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# KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TRANSITION INITIATIVE

YEAR 3 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT  
OCTOBER 1, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2013



**October 10, 2013**

This report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared by International Resources Group (IRG).

**COVER PHOTO:** During the last year of operations in the Kyrgyz Republic, KRTI built on and replicated activities targeting contentious issues, such as corruption and citizen participation in decision-making. In partnership with Public Association "Human Rights Movement Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan," KRTI reprinted the "You Have Rights, Know Your Rights" brochures (BIS21 I) to expand their impact in the south through joint community meetings with citizens and traffic police in Osh, Kara-Suu, Aravan, Nookat, Uzgen, and Jalal-Abad cities.

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USAID Contract No. DOT-I-00-08-00049-00, Task Order #AID-OAA-TO-I0-00019

October 2013

**DISCLAIMER**

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# ACRONYMS

COP	Chief of Party
CR	Country Representative
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DCR	Deputy Country Representative
DEC	Development Exchange Clearinghouse
FOG	Fixed Obligation Grant
GGPAS	Good Governance Public Administration Strengthening
GKNB	State Committee for National Security
JMIC	Joint Media Industry Committee
KRTI	Kyrgyz Republic Transition Initiative
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
RPM	Regional Program Manager
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit
SDPK	Social Democratic Party
SMT	Senior Management Team
SRS	Strategy Review Session
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



# I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In May 2010, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) launched a program in the Kyrgyz Republic in response to the country's political crises. Popular demonstrations in April led to the ouster of former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev. Given this window of opportunity, the U.S. Government was able to further demonstrate its support of democracy in Central Asia by supporting efforts aimed at establishing transparent, accountable and effective governance at both national and local levels. The violence and mass displacements stemming from the June 2010 events in the southern part of the country highlighted the need for immediate and targeted assistance to address emerging sources of instability and conflict within communities that have the potential to derail the ongoing democratic transition. The constitutional referendum, followed by parliamentary, presidential, and local elections, represent critical milestones to establishing a more stable and secure democracy. During this critical period of transition, the USAID/OTI program in the Kyrgyz Republic aims to encourage democratic processes and build trust both within communities and between citizens and the government.

## COUNTRY OBJECTIVES

USAID/OTI is supporting the Kyrgyz Republic's efforts to establish a more stable, secure democracy, while laying the groundwork for continued long-term development. The program provides small grants to civil society, government, and private sector partners to implement high-impact, short-term projects in volatile communities. The USAID/OTI model is designed to be fast, flexible and responsive to a dynamic environment. It allows partners to implement pilot initiatives and catalytic projects that build momentum for continued long-term development. The program provides targeted assistance in volatile communities in order to:

- Support the ongoing democratic political transition at the national and local level; and,
- Address emerging sources of instability and drivers of conflict at the community level.

## PROGRAM CLUSTERS

Through annual Strategy Review Sessions (SRS) and routine contextual assessments, the Kyrgyz Republic Transition Initiative (KRTI) has developed six clusters which form the basis of program level analysis, monitoring, and evaluation for the KRTI program. The six clusters are:

- Stimulate economic recovery and expand opportunities in marginalized and volatile communities
- Increase access to reliable and objective information to reduce the impact of rumors and inform citizen decision-making
- Promote interaction that encourages diversity, inclusiveness and pluralism in formal and informal institutions
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society to assess, prevent, mediate and mitigate conflict
- Expand opportunities for youth and other vulnerable populations to engage in constructive and productive activities at critical times
- Improve the responsiveness and accountability of government through inclusive decision-making and citizen engagement

# 2. COUNTRY SITUATION

## A YEAR IN RETROSPECT

Year 3 of KRTI began with another critical milestone in the Kyrgyz Republic's ongoing political transition. On November 25, voters cast ballots for new local council deputies in 25 cities and 416 rural districts across the country. The Social Democratic Party (SDPK) claimed the majority of votes in Bishkek, followed by the Respublica, Ata-Meken and Zamandash parties,<sup>1</sup> causing tensions within the parliamentary majority coalition. The coalition leader Felix Kulov (the Ar-Namys party) attempted to step down on November 27;<sup>2</sup> the majority coalition members overruled that resignation averting the potential dissolution of the coalition.<sup>3</sup> KRTI used the window of opportunity to work with the newly elected local councils across the country to increase openness, transparency and inclusivity of council sessions.

