U.S. Government Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic

March 28, 2014
U.S. Government agencies

- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Public Affairs Section (PAS)
- Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
- Export Control and Related Border Security Program (EXBS)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
(Millions of U.S. Dollars).

Total Assistance $900
U.S. Government Assistance in 2013, by Sector

Total $49 million

- Economic Growth, Agriculture and Energy: 29%
- Governance, Civil Society, Elections, Access to Justice: 26%
- Health and Education: 16%
- Humanitarian Assistance: 3%
- Administration: 11%
- Civilian Law Enforcement: 15%
Lessons Learned

• U.S. Assistance programs must support priorities of the Kyrgyz Republic

• Political will of the Kyrgyz Republic leadership is key to success

• Close cooperation is needed between the Kyrgyz Republic Government and all the international donor organizations, as demonstrated by the successful collaboration in the energy sector
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Building Democracy
Building Democracy: Supporting Free and Fair Elections

• Training thousands of CEC, TEC, PEC, and CET members with a single standard of training materials

• Supporting nationwide voter education, political party poll watchers, and civil society-led election observation in the 2010, 2011, and 2012 elections

• Nationwide door-to-door voter’s list verification prior to the 2011 elections, resulting in over 100,000 names added and thousands of corrections

• Long-term engagement to improve legislation governing elections and voter registration
Building Democracy: Assisting Parliamentary Processes

- 100+ field hearings, policy seminars, and other public events have fostered **communication and feedback** between citizens and MPs

- Transparent staffing: in 2013, the Parliament’s Administration held the first competitive personnel selection in its 20-year history

- Providing resources to MPs and staff for **producing sound legislation**, such as the Kyrgyz-Russian Legislative Dictionary and the Training Center on Legislative Drafting
Building Democracy: Improved Local Governance and Services

• Helped local governments transparently inventory, publicize, and sell municipal land, after the sudden transferal of property from the national to local level in 2000

• Assisted the State Registration Service in rehabilitating and equipping passport offices in Aravan, Mady, Nariman, Suzak Rayon and the large Citizen Service Center “One-stop Shop” in Osh, reducing wait time for documents by 30-50% or more in some locations
Building Democracy: Supporting Civil Society

- Supported the development of important **civil society organizations**:
  - Development Policy Institute
  - Center for Democracy and Civil Society
  - Interbilim
  - Foundation for Tolerance International

- Trained **180 members of 25 newly-formed Public Advisory Councils** on budget development, monitoring, and analysis of draft legislation

- Supported civil society networks to:
  - Monitor the **judicial selection process**
  - Conduct **citizen outreach** about rights & responsibilities vis-à-vis electricity companies and traffic police.
Building Democracy: Supporting Civil Society

In 2013, **30 grants** to local NGOs for projects promoting democratic values and governance, including government transparency, conflict resolution, and the political participation of LGBT communities and other vulnerable groups.

**Example: Beshtentek**

- **4 seasons** of anti-corruption animation series aired on the Public Broadcasting Channel
- Comics distributed at schools, in newspapers, and online
- Puppet shows performed for over **5,000 children** in **43 schools** nationwide
• Strengthening the capacity of women-lead organizations addressing human rights abuses such as domestic violence and bride kidnapping

• Supporting professional opportunities for women in political life, including the Forum of Women MPs, Women’s Discussion Club (a coalition of activists across 10 political parties), and recently-elected female kenesh members

• Working with Women’s Peace Banks to fund small projects promoting inter-ethnic reconciliation and confidence-building in Osh and Jalalabad
Helped local government to repair shared infrastructure in volatile communities:

- $3.7 million in equipment provided to key institutions
- 18 government offices repaired or outfitted
- 138 education facilities & 18 youth centers supported
- 30 irrigation canals repaired, increasing water access for 80 communities, reducing conflicts over water
- Traffic lights replaced at 44 intersections in 5 southern cities; 58% reduction in accidents in first year
- 24 electricity transformers provided, reducing conflicts over electricity supply in volatile communities
- Engaged at-risk populations in nearly 85,000 days of short-term work
- Engaged 3,721 people in community clean-up projects during the anniversaries of the April and June violence
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Supporting Free Media
Supporting Free Media: Access to Information

- Providing production grants for local content providers, covering 90% of the Kyrgyz Republic, to produce high-quality, locally-oriented television programming
- Support to Yntymak (Harmony) TV and Radio, the only source for Uzbek-language broadcast media in the southern Kyrgyz Republic since 2010, produced by a multi-ethnic staff of journalists and technicians
- Supported establishment of 5 micro radio stations in five remote southern villages
Supporting Free Media: Content and Professionalism

- Supporting KTR to take its place as the **nationally most-watched television station**, and noticeably improve program quality, through internal reforms and increased public outreach

