
The Republic of Korea's Country Partnership Strategy for Kyrgyz Republic

The Government of the Republic of Korea

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I. Overview

CPS Goal for Kyrgyzstan		To promote the economic and social development of Kyrgyzstan and bilateral economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Korea
Kyrgyzstan's National Development Strategy for 2018-2040		<p>(Vision) Leap forward to emerge as a strong, self-sufficient, developed state by 2040</p> <p>(Directions) Presentation of long-term goals in terms of 1) social development, 2) economic development, and 3) governance with a focus on enhancing the quality of life, rights, and freedoms of individual citizens</p>
National Development Program of the Kyrgyz Republic Until 2026		<p>(Objective) Present medium-term goals and specific tasks to achieve the long-term vision for 2040</p> <p>(Content) Current status, implementation measures, and performance indicators for seven key issues: 1) emergency response, 2) public reform, 3) establishment of development environment, 4) key areas for economic development, 5) social development, 6) foreign policy and national security, and 7) key areas for special development</p> <p>(Target Indicators)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To achieve an annual GDP growth rate of at least five percent and a GDP per capita of USD 1,500 - To move up five places on the Human Development Index and ten places on the Global Competitiveness Index - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent
Korea's Assistance Objectives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the mitigation of the impact of climate change and transition into a green economy ▪ Increase income through the improvement of the rural area environment and productivity growth ▪ Enhance administrative transparency and efficiency through support for digitization in the public sector ▪ Improve public health through the strengthening of health care systems and countermeasures against infectious diseases
Direction of Assistance in Each Priority Area	Environment	<p>(SDG 13) Support the low-carbon transition</p> <p>(SDG 13) Support green recovery and adaptation to climate change</p>
	Agriculture Forestry Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (SDG 2) Increase agricultural productivity and marketability ▪ (SDG 2) Promote sustainable agriculture
	Public Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (SDG 16) Strengthen foundation for promoting digitization in public sector ▪ (SDG 16) Expand digitization in the public sector
	Health Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (SDG 3) Improve basic medical services and support health programs ▪ (SDG 3) Combat infectious diseases and strengthen health security

II. Analysis

[1] Priority Areas for Cooperation

- **(Criteria for the Selection of Priority Areas for Cooperation)** Key considerations include the Kyrgyz Republic's **National Development Strategy**, **sectoral implementation plans**, **policy consultation** between the two countries, **Korea's comparative advantages**, **linkage** with ongoing ODA programs, **income levels** and **economic prospects** of the Kyrgyz Republic, **coordination of assistance** with other donor countries and international organizations.

- **(Priority Areas for Cooperation)** **Environment, Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries, Public Administration, Health and Hygiene** have been selected as priority areas for cooperation.
 - 1) **Environment** : Support ▲ the transition to low carbon to **achieve carbon neutrality** by 2050 and ▲ the enhancement of **resilience to climate change**.
 - 2) **Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries** : Actively support ▲ the **improvement of agricultural productivity** in each agricultural sector and income growth through linkage with the market and ▲ **rural development** based on the Kyrgyz culture of traditional communities (Ashar).
 - 3) **Public Administration** : ▲ Support the establishment of the foundation for **digital government** and ▲ provide phase-based, systematic support tailored to the Kyrgyz government for the **expansion of digitization in each area**.

- 4) **Health/Hygiene** : ▲ **Improve access to primary medical services** and assist health programs, and ▲ **strengthen health security** through assistance for the improvement of the **national infectious disease response system** to increase resilience to infectious diseases with the potential to cause global health crises.

[2] Reasons for the Selection of Development Priorities

[1] Environment

(Development Needs)

- Kyrgyzstan is suffering from negative impacts such as a shortage of water resources and droughts caused by **environmental pollution and climate change**, and the Kyrgyz government therefore **emphasized “environmental protection and adaptation to climate change”** in its National Development Strategy for 2018-2040 (NDS 2018-2040).
- The Kyrgyz government has been striving to **reduce carbon emissions** based on the Green Economy Development Program (2019-2023)* and adopted a **strategic document to cope with disaster risks caused by climate change****.