On December 17, 2012, Prime Minister Jantoro Satybaldiev completed his first 100 days in power. The PM claimed that the government had managed to maintain political and social stability in the country during this period. Some parliamentarians disagreed with this favorable assessment and wished to stage a vote of no confidence. Deputy Kurmanbek Osmonov (Ata-Jurt party) was critical of the anti-corruption measures that led to a number of controversial staff dismissals. Satybaldiev's supporters, on the other hand, praised the new government for addressing problems in the energy sector, conducting comparatively transparent local elections, and preventing a political crisis.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, on December 7, 2012, President Atambaev presented the National Sustainable Development Strategy for 2013-2017 that highlighted the law enforcement system reform, including reforms within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). The Parliament approved the promotion of Shamil Atakhanov, former head of the MIA, as the third Vice Prime Minister to oversee defense and security issues.<sup>5</sup> During his brief stint at the MIA, Atakhanov instituted a number of reforms aimed at reducing corruption within the agency. Abdulda Suranchiyev<sup>6</sup> became the new MIA Minister. However, the scandalous escape of Aziz Batukayev, a crime boss sentenced to 16 years of imprisonment in 2006 on racketeering and murder charges, led to the dismissal of several high-ranking officials including Shamil Atakhanov. In June,<sup>7</sup> Atakhanov was replaced by Tokon Mamytov.<sup>8</sup> Civil society organizations continued their advocacy for the reform of the MIA. Following the nation-wide signature collection campaign in October 2012, the Civil Union for Reform and Results submitted the alternative concept of the MIA reform, along with the 10,000 signatures, to Parliament, the President, and the Prime Minister on December 7. PM Satybaldiev acknowledged the civil society participation in the MIA reform and, at the February 13 meeting with the CSO leaders, promised their suggestions would be considered in the final concept of the reform.

In mid-March, Mira Karabayeva, the head of the Religious and Ethnic Policy Department under the President's Administration, presented the Concept of Strengthening National Unity and Interethnic Relations document at the Defense Council meeting chaired by President Atambaev. The Concept

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.knews.kg/ru/digests/25016/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.24.kg/parlament/142674-lider-parlamentskogo-bolshinstva-kyrgyzstana.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.24.kg/parlament/144541-feliks-kulov-ostalsya-na-postu-lidera.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.knews.kg/ru/politics/25756/>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.vb.kg/doc/218762\\_shamil\\_atakhanov\\_naznachen\\_vice\\_premier\\_ministrom\\_kyrgyzstana.html](http://www.vb.kg/doc/218762_shamil_atakhanov_naznachen_vice_premier_ministrom_kyrgyzstana.html)

<sup>6</sup> <http://kloop.kg/blog/2013/02/22/prezident-otstranil-atahanova-s-dolzhnosti-glavy-mvd/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.kchr.org/modules.php?name=News&file=print&sid=5333>

<sup>8</sup> <http://kabar.kg/irus/personnel-policy/full/57633>

included measures to improve legislation and implement effective interethnic programs.<sup>9</sup> Approved by the Presidential decree on April 10, 2013, the Ethnic Concept authorized the re-establishment of the State Agency on Local-Self Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations to set up advisory councils at central and local levels of government and develop an Action plan of the Concept.<sup>10</sup>