- Assisting local stations to attract advertising revenue and grow market share through **nation-wide media research** sponsored by a network of public and private broadcasters and advertising companies
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Supporting Health Sector
Supporting Health Sector: Assistance to the Ministry of Health

- Assisted the MOH with development and analysis of the last three national health reform programs: Manas, Manas Taalimi, and Den Sooluk
- Supported the Demographic and Health Surveys in 1997 and 2012, providing critical data for policy decisions
- Strong USAID, UNICEF, and Russian Government efforts on strengthening routine immunization resulted in absence of polio outbreak in 2010
- Thanks to long term support to the Kyrgyz health sector, the Kyrgyz Republic is to be declared malaria free
Supporting Health Sector: Maternal and Child Health Care and Reproductive Health

- Supported the World Health Organization effective perinatal care program in maternity hospitals, reaching **100% coverage** in 2012

- Collaborated with MOH to train all Primary Health Care providers on management of childhood illnesses

- More then **110,000 women** of fertile age educated on modern family planning methods

- Since 1994, with USAID support, there has been a steady reduction in infant and childhood mortality. The Kyrgyz Republic is projected to achieve MDG #4 by achieving a 2/3 reduction in the under-5 mortality rate by 2015.
Increased access to key health services in order to contain the spread of the TB and HIV epidemics

Strengthened the diagnosis of Multi-Drug Resistant-TB and improved infection control practices

Helped health providers, vulnerable communities, and patients understand treatment options and care of TB and Multi-Drug Resistant TB
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Supporting Education
The National Admissions Test, designed and launched with USAID support in 2002, provides a fair and transparent means for students to be admitted to higher education institutes.

- 434,4457 high school graduates were tested from 2002 – 2013
- 57,490 government scholarships distributed, 66% to rural students
- University rectors state that the quality of their students has increased because of the NAT
Founded in 1993 with U.S. Government grant support, AUCA is an international, multi-disciplinary liberal arts university that develops enlightened and impassioned leaders.

- Currently **1,355 students** from 16 countries and 128 faculty
- 95% of graduates find employment **within three months** of graduation
- Provides **scholarships** to disadvantaged students from Kyrgyzstan
- AUCA is constructing a **new campus** expected to open this year
Supporting Education: English Language Programs

• **700 teachers** trained in modern communicative methods of teaching; **300 teachers** developed professional skills through national and regional conferences

• **5 English Language Fellows and Specialists** cooperated with the Ministry of Education and other educational institutions to develop modern English Language programming

• **143,850** students and teachers visited **7 American Corners** and were provided with access to over **7,000 books** and **free Internet** access

• **ACCESS Microscholarship Program:** **776** talented students from disadvantaged families taught English language since 2007
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Developing Agriculture
$20 million joint U.S.-KG Economic Development Fund helped:

• Distribute high quality seed to 40,000 farmers 2011
• Provide agricultural machinery to 14 seed farms
• Provide equipment and breeding stock (including 200 head of U.S. cattle) to 10 livestock breeding farms
• Establish the National Artificial Insemination Center
Developing Agriculture: Strengthened agricultural input markets and farm productivity

- Helped increase fertilizer usage (94,000 tons in 2013, up from less than 1,000 tons in 2001)
- Supported establishment of Association of Agri-businessmen of the Kyrgyz Republic (example of association’s successes – advocated removal of VAT on fertilizer)
- Over 6,000 ha of previously non-irrigated land rehabilitated in partnership with private sector and local authorities.
- Support to poultry sector contributed to 60% increase in domestic production of eggs (compared to 2010 when assistance started)
- Attracted over US$ 6 million investment through partnerships with private sector companies (Eurasia Group, Oasis Agro, Kumtor etc.)
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Enabling Business
Microfinance industry established with USAID support, from near zero in late 1990’s to serving hundreds of thousands of borrowers today
- Technical assistance on laws on MFIs and credit unions, providing sound legal framework for industry development
- Supported establishment of the Association of Microfinance Institutions
- USAID helped establish FINCA, Bai-Tushum and Kompanion, which are now among industry leaders (accounting for over 60% of total microfinance loan portfolio)
Enabling Business: Support to banking supervision

- Technical assistance provided to National Bank to comply with Basel-II core principles for effective banking supervision
- Assisted National Bank to institute systems for on-site and offsite banking inspections
- Worked with National Bank to ensure that commercial banks’ accounting and audit systems comply with international standards
- Today, banking sector in the Kyrgyz Republic is stable and credible
Enabling Business: Support to Tax Administration

Provided technical assistance to develop new tax code which:

