



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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USAID Newsletter

USAID **50** ANNIVERSARY

General News

From all the USAID Staff in Bishkek, Happy Holidays to All!

As we reach the end of 2011, and complete another year of development work in the Kyrgyz Republic, I want to extend my sincere wishes for all the best to you and yours in the New Year. I also again express my appreciation for the productive partnership we have had with the Kyrgyz Government, other donors, local community groups, NGOs, the American Embassy team here, and to the contractors and grantees we work closely with in the Kyrgyz Republic. We hope you will enjoy reading about some of our recent activities, which reflect the hard work of our implementing partners during the last months of 2011.

*Best regards,
Carey N. Gordon, USAID Representative, Kyrgyz Republic*



U.S. in Partnership with Russia Presents 180 Wheelchairs to Children with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. On December 8, the U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Pamela L. Spratlen, Presidential Envoy of the Russian Federation to the Kyrgyz Republic Senator Vladimir Rushailo, Russian Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Valentin Vlasov, USAID/Russia Mission Director Charles North and USAID/Kyrgyzstan Representative Carey Gordon, handed over 180 wheelchairs to the Ministry of Social Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic for distribution among the country's disabled children. The donation of wheelchairs is a joint response to a request by the Kyrgyz Government to provide assistance to children with disabilities. USAID provided funding for the purchase of 90 wheelchairs. Russia

covered all shipment costs of wheelchairs from the U.S. to Bishkek via Moscow and bought an equal number of wheelchairs with funds provided by private Russian companies. The Frank Foundation, a U.S. based NGO, procured all 180 wheelchairs. The effort demonstrates the commitment of all three countries to principles of human rights, dignity and compassion. *Photo 1: (from left to right) a mother with her child, U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen, followed by three parents with disabled children, Ex-President Roza Otunbaeva, and Special Envoy of the Russian President to the Kyrgyz Republic Senator Vladimir Rushailo. Photo 2: (from left to right) USAID Kyrgyzstan Representative Carey Gordon, Ex-President Roza Otunbaeva, Special Envoy of the Russian President to the Kyrgyz Republic Senator Vladimir Rushailo, American Ambassador Spratlen, and Kyrgyz Minister of Social Protection, Aigul Ryskulova.*



USAID Supports Regional Conference on Seismic Risk Reduction. On November 29-30, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) funded a seismic risk conference in Bishkek which was organized by the UN Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) office in Central Asia and the Caucasus and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic. The participants of the conference discussed and adopted draft recommendations including problem identification, gaps and immediate measures aimed at reducing seismic risks and related effects in large cities in the region. *Photo 1. (from left to right) UNICEF Representative Jonathan Veitch, USAID Kyrgyzstan Representative Carey Gordon, Marcella Michaud, USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor, Deputy Minister of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic Kubatbek Boronov, UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan Alexander Avanesov, UN Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan Stephen Tull.*





USAID Contributes to the Development of Kyrgyz Banking System. On November 8-10, USAID through its Local Development Program provided training in trade financing for staff members of the top commercial banks in Kyrgyzstan. The training program was aimed at developing the banking system, building on international experience, and improving the quality of the services provided by Kyrgyz banks. The training covered five elements: collections, bank guarantees, letters of credit, factoring, and forfeiting. The three-day



course was attended by 200 participants from more than ten commercial and state banks in Kyrgyzstan. *Photo 1: Christopher Hartwell, an International Expert on Financial Instruments, conducted the training. Photo 2: Representatives from Kyrgyz banks learned new experience shared at the conference.*



USAID/OTI Supports Commercial Fair in Osh City. On November 23-26, USAID funded the Association of Agri-businesses of Kyrgyzstan “Jer Azygy” to organize a commercial fair at the Kyrgyz National Drama Theatre in Osh. Over 30 companies, private entrepreneurs, agricultural producers and manufacturers of household goods participated in the commercial fair. By strengthening critical commercial linkages between the country’s entrepreneurs, this event boosted sales among the Osh business community and helped to expand the region’s economic recovery following last year’s political and humanitarian crises.



Photo 1: Bee keepers displayed different varieties of this year’s honey for sale. Photo 2: Colorful handmade crafts were attractive especially for children.