The reporting period was also marked with the re-election of the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tursunbek Akun, by a parliamentary secret ballot vote on January 23.<sup>11</sup> However, he was dismissed by the same parliament at the end of June over complicity in Batukaev's escape and illegal staff dismissals.<sup>12</sup> The parliament then announced a contest for the vacant position for which 53 candidates submitted applications. On September 25-26, the parliament reviewed the applications and appointed the elections for October 2.<sup>13</sup>

Two major developments also occurred in September 2013. The first was the completion of negotiations between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Canadian firm Centerra Gold Inc. regarding the future of Kumtor mine. The agreement<sup>14</sup> stipulates that the Board of Directors of the joint venture with equal participation of the parties will be chaired by a host country national. Under the new agreement, Kyrgyz state gold company, Kyrgyzaltyn JSC, will swap its 32.7% stake in Centerra for a 50% interest in a joint venture that will own the Kumtor Project operated by Centerra. All environmental claims against the project will be resolved prior to the restructuring.<sup>15</sup>

The second major event of September 2013 was the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, which was hosted in Bishkek. The summit was the second during the reporting year after December 5, 2012. The participants agreed on the need for peaceful resolution in Syria, Iran and Afghanistan. The SCO also secured several beneficial agreements including a gas pipeline between Turkmenistan and China that will transit through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. Totalling 220 km in length, the "Karamyk-Kyshtam" portion of the pipeline in the KR will be built within two years and will bring \$40 million to the country budget annually during 35 years of operation life.<sup>16</sup> However, many experts described the summit as a "symbolic" event with no single important issue resolved for the region.<sup>17</sup>

## INTERNAL SECURITY

The security situation during the 12 months of this reporting period was generally stable with occasional local protests and rumors of an allegedly imminent change of power in the fall of 2013.

One of the most scandalous events of Year 3 involved three opposition deputies from Ata-Jurt faction: Kamchybek Tashiyev, Sadyr Japarov and Talant Mamytov. Accused of an attempted coup in October,<sup>18</sup> they were acquitted by the Bishkek City Court<sup>19</sup> on June 17. Later, on August 20, the Supreme Court

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<sup>9</sup> [http://www.president.kg/ru/news/1755\\_sostoyalos\\_zasedanie\\_soveta\\_oboronyi\\_kyrgyzskoy\\_respubliki/](http://www.president.kg/ru/news/1755_sostoyalos_zasedanie_soveta_oboronyi_kyrgyzskoy_respubliki/)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.president.kg/ru/news/ukazy/1878\\_utverjdjena\\_kontseptsija\\_ukrepleniya\\_edinstva\\_naroda\\_i\\_mejtnicheskikh\\_otnosheniy\\_v\\_kyrgyzskoy\\_respublike/](http://www.president.kg/ru/news/ukazy/1878_utverjdjena_kontseptsija_ukrepleniya_edinstva_naroda_i_mejtnicheskikh_otnosheniy_v_kyrgyzskoy_respublike/)

<sup>11</sup> <http://novosti.kg/news/11919.html?ecid=f5580ffc1646957b331fefdc96720fd>

<sup>12</sup> <http://kloop.kg/blog/2013/06/27/zhogorku-kenesh-dosrochno-uvolil-ombudsmena/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.24kg.org/parlament/161574-deputy-parlamenta-kyrgyzstana-izberut.html>

<sup>14</sup> <http://ktrk.kg/ru/content/pravitelstvu-udalos-uvlichit-dolevoe-uchastie-kyrgyzstana-po-kumtoru>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.kumtor.kg/en/english-centerra-kyrgyz-government-sign-pact-for-kumtor-mine/>

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.tushtuk.kg/cache/files/2729\\_watermark\\_12\\_12\\_rightbottom.jpg](http://www.tushtuk.kg/cache/files/2729_watermark_12_12_rightbottom.jpg)

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.kyrgyztoday.kg/ru/analitika/item/34244-sammit-shos-v-bishkeke-«simvolika»-i-nolj-važnyh-reshenij>

