



# USAID Newsletter

## Economic Development



**USAID Supports the Ministry of Economy in Creating a Development Strategy for the Mining Sector of the Kyrgyz Republic:** On September 11, 2012, the KR Ministry of Economy jointly with the USAID REFORMA Project held a conference to formally launch the development of the Medium- and Long-Term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Mineral Resources Sector of Kyrgyzstan. The REFORMA Project works with the selected partner, a consortium of organizations led by the Kyrgyz Mining Association, to develop the strategy. Over 90 people representing the Kyrgyz Government, Parliament, investors, the donor community, and NGOs attended the conference. The strategy will present stakeholders with the appropriate policy choices to ensure widespread economic growth, environmental

and health protection, and a fair distribution of economic benefits to the government, private investors, and the people of the Kyrgyz Republic. The head of the Kyrgyz Mining Association, Mr. Valentin Bogdezky, presented the Consortium’s technical approach to strategy development, which will include researching, analyzing and recommending the adoption of leading international development policies and practices for sector development. The strategy will then be used as the basis for implementing recommended policies across legislative, regulatory, fiscal, environmental, educational and social spheres. This project is expected to be developed over a six-month period and is expected to be completed in March 2013.



*Photo 1: Representatives of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic at the Mining Strategy Launch Event (left to right: Ishak Pirmatov, MP; Temir Sariev, Minister of Economy; Almaz Alimbekov, Djoomart Otorbaev, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Prime Minister; Head of Mining Policy Department/Ministry of Economy)*  
*Photo 2: Participants of the Mining Strategy Launch Event.*



**Joint Efforts Improve Access to Water in Osh Province:** Positive results are flowing in from two recent irrigation canal renovations. In Kara-Suu rayon, USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) and the Kyrgyzstan Water Management Department restored water access along 12 km of canals for 25,020 residents. Residents report increased access to water and can now plant crops they were previously unable to grow due to flooding and mudflows. In Kizil-Tal village, farmers reported a reduction from 50 percent to 15 percent in water loss due to seepage. Similar results were reported by the Ak-Suu Federation

of Water Users Associations, where USAID/OTI renovated a large section of a canal for 59,500 residents of Kara-Suu district by saving 20 irrigation days and preventing 50% yield losses. In Kyzyl Mehnat village, confrontations between water distributors and farmers have ended. The renovation also spared five houses, one bridge, and 20 meters of canal from further damage associated with mudflows in Osh city.



*Photo 1: A canal in the process of rehabilitation.*  
*Photo 2: A rehabilitated canal*

**USAID Provides Assistance to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in Improving Business Regulation:** The USAID REFORMA Project has been providing assistance to the Ministry of Economy (MoE) and the business community to improve the business environment by optimizing the licensing and permit system. Licensing and permits are key regulatory tools to protect the environment and consumer health and safety. The project supported the MoE in conducting a substantive legal review of the licensing and permit regimes, resulting in the elimination of 97 types of licenses and permits through the recent adoption of new legislation. This constitutes a 20 percent decrease in the total number of licenses required for conducting a business activity. The REFORMA project has also assisted the Ministry in drafting a

Law on Licenses, which is currently under consideration by the Government. The draft Law establishes uniform rules governing the licensing regime and provides an exhaustive list of the activities that would be subject to licensing. If adopted, the draft law will reduce the total number of business licensing activities in the Kyrgyz Republic to 250, which is less than half of the number of licenses employed since the Government initiated its optimization program for business regulation in 2008 with USAID assistance. The REFORMA project will sponsor public hearings, public outreach, and capacity building at the MoE to manage and monitor implementation of the law across government implementing agencies.



**One-Stop-Shop Visit to the City of Naryn:** U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Laura A. Griesmer visited the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) in the city of Naryn in September. The USAID Local Development Program established the OSS to improve the collection of taxes and fees in Naryn. State agencies such as the Department of the State Tax Office in the city of Naryn, the Naryn Rayon Social Fund Department, the Naryn Oblast Department of Statistics, and a local bank that serves the OSS, are located at one location. This facilitates and accelerates the process of the payment of taxes and mandatory fees. This project focuses on decreasing the time and complexity for taxpayers while improving administrative procedures for the government. The OSS is equipped with furniture, equipment, and software for specialists from the state institutions involved.

*Photo: Visit of U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Laura Griesmer to the OSS in Naryn.*

## Health and Education



**Legacy of the USAID Quality Learning Project:** In September 2012, the Quality Learning Project (QLP) celebrated the completion of its support to the Ministry of Education and Science. Over a five-year period, QLP and its partners created a modern structure of in-service teacher training that emphasizes lesson planning around specific student learning outcomes. This critical input supports the Ministry's ongoing shift towards a competency-based education system. QLP developed 17 training programs, including many that directly improve teachers' instructional practices, as well as several that improve the management of schools and universities. Almost all of the training programs, teaching manuals, and other methodological materials were approved by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education – a significant outcome – and more than 35,000 such materials were produced

for distribution to regional teacher training institutes and schools across all 58 districts in the country. To mitigate the tense situation in southern Kyrgyzstan due to violence in June 2010, the project quickly provided conflict resolution training for 2,300 participants in 420 schools. The project also supported access to education for more than 2,400 at-risk six-year olds from 40 new settlements around Bishkek. Lastly, QLP's distinct community and school-based approach to implementing per capita financing, which impacted an estimated 330,000 students, has recently been adopted by the European Union and the World Bank for further expansion.