USAID Facilitates the Launch of the First Almaty-Karakol Air Route. On December 2, the USAID Local Development Program (LDP) in cooperation with several Kyrgyz travel agencies launched the first regular air flight from Almaty, Kazakhstan to Karakol, Kyrgyzstan which will be available twice a week until the end of the ski season in March 2012. USAID supports tourism development in Kyrgyzstan and works with the private sector and the government of Kyrgyzstan to improve the tourism industry of the Issyk-Kul Lake region. The Almaty-Karakol route is the first international route in the history of Karakol airport and will attract tourists from Kazakhstan for the winter ski season. Karakol is a ski and winter adventure sports venue and is rich with opportunities for cultural and historical tourism. *Photo 1: First Almaty-Karakol flight passengers arrived to the airport.*

USAID Supports Construction and Zoning Regulation Development in Kant. On December 13, the municipality of Kant in Chui Province held a public hearing to discuss changes to the town’s construction and zoning regulations. At this hearing, the residents had the opportunity to voice their opinions about proposed zoning laws and new construction projects. The hearing was organized by the Kant City Council Public Association, “Urban Development,” as part of its project “New Construction and Land Use Regulations in Kant,” with financial and technical support from the USAID Local Development Program. The public hearing was open to all residents of Kant and was attended by the deputies, managers and staff of the city council, engineering and technical service providers, representatives of the Government Architecture Services and the State Registrar.



USAID Supports the Jalalabad Municipal Government to Improve Street Light Services. On December 6, U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Pamela L. Spratlen, the Jalalabad Oblast Governor, and the Jalalabad City Mayor celebrated the completion of a joint rehabilitation project to install new lights along Jalalabad city streets. Ambassador Spratlen opened the ceremony by turning on new street lights with local government officials. The Jalalabad city administration initiated the refurbishment of damaged city street lights early this year as another step towards the recovery of communities in southern Kyrgyzstan in the aftermath of civil disturbances in June 2010.

USAID allocated funds to procure materials and equipment, and the municipal government provided labor to complete the installation of new street lights. This joint effort re-established street light service for 79,000 residents by rehabilitating 524 street light lamps along 27.7 km of roads in several micro-districts of Jalalabad. This activity has helped to restore citizen trust in public services and will enable Jalalabad city residents to engage in economic and social activities in a safer environment.

Photo 1: Ambassador Spratlen met with the community representatives at the ceremony of turning on new street lights. Photo 2: New street lights are on at night in Jalalabad.



Health and Education



USAID Provides Access to Psychological Counseling Services to Most Affected Communities in Osh. On November 14, USAID conducted a roundtable on “Psychological/Social Care Assistance to Children in Post Crisis Situations.” The roundtable was organized as part of the USAID Program on Improving Access to Health Services in Osh City and Osh Province, implemented by the U.S. NGO CitiHope International. One of the program components is the provision of psychological support and counseling for communities in areas most affected by the violence which took place in June 2010 in Osh. Psychological counseling services will be provided to children in schools by psychologists working in

collaboration with teachers. The roundtable participants included representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Osh Province and City Educational Departments, the Social Protection Department, province and city administrations, and principals of partner schools. *Photo: Dinara Saginbaeva, Head of the Medical Department of the Ministry of Health, making opening remarks for the roundtable participants. Photo 2: CitiHope International team is ready to work with Osh communities.*



USAID Supports Business and Education Partnership through Internship Program. On November 25, USAID, through its Education Loan Program, conducted a roundtable on “Partnership of Business and Education through Internship Programs” in Bishkek. The roundtable focused on analyzing factors affecting the availability of internship opportunities and introducing the concept of internship programs in the private sector in Kyrgyzstan. The Kyrgyz Deputy Minister of Education, along with a member of the Kyrgyz Parliament interested in education and

youth labor issues, Nikitenko Natalia, and USAID Representative Carey Gordon all spoke at the event. *Photo 1: The roundtable participants heard the expert opinions on the use of internships to increase youth employment in Kyrgyzstan. Photo 2: The roundtable brought together leaders of educational institutions, career centers, and HR managers from leading*



business ventures in Kyrgyzstan, who shared their perspectives on the skills and expertise needed in the current labor market.