<sup>18</sup> <http://kloop.kg/blog/2012/10/04/tashieva-mamy-tova-i-zhaparova-mogut-osudit-minimum-na-12-let/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.24.kg/community/156889-bishkekiskij-gorodskoj-sud-polnostyu-opraval.html>

reversed the lawmakers' acquittals but ruled that they would not have to return to prison.<sup>20</sup> Then in October, two judges from the Bishkek City Court were dismissed by President Atambaev over the original controversial release, calling the City Court's decision "unlawful." While the supporters of the three deputies continued to destabilize the political situation in the country until they were released, others were perturbed by the court decisions and characterized the whole situation as a political game.

Soon following his release, in August 2013, Tashiev organized a meeting at Son-Kul Lake in Naryn oblast where one of the oppositionists Erlanbek Omuraliev announced the plan to destabilize the country. This statement and a video with the detailed description of the plan were circulated in media by the State Committee for National Security (GKNB). However, Erlanbek Omuraliev rebuffed his own statements and claimed that he made the video under pressure from the GKNB.<sup>21</sup>

A number of incidents raised concerns of the persistent ethnic tensions. In late 2012, brothers of the slain ethnic Uzbek independent human rights journalist, Alisher Saipov, were attacked and beaten in Bishkek allegedly because they were speaking Uzbek.<sup>22</sup> Another ethnic Uzbek, Ulugbek Azimov, formerly a lawyer and a judge, and his family were attacked in Bishkek in May this year.<sup>23</sup> Other incidents took place between residents of Uzbek (Sokh) and Tajik (Vorukh) enclaves with their bordering neighbors of ethnic Kyrgyz origin. These conflicts resulted in a state of emergency in Kyrgyz villages surrounding Sokh that led to food and fuel shortages, physical injuries, and criminal cases.<sup>24</sup> In response, Prime Minister Satybaldiev tasked the Government's Special Representative for border delimitation issues with negotiating the delineation issues with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. He also called the neighboring countries to cooperate. "Border conflicts will continue until we resolve all contentious questions."<sup>25</sup>

Several conflicts with foreign mining companies took place in Orlovka (Chui oblast) in October 2012 and Katran (Batken oblast) in November, while unresolved political interests around the Kumtor mine in Issyk-Kul province spilled into fiercer violence this spring. Several hundred protestors blocked the road to Kumtor, seized an electric sub-station and cut power supply to the mine leading to a state of emergency in Jetty-Oguz district. Prime Minister Satybaldiyev met with the protestors on June 1 and appointed a new governor for the province, assuring residents that the negotiations with Centerra would benefit local communities. Protests ended and the mine resumed operations. The President revoked the state of emergency on June 3; however, the threat of protest remains high in several northern towns, including Karakol and Talas, over the government's relationship with Kumtor.<sup>26</sup>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The following events will shape the KRTI activities at this close-out phase before December 2013:

- Finalize, print and distribute KRTI Legacy Products: the Omnibus, the Legacy Book, Partner Videos and KRTI Legacy Video

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<sup>20</sup> [http://www.gezitter.org/politic/23001\\_s\\_zavtrashnego\\_dnya\\_udostovereniya\\_lishivshihsy\\_mandatov\\_deputatov\\_ata-jurta\\_budut\\_nedeysvitelnymi/](http://www.gezitter.org/politic/23001_s_zavtrashnego_dnya_udostovereniya_lishivshihsy_mandatov_deputatov_ata-jurta_budut_nedeysvitelnymi/)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.24.kg/parlament/160828-ravshan-zhyeyenbekov-erlanbek-omuraliev.html>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.rferl.org/content/slain-independent-journalist-brothers-attack-bishkek/24788035.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://vof.kg/?p=9729>

<sup>24</sup> <http://kloop.kg/blog/2013/04/30/konflikt-v-voruhe-materialy-ugolovny-h-del-peredadut-tadzhikistanu/>

