



USAID | TURKMENISTAN

COUNTRY PROFILE

JANUARY 2008



At first, Aysoltan Halitova, a family physician from Mary Province, was skeptical about the practices she learned through USAID's Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) training. The program aims to reduce the most common causes of death among young children by providing doctors with evidence-based tools to assess and manage childhood illness.

When Halitova's young son fell ill with pneumonia, she put her training to work. His quick recovery convinced the doctor to use IMCI-recommended methods for all her young patients. More than 800 Turkmen physicians have been trained on IMCI since 2002.

TURKMENISTAN SNAPSHOT

Date of independence:
October 27, 1991
Capital: Ashgabat
Population: 6 million
GDP per person: \$8,500 (PPP)

For more information,
see www.usaid.gov
Keyword: Turkmenistan

OVERVIEW

Turkmenistan shares borders with countries of interest to the U.S., such as Afghanistan and Iran, and its large hydrocarbon reserves make it a pivotal potential supplier for regional and world markets. It is a regional security partner and a supporter of Operation Enduring Freedom. These factors, combined with overall U.S. objectives in the region, make Turkmenistan a strategically important state that can play a key role in promoting the South-Central Asia integration initiative. Civic enfranchisement and engagement are in their initial stages, however, NGOs still face difficult registration rules and firm control keeps civil society advocates in check. The Government controls all domestic media, and citizen access to outside information largely arrives via satellite with Russian-language content.



Ashgabat

The USAID program in Turkmenistan supports strengthening of private sector, civil society, and health reforms.

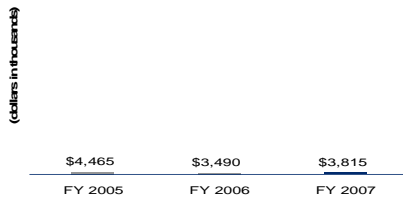
PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

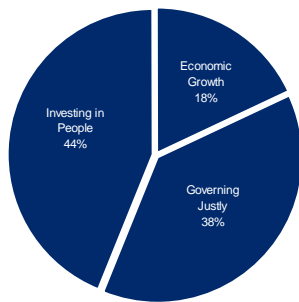
USAID works to establish the capacity and infrastructure to support sustainable economic development and growth in Turkmenistan through programming targeted to enhancing agribusiness and both secondary and professional education. The Agriculture Improvement Project builds competitiveness and strengthens the value chain for domestic, regional, and international markets. To improve rural incomes, this one-year project is helping to link farmers and agribusinesses with agricultural markets, produce better products, and deliver consistent quality products to local and regional markets. The Accounting/CIPA Project supports the Russian language Certified International Professional Accountant program, which seeks to build local capacity to meet the technical and professional standards of the accounting profession. USAID funds Junior Achievement programs which offer economic education programs to secondary school students. Junior Achievement provides teacher training, develop and distribute teaching materials, and organize youth events such as Student Company Fairs and Management and Economics Simulation competitions. USAID also supports exchanges within the region

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO TURKMENISTAN



Percent of FY 2007 Budget for Each Area



Governing Justly & Democratically: \$1,300,000
Economic Growth: \$600,000
Investing in People: \$1,500,000

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and to the U.S. to foster greater understanding of private sector development, macrofinance, and business education.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

USAID works to establish and institutionalize components of health reform in Turkmenistan, with a focus on improving the quality of maternal and child health services. To improve the management of childhood illnesses, USAID trains health care providers and promotes community health in pilot sites. Programs support the implementation of the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy for tuberculosis (TB) control, including improvement in laboratory quality assurance and advanced laboratory techniques. USAID also supports improvements to blood screening in Turkmenistan, to reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases. The CAPACITY Project will assist the Ministry of Health with its national HIV/AIDS strategy, with a focus on prevention. USAID also supports the Government of Turkmenistan's efforts to combat avian influenza.

PROMOTING A MORE ACTIVE CITIZENRY

USAID supports the development of civil society at the community level through training, technical assistance, and access to legal information. This includes co-funding for small-scale community projects to meet local economic development needs, as well as assistance to strengthen relations between communities and their local governments. USAID also works with local organizations to expand legal advice to NGOs, the media and other organizations. Additionally, USAID's Community Connections Program offers home stay-based practical exchange opportunities in the U.S. for Turkmenistan's business, community, and local government leaders to build lasting linkages.