



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

May-June 2011

## USAID Newsletter



**Carey Gordon Sworn in as Representative for USAID/Kyrgyzstan.** Carey N. Gordon was sworn in on May 18 as the first USAID Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic. The oath was administered by USAID Assistant Administrator for the Asia Bureau, Nisha Desai Biswal. As the USAID Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic, Gordon will oversee USAID's programs to support the Kyrgyz Republic's transition towards a stable and prosperous democracy, to advance the health care system, to improve the energy sector and to strengthen agricultural policy and practices, helping farmers to become more productive and bolstering food security. During the ceremony, Gordon remarked: "I am delighted that I have been given the opportunity to establish the first independent USAID Office in the Kyrgyz Republic and to work with my Kyrgyz Government colleagues to advance the progress and development of the Kyrgyz Republic. This is a time of great opportunity in the Kyrgyz Republic." *(Photo: Carey Gordon taking the oath, with Lois Bradshaw, his wife)*



**Launching Summer School of Democracy in Kyrgyzstan.** The Summer School of Democracy began June 13 for one week in Bishkek for young leaders from Central Asia, as part of USAID's youth program. Of the 95 attendees aged 18-28, one-third came from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, with the balance from Kyrgyzstan. The goal of the Summer School is to promote civic education and strengthen community leadership. Kyrgyz President Roza Otunbaeva opened the Summer School with a speech and taking questions from attendees. Carey Gordon, USAID Representative, gave an opening speech as well. The opening event featured speakers from the United Nations Development Program, the European Union Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic and the Open Society Foundation (Soros), which co-fund the Summer School. *(Photo: from right to left: Kyrgyz President Roza I. Otunbaeva, USAID Representative Carey N. Gordon, and Ulan Shabynov, Manager for Central Asia Open Societies Foundation, Youth Initiative)*

**Ambassador Spratlen's First Visit to Osh.** On June 3, multiethnic residents of Cheremushki micro-district in Osh joined to celebrate the opening of a renovated community park. USAID funded this project, along with ten more similar projects across Osh, to create family-friendly public spaces where children and parents can come together to interact safely and constructively. *(Photo: U.S. Ambassador Spratlen and Vice-Mayor of Osh Ms. Shevchenko cut the ribbon to the renovated sports field)*



**USAID Promotes Economic Growth and Quality of Life of Kyrgyz Citizens.** USAID Local Development Program will support the implementation of approximately 40 projects aimed at promoting economic growth and improving the quality of life in 14 towns and *ayil okrugs* (rural districts) of Kyrgyzstan. Every resident of a participating town or *ayil okrug* will have the opportunity to suggest projects in their municipality, as well as to become a member of their municipal working group. Working groups will consist of representatives of the business community, non-government organizations, local authorities, representatives of the USAID Local Development Program, and other international organizations. *(Photo: Local citizen of Jalal-Abad expressing interest in becoming a member of the working group for coordination with LDP activities in her city)*



**USAID Supports Lake Issyk-Kul Job Fair.** In June USAID supported a Job Fair Issyk-Kul 2011 to create a platform for youth, jobseekers and employers of the Issyk-Kul region for the summer resort season. More than 4,000 people attended the event and more than 5,000 vacancies were posted. This event additionally provided training on basic job skills and master classes on tourism services for youth and job seekers. This job fair was part of the USAID Education Loan Program, a three-year initiative that aims to increase access to education and supports productive interaction and partnership between employers, universities and students, as well as university career centers. *(Photo: Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Job Fair Issyk-Kul 2011 led by government officials representing Ministry of Labor and Issyk-Kul Oblast, and USAID Deputy Country Director Lawrence Held)*

**USAID Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Kyrgyz Parliament on Bilateral Assistance.** USAID Representative Carey Gordon signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Head of Administration of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, Radbek Eshmambetov, on June 9 to provide assistance on strengthening institutional capacity and improving accountability and transparency in the legislative process. *(Photo: Carey Gordon (left) shaking hands with Radbek Eshmambetov)*



**Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia Dan Rosenblum visits Osh.** On June 21, Dan Rosenblum, Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, visited the southern city of Osh for orientation on the situation there one year after the violence of June 2010 and to see a number of USAID projects in the area. He was accompanied by Ambassador Spratlen and USAID Representative Carey Gordon. Just outside of Osh, in the Kara-Suu district, he visited a youth sports center being renovated by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives. *(Photo: Ambassador Spratlen (far left) with Dan Rosenblum (center) trying local specialties)*

**Ambassador Spratlen and Dan Rosenblum Meet Poultry Farmers in Southern Kyrgyzstan.** The U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, Pamela Spratlen, along with Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia, Daniel Rosenblum, had a meeting with the Economic Development Fund beneficiaries and poultry farmers in Osh Oblast, southern Kyrgyzstan. The purpose of the visit was to learn firsthand about USAID assistance programs in the agricultural sector, including a Global Development Alliance (GDA) project with *Oasis Agro*, a poultry technology dissemination company, and the \$4.1 million grant under the joint U.S.-Kyrgyz Economic Development Fund. Both initiatives are being implemented by the Kyrgyz Agro-Input Enterprise Development Project. *(Photo: Ambassador Pamela Spratlen shaking hands with Baltabal Akchalov, EDF beneficiary and potato farmer)*