<sup>25</sup> [http://www.vb.kg/doc/226508\\_premier\\_provel\\_soveshanie\\_po\\_prigranichnomy\\_incidenty\\_v\\_batkenskoy\\_oblasti.html](http://www.vb.kg/doc/226508_premier_provel_soveshanie_po_prigranichnomy_incidenty_v_batkenskoy_oblasti.html)

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.24kg.org/community/155814-v-dzheti-oguze-otmenen-rezhim-chrezvychajnogo.html>

- Conduct closing events with key KRTI partners in Osh on October 18, and Bishkek on October 21
- Implement the KRTI Closeout Plan through December 6, 2013
- Hold the KRTI Internal Closeout Retreat on October 24-25, 2013
- Inform staff about the staff retention plan following November 1, 2013
- Support the KRTI Final Evaluation by Social Impact, 3rd and final visit to Kyrgyzstan, November 2013
- Participate at the After Exit Review at USAID/OTI in Washington, D.C., December 3-4, 2013.

# 3. GRANTS SUMMARY

Between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013, OTI, through its implementing partner International Resources Group (IRG), funded 165 small grants totaling \$5,796,171.75. The number of grants cleared by quarter and the amounts are presented in the following tables.

Grant component	Number of Cleared Grants					
	Oct. 2012- Dec. 2012	Jan. 2013- March 2013	April 2013- June 2013	July 2013- Sept. 2013	Oct. 2012- Sept 2013	Total to date
Respond to Instability	9	10	14	12	45	210
Support Democratic Transition	34	31	37	17	120	251
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>461</b>

Grant component	Grant Amount					
	Oct. 2012- Dec. 2012	Jan. 2013- March 2013	April 2013- June 2013	July 2013- Sept. 2013	Oct. 2012- Sept 2013	Total for 3 Years
Respond to Instability	\$337,717	\$583,005	\$440,214	\$281,846	\$1,625,021	\$10,664,440
Support Democratic Transition	\$1,266,875	\$1,455,336	\$1,350,514	\$498,945	\$4,171,151	\$9,625,406
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>\$1,604,592</b>	<b>\$2,038,341</b>	<b>\$1,790,728</b>	<b>\$780,790</b>	<b>\$5,796,172</b>	<b>\$20,289,846</b>

# 4. HIGHLIGHTS

During the third year of operations in the Kyrgyz Republic, KRTI continued to build on and replicate best practices. Programmatically, KRTI continued to identify and support opportunities to support political change and respond to emerging tensions and contentious issues, including city planning, corruption in healthcare and education, justice and citizen participation in decision-making. Taking into account the KRTI end date of December 6, 2013, the program was careful to manage partner expectations and allocate funds judiciously.

The Program Performance Review (PPR) was followed by the fourth Strategy Review Session (SRS) on October 17-18, 2012. The PPR suggested that “KRTI’s comparative advantage was to continue to serve as a quick and flexible response platform addressing the more immediate and often unanticipated emerging threats to short term stability.”<sup>27</sup> This recommendation shaped programmatic discussions and the strategy for the final year of the program: to mitigate short-term threats to inclusive, accountable, and transparent governance that could roll back democratic gains since 2010. Key approaches identified by the team in the strategy statement include:

- Supporting civil society advocacy efforts to mobilize constituencies against threats to governance or engage in key reform processes;
- Supporting positive government actors championing reform and platforms for inclusivity, particularly of marginalized communities;
- Supporting key media entities working to clarify complex issues and include marginalized/rural perspectives into the national policy discourse;
- Supporting attempts to engage with and/or monitor the work of municipal governments in Bishkek, Osh, and other cities, given the large urban population.

