

Capital: Dushanbe

Population: 6.7 M (2002), 65% Tajik, 25% Uzbek, 3.5% Russian, 6% other (including Kyrgyz)

GDP (current US\$): 1.03 billion

Population below national poverty line: 83%

GDP per capita (current US\$): 161

GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$1,140 (2001)

Religion: 85% Sunni Muslim; Shi'a Muslim, 5%

Language usage: Tajik and Russian

President: Imomali Rahmonov

Prime Minister: Oqil Oqilov

Ambassador to the US: Khamrokhon Zaripov



National Interest: Tajikistan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to its role as a front line state in the war on terrorism and its role as a transit route for narcotics, arms and possibly nuclear and other materials. The most disadvantaged of the Central Asian Republics, Tajikistan has limited resources, is landlocked with few transportation links, was ravaged by several years of civil war, and drought. However, in spite of its disadvantages, Tajikistan is successfully, if haltingly, making a transition to normalcy, civil order, and democracy. USAID's role is to focus on democratic, economic, and health reform, and conflict mitigation.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN TAJIKISTAN

FY 04: Total FSA: \$24.4 million, USAID total - \$19.8 million

Economic Reform (FY04 \$5 Million, 25.2%): USAID's strategy to foster economic growth combines support for small/medium enterprises (Pragma), business education (Carana-EdNet), microfinance (FINCA), and a farmer-to-farmer program (Winrock) with policy reform, including judicial and commercial law reform (ARD/CHECCHI), support to the Ministry of State Revenues for tax reform, assistance to the National Bank for banking sector reform (Bearing Point); and support for WTO accession (Pragma).

Energy & Water (FY04 \$9 Million, 4.4%): USAID projects funded out of the FY02 supplemental will end after FY04. These included assistance to the Ministry of Water Amelioration to rehabilitate irrigation systems in southwest Tajikistan. USAID also provides equipment and training to improve water management and transboundary cooperation (PA Consulting). A new Water Users Association Support program will focus on community participation in efficient water use, and infrastructure repair and maintenance.

Democracy & Media (FY04 \$5.4 Million, 27%): USAID provides training, assistance, and small grants to NGOs to build civil society (IREX). USAID also supports independent television, radio and print media with training, legal assistance, and production of a weekly news program (Internews, Asia Plus). USAID supports civic education (IFES), political processes (IFES), local government (Urban Institute), and the judicial reform (ABA/CEELI and IRIS). An anti-trafficking in persons program works on prevention as well as drafting anti-trafficking legislation and improved prosecution of traffickers (IOM).

Conflict Mitigation (FY04 \$1.8 million, 9.1%): Through the Peaceful Communities Initiative (Mercy Corps) and the Community Action Investment Program (Mercy Corps, Aga Khan, UNDP), USAID promotes public dialogue in identifying sources of conflict, and funding to address those concerns, often resulting in small, community-managed infrastructure projects. Target areas include ethnically diverse communities in the Ferghana Valley, as well as the Khatlon region and the Rasht and Tavildara Valleys.

Health & Population (FY04 \$4.6 Million, 23.2%): USAID infectious disease activities include support for reduction of TB (Project Hope), malaria (MERLIN), and HIV/AIDS (PSI, CDC). In primary health care, USAID provides technical assistance for health sector reform, as well as training in family medicine for doctors (Abt Associates, AIHA). Other programs include nutritional surveillance and feeding (Action Against Hunger); drug awareness and prevention activities (Soros); reproductive and child health (Project Hope); maternal/child health (Save the Children); health and family planning through education, awareness, and midwife training (CARE/Aga Khan Foundation); and small grants to health NGOs (Counterpart).

Basic Education Initiative (FY04: \$3 Million, 1.5%): USAID seeks to improve basic education at the primary and secondary school levels. Activities include training in teaching methods that stress critical thinking and active learning; development of new textbooks that incorporate interactive methodology; community mobilization on education issues; capacity building for educational administrators; and rebuilding schools (AED, OSI, Save the Children UK&US; Aga Khan).

Food Security: USAID continues to fund agricultural income generation projects for vulnerable groups in Khatlon and Sughd regions (Save the Children/US).

USAID/Central Asia: George Deikun, Regional Director (7-3272-50-79-01) 41 Kazibek bi St, Almaty, 480100

USAID/CAR Country Program Officer in Dushanbe: Peter Argo, 011 7 3272 507906

USAID/Washington: Tim Alexander, Team Leader (202) 712-1669 and Claire Ehmann, Desk Officer (202) 712-0751

USAID/CAR website: www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/