

Data Sheet

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| USAID Mission: | Central Asian Republics Regional |
| Program Title: | Small and Medium Sized Enterprises |
| Pillar: | Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade |
| Strategic Objective: | 176-0131 |
| Proposed FY 2004 Obligation: | \$469,000 FSA |
| Prior Year Unobligated: | \$1,200,000 FSA |
| Proposed FY 2005 Obligation: | \$200,000 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 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 2004 Program:

Business Skills and Information (\$469,000 FSA, \$49,940 FSA carryover, \$274,900 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will assist business and professional associations through a competition-based grant program that directs funds toward four specific areas: advocacy, member services, cross-border trade development, and accounting reform. The grant program is intended to bolster the sustainability of other projects in the economic growth program that provide business and trade advisory services, implement International Accounting Standards in the private and public sectors, and support advocacy efforts to improve the legal and regulatory environment for businesses, particularly in regard to cross-border trade. Principal contractor/grantee: The Pragma Corporation.

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. Principal contractor/grantee: Carana Corporation.

Improved Implementation of Laws and Regulations (\$874,900 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will support land tenure reforms in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Technical assistance will improve land tenure institutions, markets, and mechanisms for enabling farmers to obtain secure access to land. Regional funds will also be used for economic policy reforms and implementation in the Central Asian republics, including monetary and fiscal policy reforms, improved tax administration, and banking supervision and sector reforms. Principal contractor/grantee: ARD, Inc.

FY 2005 Program:

Business Skills and Information (\$50,000 FSA).

Access to Capital (\$150,000 FSA). USAID will support microfinance through the Central Asia Microfinance Alliance. Targeted technical assistance, training, and small grants to microfinance institutions (MFIs) will improve, and, in some cases, establish accounting, loan tracking, and internal control systems; begin annual strategic planning exercises; restructure credit committees to strengthen loan approval processes; complete external audits; and computerize MFI offices. USAID will also support a wholesale lending entity that will provide loans to MFIs in the region with the goal of helping these institutions expand their portfolios and thus increase their outreach. Principal contractors/grantees: ACDI/VOCA (prime) and the Foundation for International Community Assistance (sub).

Performance and Results: With support from USAID, Junior Achievement International translated, published, and distributed 13,500 books and 400 teacher guides throughout the region, with appendices created for each country's specific business environment and culture. A training-of-trainers workshop was conducted in partnership with the Academy for Educational Development for 30 instructors who will facilitate workshops for approximately 100 teachers in each of the five countries of CAR. These 500 teachers have the potential to reach 25,000 students, assuming 25 students per class and two classes per teacher. Additionally, USAID launched a competition-based grants program for business and professional associations in August 2003. USAID approved five grants worth \$24,239. Two of these helped a Turkmen accounting association hold its first conference (a requirement for certifying international accounting standard-trained accountants) and assisted a Ferghana Valley association of beekeepers to organize a trade fair.