*Photo: USAID Quality Learning Project Country Director Saule Hamzina presenting teaching manuals and other methodological materials at the close-out event in Bishkek.*



**USAID Supports the Prevention of School Racketeering:** On November 6, 2012, a re-designed teachers' manual and a toolkit entitled "Prevention of Racketeering in the Schools of Kyrgyzstan" was presented to key stakeholders in the education sector and the general public in Bishkek. USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) supported the Child's Rights Defenders League (CRDL) that led the development of these education materials in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic with financial support from the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2011. During hearings "On current problems of school education", the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic recommended the manual for distribution among all schools of the country. In response, USAID

supported CDRL to reprint the manual and translate it into Uzbek, as well as develop a 30-minute video toolkit in Russian, with Kyrgyz and Uzbek subtitles, to make the material more effective and accessible to students. Participants of the event viewed a brief presentation of the manual and the toolkits, while directors of Bishkek schools received copies of the material. Overall, 6,500 copies of the material will be distributed among schools across the country. This manual and toolkit will help teachers to address the problem of school racketeering as part of their extra-curricular activities.

*Photo 1: Asanalieva Jumagul Beisheevna, a chief specialist of the Alamedin Department of Education, is getting acquainted with the manual on prevention of racketeering in schools at the presentation of the manual on November 6, 2012*

## Democracy and Governance



**Kyrgyz Parliament Speaker and Six Parliamentarians Travel to the United States:** On September 19-30, Speaker Asilbek Jeenbekov led a delegation of six other Members of Parliament (MPs) representing all parliamentary factions, to visit the U.S. Congress at the invitation of the House Democracy Partnership. The delegation met with Congressmen Eric Cantor, Sam Farr, David Price, and Senator Daniel Inoué; additional bilateral meetings were held with senior Department of State and National Security Council officials. Following the two-day trip to Washington, DC, Speaker Jeenbekov led the delegation to the United Nations, addressing the General Assembly on the behalf of Kyrgyzstan, and also met with President Obama to discuss Kyrgyzstan’s further democratic development. USAID has provided significant assistance to the

Parliament to improve its systems since the April 2010 revolution, including supporting its relationship with the House Democracy Partnership.

*Photo: Kyrgyz Delegation to the UN General Assembly headed by Speaker Jeenbekov (in the center).*



**USAID Launches Conflict Mitigation through Targeted Analysis and Community Action in Kyrgyzstan Project (COMTACA):** On October 5, USAID Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic Carey Gordon made opening remarks to launch this important two-year \$2.0 million project aimed at minimizing the risk of instability through informed public policy and early warning analysis for citizen protection and participation as well as communication between the citizenry and the government. Representatives of the Kyrgyz Government, deputies of the Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh), international donors and partners, local civil society organizations and media representatives participated in the event. This project will directly support local communities in the south of Kyrgyzstan and the national administration in identifying vectors of conflict, dispute mechanism and peace building activities to

contribute to a safer community for all. USAID partners with ACTED as an implementing organization that brings local knowledge, experience and a technological solution for rapid data and information sharing which they will share with public via the Early Warning Network and the enhancement of the REACH web-based map available in English at: [www.reach-initiative.kg](http://www.reach-initiative.kg) and in Russian at: [www.ru.reach-initiative.kg](http://www.ru.reach-initiative.kg).

*Photo: USAID Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic Carey N. Gordon makes opening remarks at the project launch event.*



**USAID Launches Women’s Peace Bank Project.** On October 31, 2012, USAID, through the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA), launched a two-year project entitled “Women’s Peace Bank” in Osh and in Jalalabad Provinces. The project empowers women in southern Kyrgyzstan to lead inter-ethnic reconciliation initiatives in Osh and Jalalabad and promote women’s peace building at the national level. The project will create and support 16 Women’s



Peace Banks (groups with 10 women in each) who will attend a series of trainings on social and economic project development, community needs assessment, and monitoring and evaluation of small projects.

*Photo 1: Women leaders were invited to the opening ceremony to share their creative ideas on how better to respond to the priority needs of the communities.*

*Photo 2: Local women entrepreneurs listen to the presentation with interest to learn more about the newly launched project.*

---

**For more information about USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic contact:**

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

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

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/USAIDCentralAsia](http://www.Facebook.com/USAIDCentralAsia)

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

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidcentralasianrepublics/>

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

---