* (Key Areas) Eco-friendly energy, eco-friendly agriculture, green industry, low-carbon and eco-friendly transport, sustainable tourism, waste disposal, and green cities.

** The Concept of Comprehensive Protection from Emergencies for 2018-2030.

- The Kyrgyz government approved the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)* in September 2021 and **newly established the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Oversight** in October 2021, a dedicated government body **in charge of environmental protection and responses to climate change**.

- * The NDC was established through the UNDP Climate Promise initiative. It set reduction targets of greenhouse gas emissions at 16.63 percent by 2025 and 15.97 percent by 2030.

(Korea's Aid Capacity)

- The Korean government intends to provide extended assistance for programs with regard to low-carbon development under the **2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy** and the **Green New Deal**, and has advantages in terms of climate change mitigation and responses to climate change.
- The Korean government has extensive experience in assisting developing countries to establish climate change response strategies and conducting capacity-building projects for the mitigation of and resilience to climate change.
- Kyrgyzstan is currently **conducting a capacity-building program for the reduction of environmental pollution and improvement of energy efficiency** and a **capacity-building program for early-warning systems for natural disasters**, which is expected to lead to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in these fields.

[2] Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

(Development Needs)

- **Approximately 20 percent of the Kyrgyz working population is engaged in the agricultural sector, but agricultural outputs account for only 13 percent of the GDP.**

- As agricultural activities are heavily centered around primary industries, Kyrgyzstan **lacks the capacity to develop high-value-added products through processing and expand value chains for distribution.**
- As of 2018, **the trade deficit in agricultural commodities stood at approximately USD 300 million**, demonstrating a trade imbalance (FAO) largely due to the country's agricultural structure, which is mainly composed of small-scale farm households, in addition to **low productivity caused by outdated agricultural infrastructure.**
- However, as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Kyrgyzstan is able to export products to other EAEU member states at zero tariffs, and therefore its competitiveness will be enhanced if the quality and safety of agricultural products are improved.
- The Kyrgyz government has been **actively striving to implement development policies in the southern regions afflicted by a high poverty rate** through the special administrative order issued in January 2021.

(Korea's Aid Capacity)

- The Korean government included **agricultural and fisheries trade** in the eight key tasks of the **New Northern Policy** and is striving to achieve the various related subtasks, including the opening of agro-food markets, expansion of exports by smart farms, and increased ODA in the agriculture and fisheries sector.

- The Korean government has steadily conducted **various projects for agricultural productivity enhancement and regional development under coordinated ODA programs launched by KOICA and the Rural Development Administration** in Kyrgyzstan and has experience in working as a major development partner for the agricultural sector in the recipient country.

3 Public Administration

(Development Needs)

- The Kyrgyz government formulated a medium-term strategy titled Digital Transformation Concept “**Digital Kyrgyzstan**” 2019-2023, aimed at promoting the digital transformation in line with the NDS 2018-2040.
 - The key objective is to enhance the government’s efficiency and accountability through the **establishment of digital government** and expand public participation in policy decision-making.
- The Kyrgyz government is expanding digitization, but the **development level of e-government* and public access to services** remain lower than those in advanced countries**. Therefore, there is a heightened need for the enhancement of efficiency and transparency in public administration through the realization of digital government.

* Kyrgyzstan ranks 83rd in the E-Government Development Index and 66th in the E-Participation Index

** 1) Kyrgyzstan scored 30 points in the Corruption Perceptions Index (out of 100, 2019)

2) The Kyrgyz government established the State Strategy for Combating Corruption and Eliminating Its Causes in the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2024.

