

Turkmenistan

The Development Challenge: Over the past year, the Government of Turkmenistan has grown more repressive and less responsive to the developmental challenges faced by its people. Social indicators continue to be alarming. Government investments in health and education continue to decline. Less than 4,000 students out of a graduating class of about 100,000 were able to enter higher educational institutions last year. Of that, only 32% were women. Approximately 45% of the population is under the age of 25. Only 42% of rural families have access to potable drinking water. Only 2.3% of GDP is generated by the private sector (although this figure does not take into account the robust informal economy). Child and infant mortality are alarmingly high, and there is no political will to tackle the spread of HIV/AIDS. Unemployment continues to rise, with some estimates putting it as high as 70% in areas outside of the capital, Ashgabat. Brain drain continues to concern development agencies as educated workers seek employment opportunities abroad, mainly in Russia. There are only 0.24 internet users per 1,000 people in Turkmenistan. The only internet service provider is the government-owned telecom, which monitors use.

The preponderance of U.S. assistance is directed to the needs of the Turkmen people, primarily through education, training, and exchanges. Investing in people is the foundation of USAID's assistance program in Turkmenistan. Giving them the tools to create an environment of change is essential to plan for the future in Turkmenistan. Assistance to the Government of Turkmenistan (GOT) is limited, and interaction with the government occurs only in cases where dividends are linked directly to reform. The U.S. national interest in Turkmenistan is substantial. Turkmenistan has been supportive of the Global War on Terrorism and provides critical support in Operation Enduring Freedom. Although Turkmenistan's economic, political, and social performance is poor, disengaging from the Turkmen people would serve only to further isolate them and lessen the likelihood of their achieving sustainable development.

The USAID Program: Meeting the challenges in Turkmenistan necessitates a long-term view with a focus on human capital development. Training and exchanges are necessary to continue people-to-people interactions and information exchange in Turkmenistan. The Program Data Sheets outline USAID's objectives in Turkmenistan. USAID is requesting funds for: democratic culture and citizen advocacy, primary health care, small enterprise development, water and energy management, and cross-cutting activities such as conflict mitigation, youth and education, gender equity, anti-corruption, and respect for the rule of law. The majority of FY 2005 funding is to continue support for multi-year initiatives that are ongoing.

Other Program Elements: The Farmer-to-Farmer Program, financed through P.L. 480 is active in Turkmenistan. In FY 2003, about 30 agricultural specialists interacted with Turkmen farmers to improve the lives of rural citizens. They also established the Future Farmers of Turkmenistan program mirrored on the Future Farmers of America model in the United States. This allows for investment in the future generation of rural leaders of the country. The Eurasia Foundation maintained a presence in Turkmenistan during FY 2003, providing grants to civil society development organizations. Other USG programs, such as International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance, and Defense Security Assistance, continue to collaborate with USAID.

Other Donors: Donor coordination has improved over the past year in Turkmenistan. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has taken a leadership role in donor coordination, especially in the areas of democracy and education. USAID fully participates and often adds supporting funds to other multilateral development programs. Overall development assistance to Turkmenistan continues to be relatively small. Bilateral and multilateral development agencies face the same challenges as USAID. The European Union Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States is facing programming cuts. World Bank lending has ceased; the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to support women and children through maternal and child health programming, educational reform projects, and other important initiatives. USAID funds or co-funds several projects with UNICEF in Turkmenistan. The U.N. Development Program is working on public management, economic reform, and environmental protection. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees works with the refugee communities and the International Organization for Migration works on migration issues. The United Nations Population Fund

works on reproductive health issues. USAID is the leading bilateral assistance provider in Turkmenistan. Other bilaterals include the UK, Germany and Turkey. The Asian Development Bank has a limited presence in Turkmenistan. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development recently restarted its small/medium enterprise credit line that was suspended for three years due to lack of currency conversion.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	120-0131
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$765,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$60,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$530,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's program to improve the environment for the growth of small/medium enterprises includes training and technical assistance to: increase opportunities to acquire business information, knowledge, and skills; build the capacity of financial institutions; and increase commercial law awareness.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Business Skills and Information (\$625,000 FSA, \$59,508 FSA carryover). USAID's Enterprise Development Project will provide trade advisory services, as well as deliver 35,000 participant hours of open enrollment courses in subjects such as business plan preparation, financial statement analysis, and the legal environment for small/medium enterprises. The project will also continue training, testing, and certifying accountants in International Accounting Standards. In the upcoming year USAID expects to certify 30 Certified Accounting Practitioners. Principal contractor/grantee: Pragma Corporation (prime).

