

# HEALTHY NUTRITION – THE KEY TO A GOOD SCHOOL

*Chuy Oblast, Moskow district, Pervomaitskiy ayil aimak, Ak-Suu village, Ak-Suu High School №4.*



windows frames and electrical wires were replaced. Plates, ovens, pans, mixers, refrigerators, water heaters, boilers, tables, bath, shelves, oven, fat catcher, scales were purchased and installed in the school kitchen. The total project cost amounted to 1 527 424 soms. The Swiss Government funded Project (VAP) provided 1 million soms for the school needs under Small Grants Program. Purchase of goods in the process of implementation of the project

According to the National school feeding program the Government of Kyrgyz Republic ensures that children in state schools receive state-funded meals. However, due to the lack of government funds, school meals mainly consist of a tea and a bun, which does not have enough nutritional value. Timely and balanced hot meals enhances the body's resistance to acute respiratory infections, increase the number of children with good physical development. School lunches are often the only *full*, nutritious and regular meals for children from vulnerable families. The quality and effectiveness of school feeding is an important factor in strengthening the health and intellectual development of the younger generation, as well it improves attendance and helps children learn the material more effectively.

The residents of Pervomay municipality understood the importance of hot full meal for their children. During participatory activities initiated by LSG bodies, villagers discussed and identified priority issues where more than 250 villagers have attended these events. As a result of these activities the Strategy and investment plan for the development of social

*"There are 1 700 children enrolled in Ak-Suu High School, of which 628 are children from primary school. We have long worked to resolve the problem of the lack of hot meals in our school and thanks to the support of VAP Project and our ayil okmotu, our youngest students can now receive hot meals".*

*Aleksandra Tsay,  
the School Principal.*

infrastructure of the local area has been developed. The issue of improving school nutrition was identified as one of the priority issue and was included in the Strategy under paragraph 1.4.

Three projects were presented to the villagers at the gathering in order to prioritize the project for participation in Small Grants Program: project to create conditions for the export of solid waste, project to partially repair the water supply system and a project on creating conditions to provide the lower grades school students with hot meals. Out of three problems, by a vote, the project of equipping the school kitchen with equipment for organization of hot school meals was chosen. Then the project has also successfully passed the Small Grants Program competition.

A major overhaul of the school cafeteria's kitchen was completed, funded from the local budget of the municipality for 527 424 soms. Tiles on the walls, flooring,



was done in accordance with the requirements of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. A staff member of ayil okmotu was trained on public procurement processes organized by the VAP Project. As a result of the tender conducted by Pervomay ayil okmotu LLC "ARTO" was selected to provide goods.