(Korea's Aid Capacity)

- Korea has **consistently supported the Kyrgyz government's drive to promote digitization*** and both countries have shared their perspectives regarding project outcomes on the occasion of high-level meetings, thereby enhancing the trust and expectations of the recipient country.
- * (Program Performance) 1) Project for the introduction of an electronic resident card (e-NID) system (2016-2018, USD 7.46 million, KOICA)
2) Capacity-building project for election management (2014-2016, USD 6.15 million, KOICA)
- The Korean government **has experience** in establishing the institutional foundation and infrastructure for e-government in various government agencies, and based on its high competitiveness in the ICT sector, Korea has the capacity to conduct related ODA programs.

④ Health and Hygiene

(Development Needs)

- There is significant **room for the improvement of medical services and medical infrastructure** as Kyrgyzstan's medical systems are essentially based on those established during the Soviet Union era.
- Under these circumstances, the Kyrgyz NDS 2018-2040 lists “the **establishment of medical systems**” as its top priority **development objective** and highlights a need for the qualitative improvement of medical systems.

- Kyrgyzstan’s **Public Health Care System Development Program for 2019-2030** aims to **establish people-centered public health systems** and provide high-quality medical services, thereby contributing to the promotion of people’s health and **alleviation of health inequality**.
- Over the past 20 years, **mortality from non-communicable diseases** has steadily declined, but as of 2016, it still marked a rate of 24.9 percent (2021 SDG Index and Dashboard).
- Accordingly, the Kyrgyz government defines the prevention of non-communicable diseases as one of the main functions of the government’s public health care system, and to this end, there is a **need to increase the number of health care personnel and strengthen the function of the aforementioned system**.

Detailed Implementation Plan Under Public Health Care System Development Program 2019-2030

No	Implementation Plan	Activities on Public Health care and Related Activities in the Non-communicable Disease Area
1.2	Modernization of public health care through the enhancement of medical service quality	Establishment of a new concept for a universal health care system, reinforcement of normative roles for public health care system management, and improvement and enhancement of the existing public health care service system
1.3	Establishment of an integrated supervision system for high-risk groups and main types of non-communicable and communicable diseases	Improvement of medical statistics on communicable and non-communicable diseases, and prevention and management of non-communicable diseases through the strengthening of the public health care system
1.4	Development of health enhancement programs using digital technologies	Establishment of “healthy cities” through the development of health management and enhancement programs and hosting of related forums, and implementation of health promotion campaigns

Source: Plan of Activities “Healthy Person – Prosperous Country,” Ministry of Health, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

- In an effort to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kyrgyz government is striving to curb infectious diseases through the **establishment of a COVID-19 coordination center under the Prime Minister**, while it faces a heightened **need for the improvement of its run-down health care infrastructure and cooperation for strengthening its capacity to combat infectious diseases.**

(Korea's Aid Capacity)

- Korea has **highly-skilled medical personnel and advanced medical technologies**, combined with experience in the successful achievement of policy goals for the improvement of public health.
- Based on its **advanced health care systems**, Korea **can achieve mutual cooperation** with the recipient country in the medium-to-long-term to improve the latter's relatively weak health care facilities and services.
- Korea has **experience in successfully implementing various programs linked with infrastructure establishment** (construction of hospitals and support for equipment and supplies) and **software deployment** (capacity building for medical personnel and improvement of operating systems) in many partner countries.

III. Proposed Assistance

[1] Environment

☐ Basic Direction

- **Support the establishment of strategies and policies for the environment and climate change** in Kyrgyzstan based on the Kyrgyz NDS 2018-2040 and the NDP 2026, and implement programs aimed to ▲ **support the low-carbon transition** and ▲ **the increased response capability to climate change**.
- **Actively utilize various types of programs and projects, and training programs designed to improve awareness.**
 - As low-carbon transition programs often require large-scale support for infrastructure, it is necessary to consider the active utilization of loan-based aid, climate finance, and public-private partnerships (PPP).
- National policies have been established and various projects are underway in the environmental and climate change sectors in the partner country with the guidance of entities such as international financial organizations, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and multilateral organizations, while Korea's assistance aims to **pursue aid coordination through participation in the Development Partners Coordination Council (DPCC)**.