To raise the level of business and economics education, USAID will continue providing support to strengthen the quality of higher education and thus better prepare youth to enter and compete in a market economy. The program will train professors in modern business and economics, and work with administrators at higher education institutions to build capacity and develop economics and business programs that meet international standards. USAID, in partnership with Junior Achievement International, will provide business and economics training to middle and high school teachers and build administrative capacity in the Junior Achievement local chapter to reach sustainability. This year the project will expand beyond the capital, Ashgabat, and start work in the regions. Principal contractors/grantees: Carana Corporation (prime) and Junior Achievement International (prime).

Build Financial Institution Capacity (\$58,000 FSA). USAID will provide technical assistance and training to key staff of the Central Bank of Turkmenistan in order to strengthen the Bank's capacity to establish sound supervisory policies and regulations, monetary and credit policy analysis, and internal controls. Principal contractor/grantee: Bearing Point (prime).

Increase Commercial Law Awareness (\$82,000 FSA). USAID will develop and conduct a number of courses related to commercial law in order to raise awareness in both the public and private sectors as well as educate young law professionals on basic commercial law concepts. Principal contractors/grantees: American Bar Association Central Europe and Eurasia Law Initiative (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Business Skills and Information (\$355,000 FSA). The Enterprise Development Project will continue providing trade advisory services and delivering open enrollment business courses as well as International Accounting Standards training, testing, and certification. The project may expand to include business advisory services. Principal contractor/grantee: Pragma Corporation (prime).

Build the Capacity of Financial Institutions (\$175,000 FSA). USAID will continue its work with the Central Bank in order to strengthen its bank supervision systems and internal controls. Principal contractor/grantee: BearingPoint (prime).

Performance and Results: USAID found ways to contribute to the economic development of Turkmenistan, more so through educational programs than official cooperation with government agencies, where unpredictability and a general reluctance has made assistance difficult to deliver. Training in International Accounting Standards achieved important successes this year, as the project trained and tested 240 accountants. USAID supported efforts to establish an accounting association with technical assistance and a grant to the Association of Accountants and Auditors of Turkmenistan. Once the association becomes official, it can begin certifying Turkmen accountants who have already passed the accounting standard exams. USAID donated over 500 sets of books (a set is the textbook, study guide and country-specific appendix) to students and teachers in order to learn business and economics basics in high schools. The Russian language textbooks will be used by a cadre of 10 trainers based in schools throughout Turkmenistan. In a welcome turn of events, the Central Bank requested assistance in monetary and credit policy analysis, internal audit, and Basel Core Principles implementation, and USAID responded quickly to budget and plan assistance for FY 2004.

By program's end, it is expected that USAID will have established a foundation for future economic agents and business leaders to advocate more effectively for the liberalization of economic policies and a stronger private sector.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Energy and Water
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	120-0161
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$275,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$200,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's water and energy activities are focused on improving Turkmenistan's capacity to manage natural resources and energy, through well-directed technical assistance, the introduction of improved technologies accompanied by selected training, targeted public outreach, and similar actions leading to better management of critical resources. This includes activities which seek to broaden public participation in resource decision-making and improve the government's capacity to effectively regulate oil, gas, and water resources. Proper management of resources will enable Turkmenistan to more directly and fully contribute to regional energy needs in the emerging economies of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Water User Association Support (\$200,000 FSA). USAID plans to initiate a limited program of support for water user associations in Turkmenistan. Although some associations do exist, for the most part, they are weak and require further assistance to help them become sustainable. The goal of the program is to increase the number of viable, sustainable water user entities in the country. These organizations include not only organizations that manage irrigation systems, but also those that are organized to distribute potable water, particularly in remote areas of the country. Due to strong control of the central government and regressive policies in the agricultural sector, USAID's initial activities will focus on both technical and organizational development training for representatives of existing groups, and assessing further targets of opportunity for follow-on interventions, such as a small grants program. Principal contractor: to be determined.

