works to improve the nutritional status in women of reproductive age (ages 15–49) and children under 5, with a specific focus on the first 1,000 days window of opportunity.</p> <p>Working in partnership with national and local governments, village health committees, oblast and district-level health centers, and local and international non-governmental organizations, the project promotes the uptake of 11 priority nutrition behaviors. The project advocates at national level for improved policies; conducted a formative assessment on the beliefs related to diets, care, and hygiene; and developed a social and behavior change strategy to inform program implementation. With support from the Kyrgyz Village Health Committee, the project virtually disseminated priority nutrition messages on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding. In addition, the project trained over 2,074 community volunteers to deliver key nutrition and hygiene messages to households, particularly those with pregnant and lactating women and/or children younger than two years and built capacity of health providers on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), adapted IYCF to the COVID 19 context, and is planning to start BFHI activities. Currently, the project is exploring opportunities to incorporate responsive care and early learning content into their programming.</p>
4. Improving the Quality of Hospital Care to Reduce Maternal, Newborn and Child deaths and accelerate the achievement of the SDG health targets	<p>Implementer: WHO            Year: 2021–2023            Regions: National with identification of pilot health facilities for certain project components            Key Government Partners: MoH            Funder: Government of the Russian Federation</p>	<p>The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the national health system’s capacity to accelerate ending preventable maternal, newborn, and child mortality by improving the quality of care. As part of the continuum of care of maternity, newborn, and child health care across the levels (family, community, primary health care, and hospital care) there is a plan to: i) introduce the Framework on Early Childhood Development in the WHO European Region (2020) to country stakeholders, ii) conduct an assessment of current ECD programming in the country, and iii) adapt and integrate the regional framework into the country strategies and programs. The project also plans to introduce and adopt a new WHO Pocket Book for Child and Adolescent Health Care at Primary Health Care. The pocket book consists of both nutrition and ECD-related components.</p>
5. McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition (MGD)	<p>Implementer: Mercy Corps            Years: 2017–2021            Regions: Batken, Chuy, Jalalabad, Naryn, Osh, Talas, Issyk-kul            Key Government Partners:            Ministry of Education and Science, MoH, National Center for Health Promotion            Funder: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)</p>	<p>The MGD program focuses on achieving two main objectives: 1) Improve literacy of school-age children; 2) Increase use of improved health and dietary practices. While the program primarily reaches school-age children, they also include community-level work in the first 1,000 days. At the community-level, a network of community-based change agents uses social and behavior change communication to help improve household hygiene and nutrition practices, including for infants and preschool children. To date, the MGD program has trained over 3,000 change agents across the country.</p>

[BACK TO MAP](#)



Program	Overview	Key Activities
<p>6. Deployment Parenting App and Learning Passport on ECD</p>	<p>Implementer: UNICEF Kyrgyz Republic            Years: 2020–2021            Region: National            Key Government Partners:            Ministry of Education and Science and MoH            Funder: UNICEF Headquarters</p>	<p>UNICEF's work on ECD recognizes that every growing child needs nurturing care, good health, optimal nutrition and a stimulating and safe environment that offers plenty of support for early learning, and to ensure the best start for their children, all families need some support. Typically, support is provided through various services in health, education and child protection sectors as well as through the ECD workforce who promote parent-child interactions. However, such support is not always sufficient and is particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In order to support parents to continue to receive services even when direct contact with service providers was not possible, UNICEF initiated the development of a mobile parenting app called, Parent Buddy. The parenting app on ECD helped to overcome barriers to access during the COVID-19 pandemic through digital solutions.</p>
<p>7. Early Identification and Interventions for Children with Disabilities</p>	<p>Implementer: UNICEF Kyrgyz Republic            Years: 2018–2021            Region: Bishkek            Key Government Partners:            MoH, Ministry of Education and Science, and local authorities.            Funders: UNICEF Headquarters</p>	<p>There is a lack of early intervention services in the regions as well as the capital city, which leads to an increase in the number of children with disabilities not receiving services.</p> <p>With early detection of delays in child development and timely interventions, such as educating parents in child development and providing psycho-social support and information about child rights, many children with complex needs could be fully integrated into all aspects of society on an equal footing with their peers. The aim of this program is to improve access to integrated services at the community level for children with disabilities aged 0–8 years. The program offers services from a transdisciplinary team with specialists from different departments who provide multi-sectoral services to children at risk of developmental delay or disability.</p>

