



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Virginija Morgan,  
USAID Information Specialist  
Tel.: +727-250-76-12, ext. 6414;  
Mobile ph.: +777-233-6667  
Email: [vmorgan@usaid.gov](mailto:vmorgan@usaid.gov)

### **Kazakhstan and the United States Pledge Continued Healthcare Cooperation**

**Astana, April 16, 2009:** In a ceremony attended by Health Minister Zhaksylyk Doskaliev and U.S. Ambassador Richard E. Hoagland at the Ministry of Health in Astana, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on healthcare cooperation through 2013. This agreement underscores USAID's commitment to support public health priorities in Kazakhstan for the foreseeable future.

The memorandum was signed by Minister of Health Zhaksylyk Doskaliev and USAID Regional Mission Director for Central Asia William Frej. Ambassador Hoagland hailed the agreement as "another example of the vibrant and growing strategic partnership that exists between Kazakhstan and the United States."

Under this agreement, the U.S. Government will provide assistance to help the Government of Kazakhstan meet its healthcare goals, including healthcare reform and improvements in the quality of medical services. USAID will work to achieve important Ministry of Health priorities such as tuberculosis control, especially in regard to multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, and responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"This MOU will provide a new impetus for the cooperation between the Ministry of Health and USAID," said Regional USAID Mission Director William Frej at the signing ceremony. "It will also build a strong foundation for the new 5-year cycle of healthcare programs that USAID is starting in Kazakhstan in 2009." Since 1992, USAID programs have helped the Government of Kazakhstan design and implement its national healthcare reform program, establish model centers for family medicine, introduce new approaches in tuberculosis treatment, and institute international healthcare standards such as the live-birth definition, pre- and antenatal care standards, as well as many others.

###