



USAID | TURKMENISTAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



- USAID-supported market economics lessons, taught in roughly 15 percent of Turkmenistan's high schools, will be included in national curriculum for a newly created 12th year of education.
- To improve livestock quality for dairy and meat production, USAID introduced advanced artificial insemination techniques in Turkmenistan, leading to the birth in 2013 of the country's first 600 calves via these methods.
- USAID contributed to a nearly 70 percent drop in Turkmenistan's tuberculosis incidence rate between 2000 and 2013.

Photo credit: USAID

Country Profile

Sharing long borders with Afghanistan and Iran in Central Asia, and serving as a key link to the South Asian subcontinent, Turkmenistan plays a critical role in advancing regional integration and stability. The country's large oil and gas reserves also make it a pivotal supplier for regional and world markets. As the former Soviet Republic emerges from decades of isolation, the United States supports Turkmenistan in its efforts to foster a more open and integrated society.

USAID works with the people and Government of Turkmenistan to strengthen and diversify the economy, build up nascent democratic and civil society institutions, improve access to key health care services, and promote greater regional integration and cooperation between South and Central Asia.

OUR WORK

Turkmenistan is emerging from decades of isolation and reengaging with the global community. The country has demonstrated a commitment to reforming aspects of its economy and government to be more in line with international standards. However, issues with transparency of governance are a key problem. With one of the lowest internet penetration rates in the world, no independent media, and tightly controlled access to most data and statistics, Turkmenistan's small, civil society sector finds it difficult to operate and initiate positive change.

Although the years of centralized control have resulted in a society with decidedly limited civic enfranchisement and engagement, USAID has maintained a sound relationship with the Turkmen government. Through demand-driven programs in economic growth, civil society, education and health, USAID supports local efforts to foster a more open and integrated society, contributing to stability in a region where democratic governance remains largely a work-in-progress.

Our work in Turkmenistan is supported by a public-private partnership with Chevron, which funds nearly 20 percent of our annual budget and supports agricultural business development, opportunities for young people to gain practical skills in economics and entrepreneurship, such as through Junior Achievement, and outreach centers for vulnerable youth.

GLOBAL HEALTH

U.S.-funded programs focus on increasing access to key services to help prevent the transmission and contain the expansion of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV. USAID supports activities that improve the delivery of prevention, care and treatment services for TB, enhance the capacities of institutions to address multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB, and develop systems to strengthen diagnosis of MDR TB and improve infection control practices. With USAID and World Health Organization assistance, Turkmenistan adopted a national policy on how to prescribe and calculate the dosage for the latest TB medications. USAID reinforces this policy by training doctors and nurses on these new standards.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Turkmenistan has expressed an interest in adopting international best practices and models, including International Financial Reporting Standards and select use of e-governance. USAID and other U.S. Government agencies support these efforts and advocate for additional reforms to improve social services, expand access to information, increase productivity, diversify markets and strengthen trade relations. USAID helps civil society organizations (CSOs) understand the changing legal and institutional framework they operate within, which Turkmenistan is working to improve. In 2012, the government registered five new CSOs, which is considered an enormous increase since none were registered in the previous four years.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND AGRICULTURE

USAID helps Turkmenistan participate more fully in the global economy by supporting economic reform and helping to apply international accounting and finance standards. USAID supports Turkmenistan in diversifying its economy and pursuing inclusive, broad-based growth through macroeconomic stability, enhanced competitiveness, expanded private sector participation and accession to the World Trade Organization. USAID was the first international partner to improve the valuation sector when Turkmenistan opened its economy after years of state control, helping the country more accurately estimate the value of financial assets and liabilities to more fairly and effectively set taxes and draw up capital budgets.

Although Turkmenistan is the second-largest cotton producer in the region, with more than half a million tons produced annually, the crop yield has been steadily declining due to outdated irrigation and land management practices. USAID prioritizes agricultural diversification by promoting higher-value greenhouse horticulture, helping fruit and vegetable growers improve their practices to become more efficient and profitable, and connecting fruit and vegetable growers, processors and marketers with local and international markets. In the livestock sector, USAID provides training to veterinary experts on improving animal health through modern feeding programs and disease protection, as well as to farmers on how to breed healthier and more productive dairy and beef cows. Veterinarians trained by USAID on modern artificial insemination techniques are critical for the country's livestock industry and their expertise is used by producers nationwide.

CONTACTS

Country Office

Brandy Witthoft, USAID Country Office Director
I Yunus Emre St., Intl Business Center
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan 744017
Phone: +993-12-45-61-30
E-mail: bwitthoft@usaid.gov

Washington Headquarters

Dr. Eric Rudenshiold, Senior Officer in Charge for Central Asia
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., USA 20523
Phone: (202) 712-0141 • E-mail: erudenshiold@usaid.gov



Community leaders learn new strategies to combat trafficking in persons in Turkmenistan. Photo credit: IOM



Improved marketing and development of plant protection techniques help female tomato farmers increase incomes. Photo credit: Zulya Achilova