□ **Area-specific Goals (Detailed Implementation Plan)**

- **(Support for the Low-carbon Transition)** Support ▲ the supply and dissemination of **low-carbon renewable energy**, ▲ the supply and dissemination of **eco-friendly transport**, ▲ the promotion of the **circular economy of resources**, and ▲ the **creation and conservation of carbon sinks** including forests.
- **(Support for the Green Recovery and Adaptation to Climate Change)** Support the **improvement of response capability to emergencies**, such as **disasters and calamities** caused by climate change, **depletion of water resources**, **decline in food production**, and **extinction of various species**, while also assisting the protection and recovery of the ecosystem.
 - It is possible to provide support for projects such as ▲ the establishment of water resource infrastructure systems, ▲ establishment of early-warning systems against disasters and catastrophes, ▲ support for municipal waste management systems, and ▲ technical support for climate-friendly agriculture.

[2] Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries

□ **Basic Direction**

- Support the **promotion of agricultural productivity** in coordination with the Kyrgyz NDS 2018-2040, the Korean government's new northern strategies and a plan of supporting overseas agricultural resources development, in addition to **income growth through linkage with the market**.

- Meanwhile, actively support agricultural development based on the Kyrgyz culture of traditional communities (Ashar).
- Utilize **various types of programs and projects based on the expertise of specialized domestic institutions and international organizations and NGOs operating in the country.**
- In particular, through participation in the regular consultation of the working group on agriculture within the **DPCC**, assess the progress status of projects launched in the agricultural sector by recipient organizations and other donor organizations and establish cooperation systems among them.

□ **Area-specific Goals (Detailed Implementation Plan)**

- **(Improvement of Agricultural Productivity)** Contribute to the **increased productivity of animal husbandry** by providing instructions on sperm cryopreservation techniques for the breeding of excellent animal varieties and artificial insemination techniques, while also contributing to the **promotion of productivity in the cultivation of fruit trees and crops** through the dissemination of organic farming techniques and smart farm projects.
- **(Expansion of Agricultural Infrastructure)** Support the establishment of agricultural facilities by utilizing Korea's outstanding technologies, including ICT-based smart farming technology.
- **(Establishment of Value Chains for Agricultural Products)** Expand distribution channels through the **analysis of value chains for agricultural products** and identify strategic tree types for each region and focus on cultivating them.

- **Produce high-value-added agricultural products** through the cultivation of crops that meet market demand and the introduction of processing and packaging techniques, thereby contributing to the **income growth of farm households.**
- **(Establishment of Legal Systems and Capacity Building for Human Resources)** Contribute to the establishment of a foundation for sustainable agro-industry development through the **establishment of legal systems** such as an organic certification system, and **capacity-building programs** for personnel engaged in the agro-industry sector.

[3] Public Administration

☐ **Basic Direction**

- With the aim to **contribute to the establishment of effective, transparent governance** by the Kyrgyz government, provide phase-based, systematic assistance tailored to the needs of the Kyrgyz government for ▲ the establishment of the base for digital government and ▲ sectoral expansion of digitization.
- Provide **support in the form of various programs and projects** and seek to conduct projects in cooperation with Korean public agencies and specialized companies, while **encouraging the participation of recipient organizations and local companies** in order to boost the recipient country's management and operation capacity.