Energy Development Programs (\$75,000 FSA). A very limited program of training will continue, aimed mainly at students studying in oil and gas disciplines. Principal contractor/grantee: PA Government Services (prime).

FY 2005 Program:

Water User Association Support (\$200,000 FSA). The level and nature of activities in 2005 will depend heavily on the level of success in 2004. It is planned that development of the water user associations will continue, as it contributes to broadening and deepening the strength of non-governmental entities in Turkmenistan, and creating a more viable civil society. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined.

Performance and Results: USAID has provided support to the student chapter of the U.S. Society of Petroleum Engineers (USSPE), which USAID helped established at the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute. Students are provided computer access to the internet and other resources of the USSPE, as well as lectures from visiting professionals who live in the region or visit on business. They also receive specialized training in best management practices to prevent or minimize pollution from oil and gas operations. Training materials for this course were first developed by one of USAID's implementing partners, and were later translated into Turkmen and accepted by the faculty as an integral course in the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute's oil and gas ecology course curricula.

USAID's Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP) was not able to complete two activities it had planned to do with the oil and gas regulatory body of Turkmenistan, commonly known as the "Competent Body", due to the Government of Turkmenistan's failure to meet conditions that were needed to further U.S. Government assistance in this area. The planned activities were to assist with standardizing of production-sharing agreements and reporting requirements in order to lower the cost of doing business for foreign investors in Turkmenistan.

In the water sector, a USAID demonstration project installed an automated meteorological station, capable of monitoring water and weather data, at one site in the country. After almost six months monitoring the successful performance of the automated station, the Turkmen weather and water forecasting agency, using its own scarce resources, purchased another station for a different site in the country. Station operators have participated in training programs designed to improve the capacity of the agency's staff in operating and maintaining new automated equipment. The Turkmen weather and water forecasting agency's decision to purchase the same low maintenance equipment that USAID had installed will help the staff analyze and process data faster, thus improving the quality of the weather reports. In a companion activity, USAID also assisted in the modernization of the overall weather and water forecasting agency communication system. Turkmen officials examined communication equipment upgrades installed by USAID in three other Central Asian republics. Based on their observations and USAID guidance, they were so convinced of the value of these improvements that the Director of the agency requested and received from the Government of Turkmenistan significant funds to upgrade their own central communication center. Again, using their own funds, they purchased and are now using the same software and hardware demonstrated by USAID. The equipment and trained personnel at this center now meet the standards of the World Meteorological Organization.

By program completion, an improved system of collecting, analyzing, and transmitting weather and water resources data will be implemented in a limited number of areas in the Turkmen system, and specialists will be trained on effective replication of such activities. A greater number of Water User Associations will exist and a more favorable regulatory environment may be in place.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Democratic Culture and Institutions
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	120-0211
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,100,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$278,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,000,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's democracy efforts are limited in Turkmenistan due to the difficult operating environment. USAID seeks to strengthen democratic culture in Turkmenistan by building strong and sustainable civic organizations and by increasing the availability of legal information to Turkmen citizens.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Civic Organizations (\$909,268 FSA). USAID will support the on-going development of three NGO resource centers throughout Turkmenistan. These resource centers provide local non-governmental and community-based organizations with training, technical assistance, and information on a host of financial, administrative, and legal issues. Institutional grants will be given to NGOs to strengthen their capacity and serve as leading organizations in their sectors. Special attention will be paid to professional associations. In addition, the NGO resource center network will provide legal consultations to NGOs on a variety of legal issues. Advocacy work will continue to develop a better legal environment for NGOs. Principal contractors/grantees: Counterpart (prime), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (sub), and Social Impact (sub).

