



25 YEARS OF COOPERATION

The U.S. Government has invested approximately \$2 billion to support our single, overarching goal: the success of the Kyrgyz Republic as a secure, prosperous, democratic state.

FEEDING THE VULNERABLE, RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports sustainable school feeding programs throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. During the 16 years of its operations, over 1.8 million Kyrgyzstani children have benefited from its programming, valued at approximately \$36.5 million. Follow-up studies showed that stunting and other nutrition-related problems decreased significantly thanks to the program. In July 2017, USDA approved a new, four-year school feeding project valued at over \$15 million.

In the wake of the 2010 unrest, the U.S. provided over \$29 million in emergency humanitarian and reconstruction assistance, to help stabilize conflict-affected areas.



BUILDING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

Through its economic development programs, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has improved the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Kyrgyzstani citizens working in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, construction material supplies, and tourism.

USAID has worked with tens of thousands of smallholder farmers to increase their crop yields, boosting incomes in the aggregate by millions of dollars. In 2017, for example, U.S. assistance to agribusinesses helped them to boost sales by over \$4.2 million, while more than 20,000 farmers, households, and small businesses increased their sales by millions of dollars. From 2011-2014, USAID's \$20 million Economic Develop-

ment Fund invested in critical agriculture sub-sectors including seed and livestock farms, successfully increasing agricultural productivity. Additionally, USAID expertise improved thousands of acres of unproductive land.

In the apparel sector, USAID helped local manufacturers to transition away from the declining bazaar trade, to a more lucrative, export-based model. In 2017, USAID committed over \$1 million in capital, and mobilized over \$2 million of new private capital and expertise to upgrade equipment; as a result, partner enterprises have begun successfully exporting to the European market, while increasing productivity by 57%.



As a part of its effort to promote tourism, in 2015, USAID supported the drafting and passage of a new Civil Aviation Code that meets international standards, the first step necessary to permit Kyrgyzstani carriers to commence direct flights to Europe, a potential boon to tourism. USAID is working with select tourist destinations around the country to promote increased and longer tourist stays. Karakol, for example, has seen tourist revenues double over the past year. USAID sponsored the participation of Kyrgyzstani tour operators and businesses in trade fairs in Istanbul, London, Moscow, Berlin, Madrid and Tashkent to promote more foreign tourism in the Kyrgyz Republic.

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

To boost early grade reading skills, since 2014, USAID has partnered with the Ministry of Education to significantly improve Kyrgyz language reading skills. 60% of primary schools nationwide have already benefited from the program, with over 10,000 teachers trained. USAID will implement the program in the country's remaining primary schools by 2020. The program has seen notable

success; reading scores have improved by over 9% for second graders and 13% for fourth graders. To support the program, USAID provided 421,600 Kyrgyz language books to over 2,000 public schools and libraries.



Since 2002 over half a million university applicants have gained fair, corruption-free access to college through a standardized national admissions test that was created and maintained in partnership with USAID.

With approximately \$32.7 million in U.S. Government support, the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) has emerged as the leading institution for higher education in Central Asia. Over 2,400 Kyrgyzstanis have graduated from AUCA, preparing them to succeed in the 21st century's globalized economy.

Since independence, over 5,000 Kyrgyzstanis have participated in U.S. Government-sponsored professional and educational exchange programs in the United States. These include over 1,300 high school exchange students and hundreds of university students, whose perspectives have been forever broadened, putting them on the pathway to success.

Hundreds of thousands of Kyrgyzstani students have benefitted from our free English language courses throughout the country. Additionally, over 1,100 Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) have served as teachers and teacher-trainers to strengthen methodologies and to promote English language learning and critical thinking skills. By working within a human capacity-building framework, volunteers focus on developing people, the Kyrgyz Republic's most valuable resource. PCVs have helped countless Kyrgyzstani students win life-changing foreign exchange and English-language study opportunities.

The U.S. Embassy has supported the establishment of American Corners in libraries or universities in Bish-

kek, Jalal-Abad, Kant, Karakol, Naryn, Osh, and Talas. The Corners serve as libraries and cultural centers, offering free English language classes, summer youth camps, and internet access. Together they receive a remarkable 600,000 visits annually.

SAVING KYRGYZSTANI LIVES

Successful U.S. public health programming has transformed the health system and improved the health and wellbeing of Kyrgyzstanis.

USAID maternal and child health programs have reduced the infant and child mortality rate by two-thirds, and the maternal mortality rate by 11% from 1990 to 2013, saving literally thousands of Kyrgyzstani lives.