- Avoid overlaps with other donors' projects and strengthen coordination with them **through participation in the working group on ICT within the DPCC.**

□ **Area-specific Goals (Detailed Implementation Plan)**

- **(Strengthening of the Foundation for Digitization in the Public Sector)**
Strive to implement ▲ the **establishment of strategies** for digitization in each area, ▲ **consultation on legal systems in pursuit of digital government**, and ▲ **capacity-building projects for human resources in the digital area.**
 - Meanwhile, ▲ support the **enhancement of cybersecurity** to prevent information leaks caused by digitization.
- **(Expansion of Digitization in Public Areas)** Provide support for ▲ the **development of digital systems**, ▲ **construction of related databases**, and ▲ **capacity building for the operation and management of such systems.**
 - In addition, contribute to the enhanced utilization and accessibility of administrative information through support for the establishment of an **information-sharing system among public agencies.**

[4] Health and Hygiene

☐ **Basic Direction**

- **Support the improvement of the quality of life through enhanced access to medical services and various health programs** in consideration of the objectives specified in the health care system improvement plan under the Program of the Kyrgyz Republic Government on Public Health Protection and Health Care System Development for 2019-2030, in coordination with the action plan on non-communicable diseases in the health care sector.
- Strengthen health security by **supporting the improvement of the national response system for infectious diseases**, including COVID-19 as a global health crisis.

☐ **Area-specific Goals (Detailed Implementation Plan)**

- **(Improvement of Primary Medical Services and Support for Health Programs)** Support the establishment of health care service systems and health programs with the aim to promote healthy lifestyle habits, **reduce the early mortality rate** caused by non-communicable diseases, and **reduce the incidence of disabilities**.
- Assist in **addressing the shortage of medical personnel for the treatment of chronic diseases** due to the reassignment of medical personnel by the government in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and support the enhancement of medical personnel's capacity and the establishment and implementation of related policies for the improved quality of primary medical services.

- Provide **medium-to-long-term assistance in the form of programs**, along with **support for digital-based short-to-medium-term health programs** in linkage with Kyrgyzstan's primary medical systems, in coordination with medical specialized institutions, international organizations, and local NGOs.
- **(Enhancement of Responses to Infectious Diseases and Health Security)** Support the **improvement of infrastructure and the capacity building for medical personnel** at Kyrgyzstan's top medical institutions specializing in infectious diseases, and thereby contribute to quality improvement of medical services in the area of infectious diseases.

IV. Performance Monitoring Guidelines

Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Kyrgyzstan

ODA Master Plan: Strategic Goals and Implementation Plan	Priority Areas	Goal(s)	Expected Outcome(s)	Expected Performance Indicator(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Strategic goal) Inclusive ODA • (Task) - Pursuit of Green New Deal ODA Strategy - Strengthened support for response to climate change 	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the low-carbon transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction amount of greenhouse gas emissions (tons CO₂-eq)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the green recovery and adaptation to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced capacity to adapt to disasters and calamities caused by climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply rate for drinkable and agricultural water in anticipation of climate change (%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Strategic goal) Inclusive ODA • (Task) - Support for sustainable food production - Support for vulnerable groups 	Agriculture Forestry Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase agricultural productivity and marketability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in agricultural productivity and income growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase rate of agricultural production at beneficiary farm households (%) • Income growth rate of beneficiary farm households (%)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve sustainable rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of the quality of life in rural communities • Balanced development of urban and rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of households provided with primary public services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Strategic goal) Innovative ODA • (Task) - Innovative support for public administration 	Public Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the foundation for digitization in the public sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of legal systems for digitization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of established laws/institutions/strategies
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To expand digitization in the public sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced access to information in the public sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of digital service users
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Strategic goal) Inclusive ODA • (Task) - Strengthened response to global health risks 	Health Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve primary medical services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the establishment of stable health care services for the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants in dietary improvement and health promotion programs • Number of users of non-communicable disease management

- Establishment of health care systems				digital services
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen infectious disease response and health security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced capacities of medical personnel to respond to new infectious diseases • Improvement of medical services through the construction of hospitals and provision and equipment and supplies to respond to new infectious diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants in infectious disease response training programs for medical personnel • Reduced number of patients with communicable or infectious diseases (%)