



## USAID Newsletter

May-June 2012

### Regional



**Export NGO Partnerships Seminar.** Sixty entrepreneurs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan met for three days in May to discuss logistics, supply chain management, information technologies in transport logistics, risk management and marketing, as well as international best practices and their applicability to Central Asia. The keynote lecturer, Vadims Kolmogorovs, shared his knowledge of strategic planning of international commodities turnover and supply chain management. Viktor Prodedovich, Chief of Party of the USAID Regional Economic Cooperation Project said, "The training gave participants, who represent top management from small and medium size enterprises, the opportunity to evaluate and compare various logistics arrangements: either to develop logistics within their own company, or to outsource it, or to come up with a combination of the two. Participants benefitted not only from knowledge gained, but also from establishing business networks."



**Tajik Officials Visit Kazakhstan on Study Tour.** From May 20-25, with USAID support, ICNL conducted a study tour for a group of Tajik Government officials. The officials visited Almaty and Astana and met with officials from the Kazakhstani Government, the Almaty Akimat, the Majilis (lower house of Parliament), and leading civil society organizations. The visit's purpose was to examine mechanisms for government financing of civil society organizations, particularly state social contracting and grants. The event included peer-to-peer exchanges to share experiences, examine laws and practices and discuss challenges and opportunities for reform and improvement of the laws and mechanisms that promote Government interaction with civil society.

### Kazakhstan



**USAID Improves the Health of Pregnant Women.** After three years of cooperation, USAID and Kyzylorda health care department have begun to see progress in their goals to improve the quality of service and patient care for pregnant women. The health index, which encompasses a broad range of biological and psychosocial issues, of pregnant women in Kyzylorda is the lowest in Kazakhstan at 20% compared to the national average of 45%. The amount of abnormal labor activity, post labor hemorrhages and other complications has been cut in half, due to implementation of quality improvement practices. (Taken from May 6 issue of *Liter*.)

### Tajikistan



**Members of Primary Health Care and TB Systems Solve Service Issues.** On June 6, the USAID Quality Health Care Project sponsored the first opportunity for providers from the primary health care and tuberculosis (TB) systems to meet with donors to discuss barriers and challenges related to the improvement of TB care. The seriousness of the TB epidemic in Tajikistan makes it vital that medical services are well-coordinated and that TB and primary health care specialists are able to align efforts to detect and manage patients with TB. Unfortunately, despite

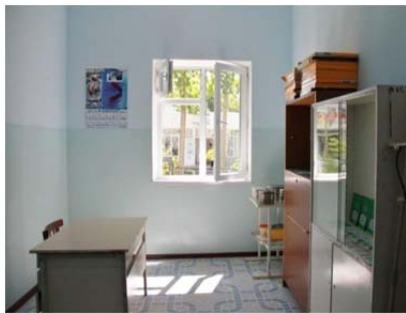
the country's ongoing efforts to integrate its health care systems, the legacy of Soviet-era health care often leaves the two structures isolated from one another. After presentations and lively discussions from providers from both types of facilities, participants left the event feeling that they better understood their counterparts and that they had solid steps for moving forward cooperatively.



**USAID Launches Feed the Future Program.** The U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative was launched in early May in Dushanbe. The goal of Feed the Future Tajikistan is to sustainably raise the income of over 250,000 people in 12 target districts in Khatlon Province, and to improve nutrition knowledge, food availability, and household utilization of food to address undernutrition and improve maternal and child health. Regional Mission Director Erin McKee presented the Feed the Future program to government officials, local and international NGOs, and the donor community.



**Leaders Strengthen Their Ability to Recognize Human Trafficking.** Thirty representatives from the State Migration Service joined diplomatic and diaspora leaders to strengthen their abilities to detect potential cases of human trafficking, identify victims, and refer them to the relevant organizations for assistance. Tajikistan is a country of origin for labor and sex trafficking, and it is crucial that embassies, consulates, migration services and diaspora organizations abroad combat the trafficking of Tajik nationals to destination countries. These groups are often the first point of contact between the home country and victims of human trafficking. The USAID and IOM Counter Trafficking project supports hotlines throughout the country.



**Renovated Center for Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) of TB Patients.** Representatives from USAID, the USAID Quality Health Care Project, the Tajik national TB program, the Dushanbe City Health Administration, and international donor partners joined together to open the new clinic. The Project sponsored renovations at the health center after a quality inspection found a high likelihood of cross-contamination of TB and multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients. The renovations improved infection control conditions by expanding the center's treatment and waiting rooms, thus ensuring better ventilation and a reduction of cross-contamination of patients and medical staff. TB and MDR-TB remain a serious public health threat in Tajikistan.



**International Day Against Drug Abuse.** Tajikistan's proximity to one of the biggest global opium producers and drug trafficking routes, leaves illegal drug use a critical problem in this country. In April 2012, the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan reported that more than half of the country's 4,084 officially registered HIV cases are attributed to intravenous drug use. Twenty metric tons of heroine pass through Central Asia each year. June 25-26, USAID supported a series of public campaigns in Dushanbe, Khujand, and Kulob through its Dialogue on HIV and TB Project and in close collaboration with local governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The events highlighted the danger that illicit drugs pose and raised awareness of drug abuse prevention.

Through interactive competitions, quizzes and musical performances participants learned about the treatment for drug addiction that is available in narcological centers.