Because of USAID-provided vaccines and training, Kyrgyzstan was the only Central Asian nation to avoid a polio outbreak in 2010. USAID support was pivotal in helping the Kyrgyz Republic become malaria-free in 2016.

With USAID support, tuberculosis (TB) rates dropped dramatically and TB-related mortality rates decreased from 25% to 11% from 1998 to 2013, highlighting a remarkable public health success story. At the same time, USAID is helping to treat multidrug resistant forms of TB and is assisting the Ministry of Health to restructure the national TB program, which will save the Ministry \$2 million annually.

USAID programs significantly decreased childhood pneumonia and diarrhea and greatly enhanced infant and childhood nutrition. Since 2014, USAID has trained over 6,000 healthcare workers, mobilized over 2,600 volunteers, and helped 17 healthcare facilities to attain international standards of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative certification.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, USAID helped establish the national health insurance system in 1997, which now covers all Kyrgyzstanis with the state guaranteed package of essential health services and serves as a model for many other CIS countries' insurance systems.

STRENGTHENING THE REGION'S SOLE DEMOCRACY

Through decades of cooperation, USAID has helped the Central Elections Commission (CEC) to develop into a capable and trusted electoral body. The CEC serves as the cornerstone of Kyrgyz democracy and a uniquely Kyrgyz success story. USAID has also supported the State Registration Service's biometric data collection.



USAID supported the establishment and work of the Coalition for Democracy and Civil Society, the only NGO in the region that provides independent, nationwide electoral observation. The Coalition's internationally recognized professionalism strengthens the electoral system, distinguishing Kyrgyzstan as the only democracy in Central Asia.

Over the years, the Embassy's Public Affairs Section has made over 1,000 separate small grants, totaling some \$20 million, to Kyrgyz government agencies, public foundations and civil society to support democratic development, increased access to education and information, and broad-based economic development.

Since independence, the U.S. has continuously supported a free and independent media in the Kyrgyz Republic and its programming has helped the country sustain the highest levels of press freedom in Central Asia (Freedom House, Freedom of Press Report 2016).

USAID helped the Supreme Court to launch www.sot.kg, a website where all judicial decisions are now published. The increased transparency should greatly reduce judicial corruption.

USAID has helped strengthen the parliament, supporting innumerable field hearings, policy seminars, and other events to foster members of parliament's communication with their constituents, as well as 15 constituent outreach offices around the country.

SECURING THE KYRGYZ HOMELAND

Since independence, the Department of Defense (DoD) has provided approximately \$150 million of security assistance, enhancing the government's capacity to respond to any security threats. This included millions of dollars' worth of military ambulances, off-road vehicles, advanced communications equipment, and robotic ordnance disposal systems. DoD has trained thousands of Kyrgyz military officers in classroom programs and field exercises, and built vital border and security infrastructure, such as military barracks, close-quarters combat training facilities, and guard towers.



The U.S. has provided over \$29 million worth of assistance to the Kyrgyz Government to strengthen its capacity to deter, detect, and prosecute illicit transfers of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), WMD materials, and conventional arms.

Through its Antiterrorism Assistance Program, the Department of State has trained over 700 Kyrgyzstani officials in deterring and responding to terrorism.

MODERNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Since 2001, the State Department's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) program has provided over \$25 million in technical assistance and material support, which has led to significant achievements in five key areas: counter narcotics, rule of law, police reform and community policing, anti-corruption, and trafficking-in-persons.

INL helped establish the first professional counter-narcotics service in the country, staffed by fully vetted and polygraphed officials and resident international technical advisors, and upgraded key counter-narcotics infrastructure. INL is helping the State Forensics Center to create the country's first forensics laboratory to meet international standards. Once this lab is operational, criminal cases will be able to draw on more reliable

forensic evidence. INL is supporting the government's comprehensive efforts to strengthen its anti-trafficking in persons program. INL has also funded the construction of six modern police precincts, and the creation of 22 local crime prevention centers, which have served a key role in countering violent extremism.

INL has funded instrumental rule of law and anti-corruption capacity-building measures, including the establishment of a unified National Bar, and has strengthened the defense bar, while providing training and support to lawyers, judges and law enforcement representatives. Likewise, INL funded the efforts that led to the adoption of new Criminal, Criminal Procedure, and Criminal-Executive Codes, in addition to the Law on Probation of the Kyrgyz Republic by Parliament, all aimed at establishing an effective, fair, and accountable criminal justice system.





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USAID/Kyrgyz Republic

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