BACK TO MAP



## References and Background Sources

- Black, Maureen, Susan P. Walker, Lia C.H. Fernald, Christopher T. Andersen, Ann M. DiGiorlamo, Chunling Lu, et al. 2017. "Early Childhood Coming of Age. Science through the Life-Course." *The Lancet* 389(10064): 77–90, doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31389-7
- Britto, Pia .R., Stephen J. Lye, Karrie Proulx, Aisha K. Yousafzai, Stephen G. Matthews, Tyler Vaivada, Rafael Perez-Escamilla, et al. 2017. "Nurturing care: Promoting Early Childhood Development," *The Lancet* 389(10064): 91–102, doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31390-3.
- Georgieff, Michael K., Sara E. Ramel, & Sarah E. Cusick. 2018. "Nutritional Influences on Brain Development," *Acta Paediatrica* 107(8): 1310-1321, doi: 10.1111/apa.14287.
- Jeong, Joshua, Emily Franchett, and Aisha K. Yousafzai. 2018. *World Health Organization Recommendations to Support Early Child Development in the First Three Years of Life: Report of the Systematic Review of the Evidence*. Boston: Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
- Lu, Chunling, Maureen M. Black, and L.M. Richter. 2016. "Risk of Poor Development in Young Children in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries: An Estimation and Analysis at the Global, Regional and Country Level." *The Lancet Global Health*, 4: e916-22, doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(16)30266-
- World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund, World Bank Group. 2018. *Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development: A Framework for Helping Children Survive and Thrive to Transform Health and Human Potential*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

In addition to references listed here, information was gathered on programs through reviewing publicly available information from organizational websites or publications as well as via direct communication with program implementers.



Photo Credit / USAID



# Indicator Definitions and Sources

DESCRIPTOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Child Development</b>		
Children under-5 at risk of not reaching developmental potential	Percent of children under-5 years that were exposed to stunting or extreme poverty	Lu, Chunling, Maureen M. Black, and L.M. Richter. 2016. "Risk of Poor Development in Young Children in Low-Income and Middle-Income Countries: An Estimation and Analysis at the Global, Regional and Country Level." <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> , 4: e916-22, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(16)30266-2">doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(16)30266-2</a>
Developmental disability in children under-5	Rate of developmental disability per 100,000 children under-five years, disaggregated by six forms of developmental disability [epilepsy, intellectual, hearing loss, vision loss, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)]	Global Research on Developmental Disabilities Collaborators. 2018. "Developmental disabilities among Children Younger than 5 Years in 195 Countries and Territories, 1990–2016: A Systematic Analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016." <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> , 6: e1100-21, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30309-7">doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30309-7</a>
Children ages 36–59 months that are not developmentally on track	Percentage of children (aged 36–59 months) not developmentally on track in at least 3 of the 4 following domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
<b>Early Learning</b>		
Support for learning	Percentage of children (aged 36–59 months) with whom any adult household member has engaged in 4 or more activities to provide early stimulation and responsive care in the last 3 days	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Attendance in early childhood education	Percentage of children age 36–59 months who are attending an early childhood education program	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Availability of playthings	Percentage of children under age 5 who play with 2 or more types of playthings	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Availability of children's books	Percentage of children under age 5 who have 3 or more children's books	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.



DESCRIPTOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Health</b>		
Preterm births	Proportion of live births that are preterm (before 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Chawanpaiboon, Saifon, Joshua P.Vogel, Ann-Beth Moller, Pisake Lumbiganon, et al. 2019. Global, Regional, and National Estimates of Levels of Birth in 2014: A Systematic Review and Modelling Analysis. <i>The Lancet Global Health</i> , 7: e37-46, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30451-0">doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30451-0</a>
Under-5 mortality rate	Deaths of children under five years per 1,000 live births	United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. 2020. Under-Five Mortality Rate–Total.” Accessed July 2, 2021 <a href="https://childmortality.org/data">https://childmortality.org/data</a>
<b>Nutrition</b>		
Stunting	Percentage of children under-five falling below minus 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median height-for-age of the reference population	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic - NSC, Ministry of Health - MOH/Kyrgyz Republic, and ICF International. 2013. Kyrgyz Republic Demographic and Health Survey 2012. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic: NSC, MOH, and ICF International. National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Wasting	Percentage of children under 5 years of age falling below minus 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median weight-for-height of the reference population	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic - NSC, Ministry of Health - MOH/Kyrgyz Republic, and ICF International. 2013. Kyrgyz Republic Demographic and Health Survey 2012. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic: NSC, MOH, and ICF International. National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Underweight	Percentage of children under five falling below minus 2 standard deviations (moderate and severe) from the median weight-for-age of the reference population	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic - NSC, Ministry of Health - MOH/Kyrgyz Republic, and ICF International. 2013. Kyrgyz Republic Demographic and Health Survey 2012. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic: NSC, MOH, and ICF International. National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report. Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Low birth weight	Proportion of births that are low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams)	Blencowe et al. 2019. "National, Regional, and Worldwide Estimates of Low Birthweight in 2015, with Trends from 2000: A Systematic Analysis. <i>Lancet Global Health</i> 7(7): E849–E860. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30565-5">https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30565-5</a>



DESCRIPTOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Nutrition</b> (continued)		
Early initiation of breastfeeding	Proportion of children breastfed within 1 hour of birth	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. <i>Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report</i> . Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months	Proportion of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. <i>Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report</i> . Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Minimum acceptable diet	Proportion of children 6–23 months who are fed a minimum acceptable diet (composed of minimum dietary diversity, minimum meal frequency, breastfeeding or milk feeds for non-breastfed children)	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. <i>Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report</i> . Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
<b>Safety and Security</b>		
Positive discipline	Proportion of children 1–14 years whose caregivers reported using only non-violent forms of discipline in the past month	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. <i>Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report</i> . Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Inadequate supervision	Percentage of children under age 5 left alone or under the supervision of another child younger than 10 years of age for more than 1 hour at least once in the last week	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF. 2019. <i>Kyrgyzstan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018, Survey Findings Report</i> . Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNICEF.
Children living in poverty	Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day, age 0–14 is the percentage of population age 0–14 living on less than \$1.90 a day at 2011 international prices.	No data
Children covered by social protection systems	Effective coverage of child and family benefits as part of main social security programs and social protection	International Labor Organization (ILO). 2017. <i>World Social Protection Report 2017–2019: Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals</i> . Geneva: ILO.
<b>Policies</b>		
Paid maternity leave	The country has a paid maternity leave policy or law	World Policy Analysis Center. n.d. "Is Paid Leave Available to Mothers and Fathers of Infants?" Accessed July 2, 2021. <a href="https://www.worldpolicycenter.org/policies/is-paid-leave-available-to-mothers-and-fathers-of-infants/is-paid-leave-available-for-both-parents-of-infants">https://www.worldpolicycenter.org/policies/is-paid-leave-available-to-mothers-and-fathers-of-infants/is-paid-leave-available-for-both-parents-of-infants</a>



DESCRIPTOR	INDICATOR DEFINITION	DATA SOURCE
<b>Policies</b> (continued)		
Paid paternity leave	The country has a paid paternity leave policy or law	World Policy Analysis Center. n.d. "Is Paid Leave Available to Mothers and Fathers of Infants?" Accessed July 2, 2021. <a href="https://www.worldpolicycenter.org/policies/is-paid-leave-available-to-mothers-and-fathers-of-infants/is-paid-leave-available-for-both-parents-of-infants">https://www.worldpolicycenter.org/policies/is-paid-leave-available-to-mothers-and-fathers-of-infants/is-paid-leave-available-for-both-parents-of-infants</a>
Free antenatal and delivery care	Antenatal visits and delivery services are provided free of charge at public facilities	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Free health care for children under-5	Child health services are free to all, or free for children under age-five under national health insurance schemes	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Free pre-primary education	Government provides free pre-primary schooling before primary school entry	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Required birth registration	Law or policy requires registration of births	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Multi-sectoral ECD strategy	Country has an explicit multi-sectoral ECD strategy	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Laws protect the rights of children with disabilities and promote their participation and access to ECD services	Laws in place to protect the rights of children with disabilities and promote their participation and access to ECD services, including healthcare and ECCE	Alymkanova, N. 2021. February 26. "Step by Step Towards Inclusive Kyrgyzstan." UNDP. Accessed July 2, 2021. <a href="https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/02/step-by-step-towards-inclusive-kyrgyzstan.html">https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2021/02/step-by-step-towards-inclusive-kyrgyzstan.html</a>
Ministry/agency tasked with national multi-sectoral ECD coordination	Country has a ministry/agency tasked with multi-sectoral ECD coordination at the national level	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Regular coordination meetings at the sub-national level	Regular coordination meetings between the different implementing actors at the sub-national level	Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2013. <i>SABER Early Childhood Development Country Report: Kyrgyz Republic</i> . Washington, D.C.:World Bank Group.
Health workers required to receive training in promoting ECD	Health workers required to receive training in delivering ECD messages (developmental milestones, childcare, parenting, early stimulation, etc.)	From the Ministry of Health (Decree #585).





Photo Credit: USAID



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**USAID ADVANCING NUTRITION**

Implemented by:  
JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.  
2733 Crystal Drive  
4th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22202

Phone: 703-528-7474  
Email: [info@advancingnutrition.org](mailto:info@advancingnutrition.org)  
Web: [advancingnutrition.org](http://advancingnutrition.org)

September 2021

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project, addressing the root causes of malnutrition to save lives and enhance long-term health and development.

This document was produced for the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared under the terms of contract 7200AA18C00070 awarded to JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. The contents are the responsibility of JSI and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