**Kyrgyzstan Partnering with Russian Consulate for Rehabilitation of Osh Sports Complex.** USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives is partnering with the Russian Consulate in Osh and the State Directorate for Reconstruction and Development to rehabilitate the Youth Sports Center in Osh. A memorandum of understanding between the three partners was signed in late May to initiate the project. The Youth Sports Center maintains 56 different sports and activity leagues regularly used by residents of Osh city. In the aftermath of the civil disturbances in June 2010, the lack of resources for improving community facilities like Delfin has jeopardized unity among Osh's multi-ethnic community.



southern communities by reducing tensions and rumors about the progress of recovery efforts, helping communities understand how to access available services, and engaging them to set priorities for future SDRD activities. *(Photo: NTC journalists interview a construction worker in Jalalabad during the SDRD media tour)*

**U.S.-Russia Partnership in Fighting Polio in Kyrgyzstan.** On May 27 Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen made opening remarks at the press conference and highlighted the U.S.-Russia partnership in eradication of polio and importance of combining efforts of all partners including USAID, Kyrgyz and Russian Ministries of Health, UNICEF, WHO, and National Red Crescent Society in conducting four rounds of national polio immunization to fight against polio in Kyrgyzstan. *(Photo: Deputy Minister of Health Mr. Sabyrzhan T. Abdykerimov (far right), U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen (second from right), and UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in the Kyrgyz Republic/UNICEF Representative, Mr. Jonathan Veitch (far left))*



**Mobilizing 1,200 At-risk Youth in Conflict-affected Communities.** In May USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives started a number of projects that seek to engage at-risk, unemployed and vulnerable youth from mixed ethnic backgrounds in a variety of community driven rehabilitation projects during the volatile spring and summer months, specifically minimizing incentives to take part in aggressive or illegal behavior during the anniversary of June 2010 events. USAID recently initiated five projects that will provide short-term income for 1,200 young adults from different Kyrgyz and Uzbek mono-ethnic and multiethnic communities in southern Kyrgyzstan. These projects will mitigate the potential for conflict by engaging multiethnic youth in constructive and productive activities, improving community infrastructure, and stimulating economic recovery by providing short-term income and injecting money into the local

economies. USAID supported local initiatives providing multiethnic communities with short-term employment opportunities. *(Photo: Community members engaged in cash-for-work activities in Osh)*

**Mobilizing At-risk Youth in Maevka.** USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives recently initiated an activity to engage marginalized at-risk youth from Maevka in a cash-for-work, community rehabilitation project. Maevka and the surrounding quasi-legal settlements are largely composed of economic migrants who have left their rural homes in search of jobs and better services. Youth in this area lack access to jobs and education and, thus, are prime targets for those seeking to foment unrest during times of political turbulence. The aim of this activity is to provide short-term employment for 100 young people aged 18-28, and materials and tools for road repair and clean-up activities. This activity will strengthen peace and stability by engaging marginalized at-risk youth in productive and constructive activities, demonstrate how working together across ethnic lines can improve infrastructure in their communities, and stimulate economic activity in this economically depressed community. *(Photo: In Maevka, local youth contribute to road rehabilitation efforts by providing unskilled labor)*



**Youth Clean Up Novostroiki Around Bishkek.** Nearly 1,000 unemployed novostroiki youth cleaned up 10 novostroiki neighborhoods around Bishkek as part of USAID-funded Renewal Campaign. The campaign included tree-planting and clean-up activities in the novostroiki, soccer tournaments and a marathon. These events engaged vulnerable youth in constructive activities and empowered young citizens of Kyrgyzstan to become agents of positive change in their communities, thereby promoting civic participation and democratic behaviors, and building trust between citizens, civil society organizations and government. *(Photo: USAID/OTI Country Representative Ashley Moretz engages in clean-up with youth)*



**Supporting Recovery for Osh and Jalalabad Entrepreneurs.** On May 26 and 27, the public fund “Invest Consult” presented findings and information about commercial tax relief legislation to small and medium-sized businesses in Osh and Jalalabad following the June 2010 events. The conferences were hosted at Osh and Jalalabad Oblast administration offices. In April 2011, members of “Invest Consult” facilitated seminars with local business owners and city and oblast government entities in Osh, Kara-Suu and Jalalabad to increase access to information about commercial tax relief in Osh and Jalalabad cities. The seminars informed entrepreneurs about the recent tax decrees and how local businesses can benefit from them. The conferences summed up the discussions and recommendations from each of the seminars to the wider business community. They will also be able to obtain firsthand information on the state policy for small and medium enterprise development from the

Ministry of Economic Regulation. During the conferences the State Directorate for Recovery and Development presented information on state measures to support entrepreneurs following the June 2010 events. The event culminated with a press conference which allowed journalists to address their questions to conference organizers and guests.

---

**For more information about USAID in Kyrgyzstan contact:**

USAID Kyrgyzstan Representative: Carey N. Gordon, [cagordon@usaid.gov](mailto:cagordon@usaid.gov)

USAID Kyrgyzstan Acting Desk Officer in Washington: Anne Convery, [aconvery@usaid.gov](mailto:aconvery@usaid.gov)

USAID Kyrgyzstan Public Outreach Coordinator: Fatima Kasmahunova, [fkasmahunova@usaid.gov](mailto:fkasmahunova@usaid.gov)

Website: <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/USAID.Central.Asian.Republics>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/USAIDCentralAsianRep>

Foreign Assistance Dashboard: <http://www.foreignassistance.gov>

---