• reduced number of taxes from 16 to 9
• reduced the VAT rate from 20 to 12 percent
• improved property-use tax and land tax regimes
• introduce enforced collection provisions, risk-based audits, automated filing

As a result, the tax payer confidence in the government strengthened and government tax revenues increased dramatically
Provided technical assistance and training to:

- Draft amendments that will decrease regulated business activities from 400 to 101
- Create one-stop service centers in Naryn, Talas, Kara-Suu and Tokmok municipalities to facilitate local economic development
Enabling Business: Women Empowerment

• USAID works with **14 large women-run enterprises and 3,400 women farmers** engaged in feed production and poultry

• USAID provides targeted assistance to **750 women entrepreneurs** in the tourism, garment and agro-processing sectors
Supporting Mining Sector: Government Regulations

- Supported amendment of 4 laws to improve transparency in mining licensing
- Assisted in developing Mining Development Strategy that is ready for adoption in 2014
- Provided technical assistance to the State Geology Agency
- Organized training to promote legal stability and fair distribution of mining benefits among stakeholders
- Promoted dialogue between stakeholders at community level
Provided technical assistance for the Ministry of Energy to formulate energy-sector reform action plan

Produced first-ever diagnostic report of electricity-sector companies

Supported CASA 1000 secretariat which will result in summer energy export and greater year-round energy sufficiency
Border and Customs Support: Practical Exercise and Training area for the State Customs Service

- Funded the construction of a **Practical Exercise and Training area for the State Customs Service** that opened on November 1, 2013
- Equipped with actual Radiation Portal Monitors, Vehicle scales and inspection facilities, baggage X-ray machines, classroom areas, and a full size passenger railcar for practical training
- **31 new and upgraded border observation towers** along the Southern borders built and transferred to the State Border Service
Security Cooperation

• Annually, over 80 events are hosted under Bilateral Defense Cooperation Plan involving all branches of the Kyrgyz Republic armed forces, including training on border security, military medicine, counter-terrorism, explosive ordinance disposal, responding to natural disasters and peacekeeping operations.

• Over 30 Kyrgyz military students graduate every year from U.S. programs such as basic infantry and medical courses and year-long graduate programs on law and peacekeeping operations.

• Kyrgyz Republic armed forces were provided with night vision devices, advanced communication equipment and all-terrain heavy transport vehicles and military ambulances.
Highlights of U.S. Assistance in Law Enforcement
Law Enforcement

- **Training on Crowd Control** and equipment 1,000 patrolmen in Bishkek, Chui, Osh & Jalal-Abad
- **Community Security Initiative (CSI)** deployed International Police Advisors and created Mobile Police Receptions in 13 districts in Osh, Batken, Jalal-Abad, and Chuy provinces, as well as Osh and Jalal-Abad cities
- Delivered **anti-corruption program to the Ministry of Internal Affairs**
- Assistance in **restructuring and training the Internal Security Services Unit** based on best practice/international standard for handling citizen complaints
- Provided assistance for **refurbishment of the Police School**: dormitories, English computer lab, forensic training center, library and cafeteria
Law Enforcement

• Support to the **Criminal Procedure Code Revision** and judicial reform efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic

• Funding and Program Development for the **Kyrgyz Prosecution Training Center** where DOJ and Kyrgyz instructors have trained hundreds of Kyrgyz Prosecutors and Investigators from all regions in trial advocacy skills and capacity building.

• Support and Coordination for **Kyrgyz Prosecutor General’s Requests for Legal Assistance** from U.S. Law Enforcement Authorities
Counter Narcotics Cooperation

- Supported establishment of and provided training, equipment and vehicles to **Kyrgyz National Drug Control Service**

- Provided operational support and assistance on **joint counternarcotics investigations**

- Assisted in improving **regional and international cooperation** in counternarcotics work
Going Forward
Support the Ministry of Health in its goal to:

- Limit spread of HIV and TB
- Provide universal access to TB and HIV care and treatment
going forward: education

assist the ministry of education in their goal to return to universal literacy within 10 years
Assist the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and private sector to increase competitiveness of Kyrgyz agricultural products on national and international markets
Going Forward: Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises

Planned SME development programs will focus on non-agricultural and non-extractive business sectors and will contribute to:

- Increased employment
- Improved business enabling environment
- Increased productivity and markets
Support the Ministry of Energy to create well regulated energy sector
Help the Kyrgyz Republic to maintain tradition of vibrant and open civil society
Going Forward: Building Democracy

- Support an engaged, informed society through professional media voices, information diversity after the 2015 digital transition, and public education on rule of law issues
- Strengthen professional, transparent, financially viable civil society organizations as effective partners with the Government
- Engage young people through an updated national civic education curriculum, increased youth networks, and expanded political and economic opportunities
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