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## Office of Transition Initiatives

# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**PROGRAM UPDATE: October 27, 2011**

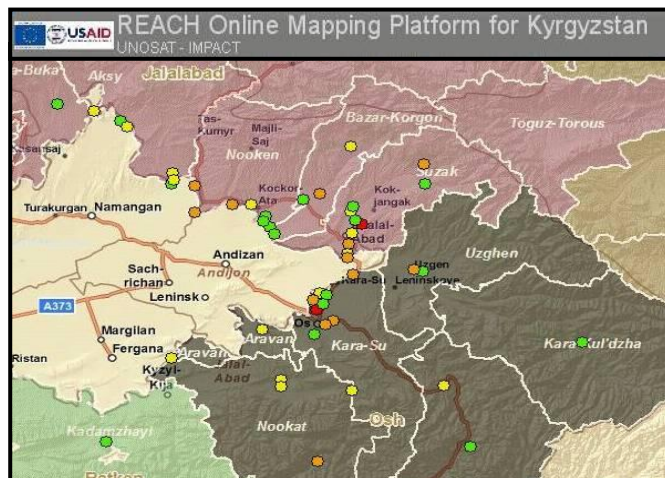
### PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Kyrgyz Republic Transition Initiative (KTI) is supporting the country's efforts to establish a more stable and secure democracy. It provides small grants to civil society, government, and private sector partners to implement high-impact, short-term projects in volatile communities. This targeted assistance supports the ongoing democratic political transition, while also addressing emerging sources of instability and drivers of conflict at the community level. The USAID/OTI model is designed to be fast, flexible, and responsive to a dynamic environment. It allows partners to respond to short-term crises as they arise, which could further destabilize the fragile situation. Partners can implement pilot initiatives that act as a catalyst to long-term development activities. As a whole, the activities are working to encourage democratic processes and build trust both within communities and between citizens and government during the critical period of transition..

### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

To date, OTI has completed or initiated **163 projects for \$10,314, 648**, including the following recent activities:

1. **Online, Interactive Socio-Economic Map and Conflict Analysis Launched:** At the beginning of October, USAID/OTI launched an online, interactive map to provide a comprehensive overview of the socio-economic issues that are at the root of tension and conflict within the Kyrgyz Fergana Valley. By synthesizing existing research and gathering micro and macro-level socio-economic information, the international NGO ACTED produced an analysis and series of interactive, multi-layered maps of the targeted area. This study will inform programming and magnify the impact of all domestic and international actors working to mitigate conflict, support good governance, and promote stability in southern Kyrgyzstan. The map can be accessed at <http://www.reach-initiative.kg/>



2. **USAID/OTI Initiates Improvement of Traffic Lights in Osh:** On October 12, Denise Rollins, USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Bureau, participated in a grant signing ceremony to kick off a \$155,971 grant to the Osh Mayor's office to improve the traffic lights in Osh. Damage from ethnic conflict in June 2010 and outdated technology have rendered traffic light services ineffective in most of the city's intersections. This continues to impede the city's recovery efforts by reducing pedestrian safety and driver security during peak traffic hours. In response, USAID/OTI is supporting the city's efforts to replace dysfunctional traffic lights at 20 intersections in the Kurmanjan-Datka, Dostuk, Ak-Bura, Suleiman-Too, Manas-Ata, and Alymbek-Datka neighborhoods of Osh City. The municipal government has committed \$196,000 to install traffic lights and procure pedestrian crosswalk signals for each rehabilitated intersection.
3. **USAID/OTI Rehabilitates School in Naryn:** On October 1, U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Pamela Spratlen joined representatives from the Naryn municipal government and the local community to commemorate the opening of newly rehabilitated Kychan Jakypov Secondary School #5. Rehabilitation of School #5, one of eight schools in Naryn city, was one of the highest priorities identified by residents during recent community meetings led by local government officials. The USAID-funded rehabilitation effort installed new windows in the three-story school building and provided new fencing around the school area, thereby increasing the school's capacity to host extracurricular activities and local sports competitions.

4. **USAID/OTI Partners with Local Authorities to Hasten Document Replacement in Kara-Suu District:** On October 12, 2011, Denise Rollins, USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Bureau, joined local government officials to open a newly rehabilitated Passport Office located in the *Mady ayyl okmotu* of the Kara-Suu district in Osh province. The previous passport office, located in nearby *Nariman ayyl okmotu*, was destroyed during the June 2010 conflict. In response to the growing needs of the local population, the Mady local government donated a public building dedicated to the reopening of the passport office. USAID partnered with the local government and the Osh province's Visas and Passport Department to rehabilitate the building and provide new office furniture and computer equipment. The Visas and Passport Department agreed to staff the offices with a senior officer and a clerk. These efforts should reduce the obstacles and time it takes residents of Kara-Suu district to obtain internal passports and other key documents necessary for accessing critical government services and for participating in the upcoming presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan.

5. **USAID/OTI and UNICEF Open a Youth Center in Jalalabad:** On October 13, 2011, USAID/OTI, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Ministry of Youth, and local government representatives opened a newly renovated Youth Center in the city of Jalalabad. The joint project, funded by USAID/OTI and the UN Peace Building Fund, aims to provide a more conducive space for young people in Jalalabad to engage in constructive activities. This project is part of UNICEF's initiative to establish a network of 17 youth centers in the cities of Osh and Jalalabad through the UN-initiated Youth Livelihood and Peace Promotion Project. USAID/OTI complemented these efforts by fully rehabilitating the Youth Center, with UNICEF providing computers, furniture and funds for activities. The Youth Center will be open 7 days a week to offer computer and language training for youth, as well as seminars on conflict resolution and peace-building, volunteerism and leadership, and other areas of interest for young people.



6. **USAID/OTI Supports Youth Soccer Tournament in Bishkek:** On October 4, youth from Bishkek kicked off a two-month long soccer tournament organized by the NGO Erep. The Kyrgyzstan Football Federation, which is also supporting the tournament, hosted the opening match at its field in Bishkek. Twenty-five teams comprised of 210 young men and 28 young women aged 14-28 were recruited by sports instructors, local government offices and Erep representatives from 21 neighborhoods on Bishkek's socio-economically marginalized periphery, known as the *novostroiki*. Building on previous community driven initiatives, the games will be played on two soccer fields previously rehabilitated by USAID/OTI. This project will build trust between youth from different groups, as well as with local and national government entities. Additionally, it aims to reduce the likelihood that disaffected youth from these areas may become embroiled in potential violence before, during, and after Presidential elections.

7. **Public-Private Partnerships Improve Facilities for Children:** U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Pamela Spratlen joined local officials and representatives from the Hyatt Regency Bishkek to celebrate the opening of the newly rehabilitated Krasnaya Rechka orphanage on October 19. The rehabilitation was a community-driven initiative supported by the local village and district governments in partnership with USAID and Hyatt Regency Bishkek. USAID/OTI's grant funds were used to renovate the primary school's building structure, as well as the heating and electrical systems. The project also provided classroom furniture for the common room, and installed three large gazebos to provide space for children and staff to interact and engage in outdoor activities. Hyatt Regency Bishkek, a long-term supporter of the orphanage, supported this initiative by allocating \$40,000, raised through a charity event, for roof repairs and other essential items for the school. In addition to providing short-term employment for local youth, the rehabilitation encouraged collaboration and builds trust between the inter-ethnic community and local government by creating a platform for engagement in local development activities.

## FAST FACTS

Start Date: May 2010  
Budget: \$21 million  
Partner: International Resources Group (IRG)  
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