

Capital: Ashgabat
Population: 5.5 million (2001)
GDP(current US\$): \$5,962 million (2001)
Population below national poverty line: 7% (2001)
GDP per capita (current US\$): \$1,083 (2001)
GDP per capita (purchasing power parity): \$4,700 (2001)
Religion: Muslim (89%), Eastern Orthodox (9%)
Language: Turkmen (72%), Russian (12%), Uzbek (9%), other (7%)
President: Saparmurad Niyazov
Chairman of Supreme Council: Owezgeldy Atayev
Ambassador to US: Mered Orazov



National Interest: Turkmenistan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to its role in helping the United States in the global war on terrorism; its oil and gas resources; and its role as a source and transit route for narcotics and possibly nuclear and other materials. The lack of political or economic reform in Turkmenistan makes it difficult to achieve large-scale successes, however. USAID focuses its assistance on human capital development, expanding opportunities for the next generation of citizens, with modest programs in small business development, civil society, health, water, and conflict mitigation.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN TURKMENISTAN

FY04: Total FSA - \$5.7 million, USAID Total - \$4 million

Economic Reform (FY04 \$0.8 million, 19%): The GOT's restrictive economic policies have limited USAID's involvement in advancing significant economic reforms. Instead, USAID focuses on preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs by offering basic business education courses, including marketing, business planning, and international accounting standards (Pragma). The EdNet program (Carana) offers training to university professors and others in economics and business education, and provides research opportunities and scholarships. Seminars of international and commercial law are provided to Turkmen law students, legal professionals, and entrepreneurs (ABA/CEELI).

Energy and Water (FY04 \$0.3 million, 7%): As part of its capacity-building effort toward future generations of energy officials, USAID supports training and partnerships with U.S. policy specialists to help government oil and gas companies better manage their resources. USAID also assists the government in enforcing recently-passed regulations that bring Turkmenistan into conformity with international standards governing oil and gas production, and has introduced new ideas to clean oil fields and minimize waste in oil and gas fields. Water activities include training in water management, work with water users associations, and support of a regional transboundary program designed to improve interstate cooperation (PA Consulting).

Democracy (FY04 \$1.1 million, 27%): Despite difficult challenges in Turkmenistan, limited democracy work is possible at the grassroots level. USAID supports the development of the NGO sector broadly through its network of Civil Society Support Centers. These Centers provide key intermediary support for local civil society actors and provide small grants and training on issues such as advocacy, strategic planning, and fundraising (Counterpart). USAID also supports a law clinic "summer camp" for students to explore legal issues intensively and a Street Law program and a legal resource library at Turkmen State University (ABA/CEELI).

Health and Population (FY04 \$1.5 million, 38%): USAID infectious disease activities include support for reduction of TB (Project Hope) and HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). In primary health care, USAID provides training in family medicine and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses approach (Abt Assoc). USAID is also strengthening the capacity of health NGOs to promote maternal and child health (Counterpart). Health partnerships provide retraining for doctors and nurses (AIHA).

Basic Education Initiative: Once started, using FY02 and 03 funds, this new program will work to improve the quality of teaching, increase parent involvement in schools, and strengthen institutional capacity of the school system, focusing on primary education. Implementation has been stalled pending agreement of the government. (AED)

Cross-Cutting Programs (FY04 \$0.4 million, 9%): The cross-cutting portfolio includes our participant training program, which trains future leaders from Turkmenistan.

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