Media and Information (\$190,732 FSA, \$277,971 FSA carryover). Implementation will depend on the ability to function in the current political climate. USAID will continue support of activities that increase the availability of information in Turkmenistan. USAID will look to establishing a civil law legal aid program, and supporting satellite television programming. The legal aid program will provide Turkmen citizens with legal information as well as free legal advice on civil matters. In addition to the clinical program, USAID will continue support to a legal information resource center at Turkmen State University and law student activities such as moot court, mock trials, and street law. The satellite television activity will involve USAID soliciting services to establish a satellite television channel that would carry news, talk shows, and informational programs about Central Asia to the citizens of Turkmenistan free of charge. The satellite channel also would broadcast programs developed by USAID-supported independent stations from around the region. While this channel would benefit the entire Central Asian region, its largest impact would be on Turkmenistan, where there is a large information vacuum and a dense concentration of privately-owned satellite dishes. To increase the impact of this project, the USAID-funded implementer could produce at least one weekly program targeted exclusively for Turkmenistan's viewers. Principal contractors/grantees: to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Civic Organizations (\$1,000,000 FSA). USAID will continue its support to the network of NGO resource centers by providing a full range of services to indigenous civil society organizations. USAID will assist NGOs in developing their institutional capacity by providing training and grant support. Increased attention will be given to improving NGOs' organizational development and financial management since these issues are key elements for a vital, sustainable organization. USAID will provide institutional grant funds to NGOs working on various issues, including youth, civic rights, and environmental issues. A cadre of local professional lawyers will provide legal assistance to NGOs. Continuing support will be provided to

professional associations capable of advocating for their constituents. Principal contractor: same as above.

Media and Information (\$0 FSA). USAID will seek to increase the availability of information available to Turkmenistan citizens by such activities as supporting a legal aid project or supporting a satellite channel in Turkmenistan. Principal contractor: same as above.

Performance and Results: This past year has been a particularly difficult one for the development of democracy in Turkmenistan. After the attempted assassination of the President in November 2002, the Government of Turkmenistan clamped down on many actors and institutions in society, significantly closing the political space in Turkmenistan. The reintroduction of exit visas is one example of the government seeking to control society. The revocation of dual citizenship with Russia also had a substantial impact, with many Russians fleeing Turkmenistan to Russia. USAID's support to civil society continued, giving a lifeline to many NGOs that might not otherwise have been able to survive. Despite USAID's efforts to assist NGOs, USAID's NGO Sustainability Index revealed an overall decline of civil society development by 5%, and a strong decline in legal environment (by 8%), organizational capacity (by 11%), and public image of NGOs (by 8%). Moreover, a recently adopted, restrictive NGO law gives the government much more control over NGOs and will severely hamper their future activity.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Health and Population
Pillar:	Global Health
Strategic Objective:	120-0320
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$1,540,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$449,000 FSA
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$1,190,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: USAID's quality primary health care (PHC) objective aims to create higher quality PHC in pilot sites through: retraining doctors and nurses in family medicine; helping health sector NGOs implement health activities with their communities; promoting families' abilities to prevent illness and appropriately care for themselves through health education; improving care of pregnant women and their children; controlling tuberculosis (TB) by training doctors and lab specialists and improving facility and lab monitoring; improving blood safety; and decreasing the risk of an HIV epidemic by increasing NGO-led preventive programs, as well as introducing modern surveillance methods for HIV and other infectious diseases.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Increase the Quality of Primary Health Care (\$1,158,792 FSA). USAID will extend "Keeping Children Healthy" campaigns to new sites and expand to new topics. Family doctor trainers will be prepared for oblast-level training centers and more doctors in additional sites will receive family medicine and Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses training. USAID will continue to award NGOs small grants to implement community health projects. Principal contractors/grantees: Abt Associates (prime), American International Health Alliance (prime), Counterpart Consortium (prime), and a new partner to be determined.

Control TB and Other Infectious Diseases (\$230,453 FSA, \$344,934 FSA carryover). USAID will continue training of health staff on the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) approach in pilot sites and strengthening of laboratories. USAID will also launch a new, five-year TB Control Program to expand DOTS geographically, strengthen surveillance, lab quality, and rational drug management; and provide small grants for education and operations research. The program will emphasize control of drug resistance and devise strategies to address HIV/TB co-infection. If Turkmenistan relocates its central TB hospital as planned, USAID and its partners will take needed steps to redress the impact of the change on ongoing program implementation. Principle implementing partners are: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC (prime) and a new partner to be determined.