Projects developed during FY2013 focused on destabilizing critical issues in energy, mining, judiciary, and internal affairs, as well as improvements in personal security and human rights, and anti-corruption efforts in the health care and education sectors. KRTI partnered with the State Registration Services (SRS) in Osh and Bishkek to help improve citizen access to services and information about new Citizen Service Centers. More activities responded to the growing public tension over the lack of access to city planning information and the so-called “master plans” by providing free legal advice to potential victims of street-widening initiatives in Osh and producing an investigative video on issues surrounding the master plans. While the video did not generate the anticipated flurry of discussions, the grantee uses it as resource to media and internet outlets. The knowledge about urban development plans gained through this experience also helped the grantee partner with the Bishkek City Council in developing the Bishkek Urban Development Strategy.

As the program nears conclusion later this year, KRTI used this opportunity to further support the Joint Media Industry Committee (JMIC) with data collection for the fourth wave of media research. In addition to helping local media partners serve stakeholders more transparently and professionally, KRTI supported the 7<sup>th</sup> Channel in Jalalabad and the Yntymak TV and Radio Station in Osh to produce Uzbek language programming and maintain broadcast programming during regular electricity black-outs. KRTI

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<sup>27</sup> The PPR report

also supported the launch of a news-satire television pilot in partnership with the local youth improvisational comedy group, KG Club. Entitled “Studio 7”, this TV program uses humor and absurd interpretation of current event news coverage to connect young adults to important topics that impact the nation.

In the final quarter of Year 3, KRTI has commissioned a series of external evaluations and case studies to measure the impact of its activities in targeted sectors. To ensure quality of data collection and analysis, KRTI brought in Channel Research (BIS271), a firm with experience conducting evaluations in political transition environments, to support a local research company with two infrastructure activity assessments. Based on the lessons learned from these evaluation exercises, KRTI ordered a series of case studies under BIS330 conducted by consultants to inform the external Final Evaluation as well as OTI and the USAID Mission on the lessons learned in a large number of sectors addressed by KRTI activities.

## THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Social Media.** Throughout the fall of 2012 and until the summer of 2013, OTI conducted a series of events with high ranking U.S. and Kyrgyz government officials. Many of these events and other activities were captured on Flickr and the Facebook pages for USAID/Central Asian Republics (<http://www.facebook.com/USAID.Central.Asian.Republics>) and the U.S. Embassy (<http://www.facebook.com/usembassy.bishkek>). Some of the distinguished participants included U.S. Ambassador Pamela L. Spratlen, USAID Representative Carey N. Gordon, and acting Mission Representative Mark Hannafin. Many of these activities commemorated greater citizen participation in decision making, including budgeting and government accountability.

**Legacy Products.** One of the KRTI highlights in Year 3 is the extensive work on the development of legacy products. This work built on the discussions initiated in Year 2, and involved OTI HQ and IRG HQ support with leadership and intense engagement of both the OTI CR and DCR. The legacy products have included a Legacy Book development commissioned under BIS311 with support from STTA Joan Ablett, and complementary BIS327 activity to provide designer, translation, and printing support. This publication will be printed in small quantities for internal USG use. Also, in order to facilitate the continued use of the KRTI information products and materials by government offices and civil society actors, OTI initiated the development of a Resource Omnibus comprised of DVDs with select print and video information products and a directory of organizations that KRTI supported from 2010-2013. Other significant legacy products include the six partner videos and a KRTI Legacy Video produced under BIS326. The Resource Omnibus and the video products are planned for distribution at KRTI final events with key partners in Osh and Bishkek on October 18 and 21 respectively.

**Transitions in Leadership.** In Year 3, KRTI continued to see significant transition among its senior leadership. Richard Haselwood officially became the OTI Country Representative, replacing Ashley Moretz; Benjamin Long joined the program on March 25, 2013 as the new Deputy Country Representative. For the IRG Chief of Party position, François Vézina replaced Shannon Martinez in October 2012, for the DCOP position, Ryan Flory, former Osh Regional Program Manager, was hired in October 2012 to replace DCOP Christy Ferguson; he, in turn, was replaced by Osh-based Operations Specialist Michael Stanislowsky on March 25, 2013. For the Osh-based Operations Specialist position, Sarah Chasin was replaced by Mr. Stanislowsky in December 2012, and he was in turn replaced by Gema Aragones in April; Ms. Aragones left KRTI on September 21, 2013.

