

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Central Asian Republics Regional
Program Title:	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	176-0131
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$170,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$619,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$170,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: USAID's program to improve the environment for the growth of small and medium enterprises includes providing better business and economics education, increasing access to financial services, and supporting a grants program for business and professional associations.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$46,000 FSA carryover, \$150,000 FSA prior year recoveries). Regional funds will be used to develop and implement economic policy reforms in the Central Asian Republics, including strengthening the capacity of independent think tanks to effectively communicate policy analysis and findings to the government and the public, establishing links among parliamentary Fiscal Analysis Units in the region, and providing training and assistance to the Ministries of Finance and Economy in medium-term economic, revenue, and expenditure forecasting. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Improve Private Sector Growth (\$137,000 FSA carryover). USAID will continue to support the Certified Accounting Practitioner and Certified International Professional Accountant (CAP/CIPA) Program, which is a core component of USAID's accounting reform program. Regional funds will be used to support the Certified International Professional Accountant - Examination Network (CIPA-EN) activities as part of a regional accounting Global Development Alliance aimed at creating and sustaining an internationally-accepted testing program. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Enhance the Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$170,000 FSA). USAID will continue to support microfinance through the Central Asia Microfinance Alliance (CAMFA), which provides targeted technical assistance, training, and small grants to microfinance institutions to help them become sustainable. Principal contractor/grantee: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers for Overseas Cooperative Assistance (prime).

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$286,000 FSA carryover). USAID's EdNet Project will provide greater access to professional development opportunities for teachers of business and economics, and work with administrators at higher education institutions to build management capacity and develop economics and business programs that are closer to international standards. The program will provide assistance to strengthen the links between businesses and universities through activities such as business incubators and career centers. Moreover, the program will develop partnerships between the EdNet regional association and other associations that promote excellence in research and the teaching of economics and business. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

FY 2006 Program: Enhance the Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$170,000 FSA). USAID will continue to support the microfinance sector in Central Asia to expand opportunities for groups not serviced by the commercial banking sector. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Performance and Results: Regional funds enable USAID to support some regional activities as well as high priority needs in countries in which country funds are insufficient. Over the last year, the

Enterprise Development Project (EDP) continued to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to acquire business information, knowledge, and skills. Through the EDP, grants have been awarded competitively and are supporting the development of business associations' advocacy skills, regional trade, pilot productive ventures, and the adoption of international accounting standards. In Kazakhstan, a grant to the Association of Markets and Entrepreneurs helped the organization to conduct the Central Asian Contracting Fair, which expanded market opportunities for producers, processors, and traders of agricultural products. The Fair brought over 140 prospective suppliers and buyers into direct contact with one another, with a particular focus on expanding fruits and vegetable exports to Russia. At the end of FY 2004, deals directly linked to contacts made at the Fair totaled \$411,700 (including deals between Central Asian companies and Russian businesses). Based on the Fair's success, expectations are that such events will be funded out of benefiting associations' resources in the future.

The new land legislation reform activity was not scheduled to begin until October 2004. Therefore, no results are reportable for FY 2004. Results which are expected in FY 2005 include amendments to existing land-related laws and regulations and, as necessary, new laws and regulations drafted, that clarify and strengthen farmers' ability to gain secure land rights.

USAID's partnership with Junior Achievement supports business and economics education in Central Asia. Regional funding supported the development and adoption of teaching materials in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. More than 16,000 students in the region were taught using these new materials.

By program's end, small and medium enterprises will be more competitive. Entrepreneurs will have greater access to credit and the modern business skills and knowledge necessary to start up and run successful businesses. Business associations will be more effective advocates for policy change and capable of providing needed services to their members.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Central Asian Republics Regional

176-0131 Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	FSA
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	2,030
Expenditures	423
Unliquidated	1,607
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	1,049
Expenditures	1,032
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	3,079
Expenditures	1,455
Unliquidated	1,624
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	619
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	170
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	789
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	170
Future Obligations	200
Est. Total Cost	4,238