Prevent the Spread of HIV/AIDS (\$150,755 FSA, \$104,200 FSA carryover). A new comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention activity will help NGOs expand their service coverage, targeting high risk groups such as injecting drug users and prostitutes. USAID will assist with clinical protocol development and implementation regarding use of antiretroviral drugs, and treatment for opportunistic infections, including reducing the risk of co-infection with HIV and tuberculosis. Counseling and testing services among both governmental and NGO service providers will be strengthened. The CDC will continue its blood safety control activities to reduce the risk of infection with HIV and other diseases through the blood supply. Principal contractors/grantees: CDC (prime) and a new partner to be determined.

FY 2005 Program:

Increase the Quality of Primary Health Care (\$487,195 FSA). USAID will continue health promotion campaigns, partnership activities, and small grant support to health sector NGOs, while expanding Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) training. USAID will award a new regional health reform contract that will expand Family Medicine (FM) and PHC lab training to new sites and initiate health management training in PHC. Principal contractors/grantees: Abt Associates (prime), AIHA (prime), Counterpart Consortium (prime), and new partners to be determined.

Control TB and Other Infectious Diseases (\$394,629 FSA). USAID's new program will continue training specialists in surveillance and lab diagnostics; train oblast-level monitoring teams to check lab and facility quality; and train PHC doctors to diagnose and treat TB patients in the community. If the Government of Turkmenistan approves, a Turkmeni epidemiologist will be recruited to participate in CDC's Applied Epidemiology Training Program to enhance overall public health efforts. Operations research may contribute to improved understanding of the reasons for poor treatment outcomes. Principal contractors/grantees: CDC (prime) and a new partner to be determined.

Improve Maternal and Child Health Services (\$183,176). Using lessons learned from regional MCH programs, USAID will attempt community mobilization activities to reach out to mothers, children and men in their important roles in health and reproductive health. Successful approaches from MCH activities in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will be replicated on a pilot basis. Provider training, including refresher training, in safe motherhood, infection prevention, IMCI, and breastfeeding will expand. Principal contractor/grantee: Project Hope (prime).

Prevent the Spread of HIV/AIDS (\$125,000 FSA). USAID plans to launch HIV/AIDS surveillance of high-risk groups to provide Turkmenistan with more valid data on the status of the epidemic in the country. USAID will continue funding HIV/AIDS NGOs' preventive programs and development of clinical protocols related to the use of antiretrovirals, counseling and testing. Principal contractors/grantees: CDC (prime) and a new partner to be determined.

Performance and Results: "Keeping Children Healthy" campaigns on acute respiratory infections, nutrition and diarrhea reached an estimated 18,000 families. A follow-up survey of a sample of women (100 in each site) found that mothers' knowledge of acute respiratory infection and nutrition concepts was impressive. Nearly 100% of mothers knew all key campaign messages, including the warning signs for when to take a child to a health care provider. IMCI training expanded into a total of five pilot districts, one in each province, with pediatricians in the first two pilot sites reporting as much as a 50%-60% reduction in hospitalizations compared with the same period last year. The innovative "Healthy Communities Small Grant Program" funded 11 local NGOs, community-based organizations, and community groups to carry out projects which aim to improve the health of the population.

Reflecting results from three TB pilot sites, among patients who began treatment in 2001, 62.9% were cured as compared to the rate for the first two quarters of 2002, which increased to 65.6%. TB labs' and facilities' average scores on minimum standards checklists exceeded targets for labs at 94.5% (90% target) but facilities were lower at 66.7% (70% target).

With the successful completion of this strategic objective, Turkmenistan will have family medicine retraining centers established nationwide; a coordinated comprehensive HIV/AIDS program that includes prevention, care, and treatment; and a TB control program firmly launched.