USAID Supports Educational Opportunities for Children in Informal Settlements around Bishkek. On November 25, the USAID Quality Learning Project, through its Youth Aid Program for Education, organized a media tour for journalists to visit projects in the “informal settlements” around Bishkek. Media tour participants visited various project sites including a program that builds the capacity of school teachers and improves English language learning among young students; a playground which is used by vulnerable children and a program which organizes educational activities for children who do not attend school or



come from low income families. USAID, in partnership with the Bishkek Mayor’s Office and the Bishkek City Development Agency, selected 10 project proposals through an open competition supporting youth and school-aged children in 45 informal settlements of Bishkek. *Photo 1: Children enjoy improved English language learning. Photo 2: Media tour participants visited the rehabilitated sports and play grounds in new settlements around Bishkek.*



USAID Supports the Ministry of Health to Improve Medical Education. On December 14, the USAID Quality Health Care Project and the Center for Health Systems Development under the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic held a conference for medical school educators to introduce new guidelines into the Kyrgyz medical education curriculum. Over the past six years, USAID and the Center for Health Systems Development have collaborated to develop modern, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for health care providers to improve the quality of care in Kyrgyzstan. To expand the use of



these guidelines, USAID and partners are hosting the conference to provide educators with the opportunity to learn more about the guidelines and to ensure their incorporation into undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education curriculum. This conference is the first in a series of seminars to introduce these guidelines to educators. *Photo 1: Medical school educators including representatives of Family Medicine Training Centers from all regions of the country participated in the conference. Photo 2: Tursun Mamyrbayeva, Deputy Director of the Maternal Child Health Center, making her presentation on evidence-based clinical practice guidelines.*

Democracy and Governance



USAID Promotes Active Citizenship of Kyrgyzstan Young Leaders in Partnership with UNDP and Soros Foundation. On November 19-23, USAID conducted a five-day seminar entitled “New Leaders – Positive Changes” for 25 young leaders from across Kyrgyzstan. USAID’s youth leadership program (Jasa.kg) (“jasa” in Kyrgyz stands for “create” or “do it”) sponsored the program in partnership with the UNDP Democratic Governance Program and the Youth Program of the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan. USAID Representative Carey Gordon spoke on the final day of the training and handed out certificates to the trainees. The participants (aged 18-28) were taught critical thinking and advocacy skills, as well as analytical, decision-making and presentation skills. This

training seminar will be followed by a two-month mentoring program for participating youth. The mentors, who are primarily public figures from Kyrgyzstan’s civil society sector, will work to develop participants’ personal and professional qualities, and encourage them to be more civically engaged. During the mentorship period, the participants will publish articles related to social, economic, and political issues in a range of media outlets. The USAID-funded



Jasa.kg program has four primary objectives: inspiring active citizenship among Kyrgyzstan's youth, preparing young people for the workplace, creating a culture of positive youth development, and working with youth in residential care facilities to promote their life skills development. *Photo 1: Participants and USAID Representative Carey Gordon after awarding the certificates of completion at the end of the seminar. Photo 2: USAID Representative Carey Gordon handed over the certificate to one of the young leaders.*

Ministry of Education Will Pay Teachers for Participation in Drama Clubs. The Ministry of Education and Science is taking a key step towards ensuring the sustainability of the USAID Youth Theater for Peace Program (YTP) by agreeing to pay teachers for out-of-school time dedicated to the activity. YTP helps develop new theater activities with youth in the Batken and Chui regions aimed at conflict prevention and improving school environment and community and parents mobilization. Young participants develop plays based on real-life situations occurring in their communities and then discuss possible outcomes with community members in the audience. In communities with few extracurricular outlets, these clubs give at-risk youth a chance to participate in meaningful activities, build self-confidence, and dialogue about key community issues.



USAID and UNICEF Open a Youth Center in Osh City. On December 7, USAID, UNICEF, the Ministry of Youth and local government and civil society representatives opened a newly renovated youth center in the Amir-Temur community in Osh city. This joint project funded by USAID and the UN Peace Building Fund will provide a more conducive space for young people in Osh to engage in constructive activities. USAID's contribution complemented UNICEF's initiative to establish a network of 17 youth centers in the cities of Osh and Jalalabad by fully rehabilitating the Youth Center in Amir-Temur, with UNICEF providing computers, furniture, and funds for activities in the center. The youth center will be open seven days a week and will offer young people computer and language training, as well as

seminars on conflict resolution and peace-building, volunteerism and leadership, and other areas of interest for young people. *Photo: (right to left) U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen, Kyrgyz Minister of Youth Affairs Aliyasbek Alymkulov, and UNICEF Country Representative Jonathan Veitch cut the ribbon to commemorate the opening of the rehabilitated Youth Center in Amir-Temur community of Osh City.*

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