**Youth Learn New Skills at Summer Camp.** Forty-five participants from target regions of the Zarafshon Valley, Rasht Valley and Badakhshon gathered in Romit for a six-day summer camp from July 6-11 to meet their peers from other parts of the country and advance their civic responsibility and leadership skills. USAID is fostering youth leadership in Tajikistan through a series of summer camps organized by Counterpart International in the framework of the Young Leaders Program. Summer camps promote exchanges and relationship building among youth from various parts of the country, strengthening their

communication, leadership and civic responsibility skills and allowing youth the opportunity to meet government officials and other experts in youth issues.



**Energy Efficiency in Buildings.** USAID and CAREC celebrated the “Energy Efficiency in Buildings in Tajikistan” project and conducted a social event for children at boarding school No.4, a residence for orphans, in Dushanbe on May 18. Hukumats of Dushanbe city and Sino district also attended as they have been closely cooperating with USAID and CAREC since 2010. On June 29, USAID conducted a seminar at the Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia. Representatives from local government, UNDP, and the German Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe discussed ways to increase energy efficiency in residential buildings in Tajikistan. USAID funded experts who presented the results of a pilot project that outfitted a Dushanbe residential building with low-cost, locally

produced insulation. Over the critical winter period, research showed up to a 50 percent reduction in winter heat loss in the building.

**Round Table on NGOs Providing HIV and TB Support.** Thirty-five representatives from national, oblast and international health care centers and NGOs supporting HIV and TB programs in the country joined together to discuss the role of NGOs in supporting people living with HIV and TB. People living with HIV are more susceptible to TB infection than any other at-risk group. The number of HIV/TB co-infection cases as of June 2012 was 392, compared to 311 in 2011. Very often because of an expensive X-ray screening for TB, people living with HIV and people who inject drugs are reluctant to seek services from doctors and to receive timely treatment. During the first three years of the USAID Dialogue on HIV and TB Project, local partners have worked closely with the government to address these challenges. The round table gave key decision-makers and actors in HIV and TB services an opportunity to raise awareness and discuss the issue of the role of civil society for improving access of most-at-risk populations to free services on TB diagnostics and screening.



**Rehabilitation of Drinking Water Supply System.** USAID through its Local Development Initiative project officially handed over a rehabilitated drinking water system to the Bokhtar Water Service that serves 1,900 residents in Bokhtar District. The Bokhtar District Chairman, Mr. Abdualim Ismoilov led the ceremony, and representatives of the District, Jamoat administrators, and residents of Ismoili Somoni Township were also in attendance. The water system will be maintained and managed by the District’s Water Service, which received technical assistance from USAID on how to ensure continuous and reliable water supply to customers. USAID will also train Jamoat representatives and water supply specialists on tariff setting, fee

collection, accounting, and effective maintenance and operation of water intakes and pump facilities. Residents of Gagarina, Shevchenko, and Sino streets of the Ismoili Somoni Township and Bokhtar District officials worked together with USAID to build a 1,792 meter water pipeline to bring water to their residences.

## Turkmenistan



**USAID and Academy of Sciences Hold International e-Governance Best Practices Presentation.** International experts and Turkmen government officials discussed best practices in e-Governance in Estonia, Russia, the United States, and other countries. Participants had the chance to analyze legislative components of building e-Governance systems, issues in governmental database management, and other countries’ experiences in managing e-Taxation and e-Health systems. The presentation, organized by the USAID Governance Strengthening Project, underlined the importance of strengthening government institutions through the use of modern technologies in civil service.

Presentations were led by international experts Dr. Arvo Ott, Executive Director of the e-Governance Academy in Estonia; Dmitrii Trutnev, Deputy Director of the e-Government Center at St. Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics; and Michael Hoverter, Governance Strengthening Project practice leader at QED Group, LLC in Washington, DC.



**International Training Program for Business Development.** USAID launched a 10-day training course for 15 professional business trainers from across Turkmenistan as part of the International Labor Organization's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Program. The course, in partnership with Turkmenistan's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, aims to increase private sector participation in economic activities and facilitate new business development in Turkmenistan. The Start and Improve Your Business Program provides new entrepreneurs with access to top-quality training and consulting services designed to assist in launching business ventures.

## Uzbekistan



**USAID Apricot Contest Highlights Improved Growing Techniques.** On June 19, the USAID AgLinks Plus project held the 2012 Apricot Variety contest in the Pop district of Namangan in the Ferghana Valley. The annual contest attracts farmers, researchers, processors and local officials interested in identifying the best apricots in the region. The event identifies new and high quality varieties and also serves as a venue for farmers to share their technical knowledge in order to improve production methods. The contest brought together 42 apricot farmers from the Namangan and Ferghana provinces. Participants' apricots were judged based on three criteria: best for drying, most unique, and most marketable by local horticulture experts.



**Regional Anti-Trafficking Shelter Workshop.** From June 28-30, USAID's Regional Counter-Trafficking Project hosted a workshop in Tashkent for anti-trafficking nongovernmental organizations to improve shelter management across Central Asia. These shelters provide crucial medical, social and reintegration services for victims of trafficking. This workshop was the first of its kind in Uzbekistan, and was unique because participants hailed from each of the five Central Asian countries. An estimated 15,000 women and men from across Uzbekistan are exploited

each year and many are trafficked abroad. USAID's Regional Counter-Trafficking Project works with government stakeholders and civil society organizations in all five Central Asian countries to prevent, protect and strengthen the response to human trafficking.

### For more information about USAID in Central Asia go to:

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