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Turkmenistan
Program Title:	Cross-Cutting Programs
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	120-0420
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$400,000 FSA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2005 Obligation:	\$233,000 FSA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Year of Final Obligation:	FY 2006

Summary: This cross-cutting program supports all of USAID's strategic objectives, and includes two main components: training and exchanges to support USAID's technical assistance programs in areas directly relevant to primary health care, and the transition to democracy and a free-market economy; and program development support for evaluations, studies, technical assistance, and management support.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2004 Program:

Participant Training (\$300,000 FSA). More than 800 participants will be trained through participant training projects in Turkmenistan during FY 2004. Training programs will support USAID's technical assistance in the areas of small/medium enterprise development, health care reform, energy and water resources, agriculture, and various cross-cutting objectives. Principal contractor/grantee: Academy for Educational Development (prime).

Program Support (\$100,000 FSA). A wide range of program and personnel support activities will continue. As required, funding will enable USAID to support unanticipated opportunities to advance or reinforce USAID objectives. Program personnel essential to the implementation of program activities will be supported by this category.

FY 2005 Program:

Participant Training (\$200,000 FSA). USAID plans to extend the agreement for the participant training activity in 2005. Based on an evaluation of 10 years of past participants that was conducted in FY 2003, USAID will examine how the program can be re-designed for increased sector impact. Principal contractor/grantee: Academy for Educational Development (prime).

Program Support (\$33,302 FSA). A wide range of program and personnel support activities will continue. As required, funding will enable USAID to support unanticipated opportunities to advance or reinforce USAID objectives. Program personnel essential to the implementation of program activities will be supported by this category.

Performance and Results: In FY 2003, USAID trained over 1,000 Turkmenistan citizens (approximately 40% women) through the participant training program, focusing on improving the environment for agricultural small/medium enterprises (through business planning and legislative advocacy), development of NGOs, and strengthening of partnerships between NGOs, the local government, and the health sector to improve collaborative efforts to combat the threat of infectious diseases. Examples of various training events conducted under the training in Turkmenistan during FY 2003 follow.

A series of in-country programs related to eliminating the hepatitis B virus through vaccinations helped give health personnel the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully implement Decree 350, which calls for the vaccination of all newborns. After only two months of implementing the strategies learned, more than 60 hospitals and clinics in Ashgabat and Akhal Velayat have printed versions of the decree and

are following its guidelines. Reportedly, the health care sector immunized 97% of newborns in 2002 due to the successful implementation of Decree 350.

After participating in the Global Summit of Women in Barcelona (a summit aimed at helping women extend their businesses around the world), the director of the Chapak Business Association was inspired to open a shop in Cologne in October 2002, together with two colleagues and former residents of Turkmenistan. Among other items, the shop sells crafts made by Turkmen artisans. Furthermore, the director organized a sale of Turkmen crafts in Silke Vagner, an ethnographic museum and fashion house in Leipzig, in September 2002. The Global Summit not only helped the director extend her business relationships with her counterparts around the world, but also helped her understand the importance of e-commerce in world trade. In August, one month after the summit, the director launched a web page - www.catgen.com/chapak - to advertise the sale of Turkmen crafts through the Internet. In the near future, the director plans to hire a web design specialist to update this site for e-commerce. As a result of her training at the Global Summit for Women, the director has expanded her business significantly by hiring an additional 20 women to work on a regular basis. Among them are weavers, dyers, embroiderers, and cutters. She also opened a small carpet shop in Kyzyl-Arvat in January 2003, and hired 10 local women to weave Turkmen carpets for the shop.

The Eurasia Foundation awarded five grants to Turkmen NGOs in FY 2003, with an average grant size of nearly \$6,000. More than half of these grant funds supported civil society, with the remainder targeting improvements in public policy and administration. For example, in an effort to increase the viability of private farmers, the Eurasia Foundation provided business and agricultural training to 130 crop and livestock farmers in four regions, including the Afghan border region of Mary. In addition, with funding from the Eurasia Foundation, the Union of Economists produced the first English-Russian-Turkmen dictionary of economic terms. Once it is printed, 1,000 copies will be distributed to government ministries, businesses, libraries, and universities. As a result of high demand for the book, the publisher requested permission to print a second run for commercial release. Lastly, the Eurasia Foundation provided a grant to the Center for Women Economists to support research related to the role of NGOs in society and to engage in advocacy efforts to promote more permissive NGO legislation. The research results were released only in October 2003 and are being reviewed.