**Workflow Management.** Based upon feedback from the October Strategy Review Session and subsequent analyses, the senior management team (SMT) rolled out a number of improvements to workflow processes and management practices that allow KRTI to work smarter and more efficiently. Several updates were introduced including resumption of the use of Fixed Obligation Grants

(FOG); updated Negotiation Memo and Proposal Competition Form documents that can be automatically generated from the database; and three new program-related documents (1) a new grant activity final report template (2) concept note template and (3) grant activity evaluation form. From an administrative stand point, KRTI revised its medical reimbursement policy, eliminating the requirement for staff to provide receipts or other back-up documentation to receive the medical benefit. Following the KRTI Closeout Planning Retreat in April, KRTI submitted a Closeout Plan (Deliverable) to OTI, for approval by June 6. A revised plan was later submitted and approved by OTI. Later in the reporting period, OTI approved a six-day work week for September and October with specific work dates for individual staff members in Bishkek and Osh, reflecting the anticipated workloads during the closeout phase.

**Closeout Support.** IRG commissioned a number of STTA visits to help out the Bishkek and Osh teams during this period. Former KRTI DCOP Christy Ferguson arrived in Bishkek on September 25 for one month to backstop Michael Stanislawsky and serve as the Acting DCOP during his leave. Bavani Shanmuganathan, who helped KRTI in Year 1 and 2, will arrive on October 1 for a 6-8 week assignment to serve as the new OOPS during the most intense and final weeks of the closeout phase in Osh. From OTI, Lisa Bower joined KRTI on September 25 to provide support to the CR and DCR.

**Staff Development.** On April 11, KRTI provided a Career Development training session for the entire staff within the scope of the KRTI Closeout Retreat in Jannat Resort conducted by Ms. Lira Juraeva of the AUCA. She also provided training on self-marketing and modern requirements for job interviews and professional resumes. In June and July, staff participated in a second Career Development training session in Bishkek and in Osh aimed at developing skills for planning and developing a professional career after KRTI closes.

# 5. CLOSEOUT STEPS

Recommended priorities for the closeout stage between October 1, 2013 – December 6, 2013 include the following:

- Assist OTI in developing and implementing the OTI Exit Strategy that consists of transitioning from KRTI to the Good Governance Public Administration Strengthening (GGPAS) project. In August 2013, USAID awarded IRG a SWIFT III Task Order to implement the three-year GGPAS project; the Task Order will be managed by the USAID Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic. The GGPAS Start- Up Conference is currently scheduled for late October 2013
- Complete the production of legacy products including the KRTI Grantee and Resource Omnibus, Partner Videos, and KRTI Legacy Video in time for distribution at the closing events in Osh and Bishkek
- Finalize the plan with regard to the KRTI Legacy Book, its submission/distribution plan
- Submit by October 6, obtain approval, and execute the KRTI Property Disposition Plan (Deliverable)
- Conduct closeout events in Osh and Bishkek on October 17 and October 21 respectively, with the new USAID Mission Director at the Osh event
- Submit, obtain approval and implement the KRTI Information Management Archive Plan (IMAP) (Deliverable)
- Submit information to the DEC as per the approved IMAP
- Conduct the KRTI Internal Closeout Retreat on October 24-25.
- Complete the programmatic and administrative close-out in Osh by November 15 and Bishkek by December 6
- Cooperate with and contribute to the final phase of the independent Final Evaluation of the program
- Attend (COP, DCOP, both RPMs and other instrumental staff) the After Exit Review, on December 3-4, 2013
- Submit KRTI Final Report (Deliverable) not later than 30 days after the KRTI Task Order completion



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