

FINAL RESULTS REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

NAME OF THE USO:	SOFIA AMERICAN SCHOOLS, INC.
ORGANIZATIONAL DUNS NUMBER:	0340991060000
EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:	13-6400773
NAME OF THE OSI:	AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA
ASHA AWARD NUMBER:	AID-ASHA-G-12-00009
AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO THE GRANT:	USD 179 000
OSI CONTACT PERSON:	SLAVEJA MILANOVA S.MILANOVA@ACS.BG
USO CONTACT PERSON:	TED GROVER TGROVER_ESG@MURFHOFF.COM

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The intended scope of the project is to procure school furniture and equipment for Biology, Chemistry and Physics Laboratories as well as school lockers in order to provide modern and well-equipped classroom and locker space that meets the best standards in the American private school. The project also aims to ensure a safe and contemporary laboratory environment that allows demonstrations, research and interactive classes for a wide variety of students.

The funds have been utilized as planned and the purpose of the project has been accomplished within the extended completion date for the project (*see Section Challenges*).

The specific performance indicators that have been monitored in the course of the project are the ones included in the AMEP approved for the project.

The table below summarizes the impact of the ASHA Grant on the institution and the surrounding community in reference to the AMEP for the project:

Unit measured	Original target #	Actual #	%
Number of US teaching staff members	18	20	110%
Number of staff member trained in the US	18	18	100 %
Number of local teachers, instructors, professors and librarians	61	64	100 %
Number of full-time students enrolled	726	744	103 %
Number of exchange programs with US school, universities or libraries	3	3	100 %
Number of courses with topics dealing with the US	5	5	100 %

The table below summarizes the impact of the ASHA Grant on the technical capacity of the institution in reference to the AMEP for the project:

Unit measured	Original target #	Actual #	%
Number of researchers and librarians using the new technology	13	13	100 %
Number of students using the new technology	423	451	107%

CHALLENGES:

The original list of commodities to be procured under the Grant Agreement was approved on October 11, 2012 and was modified once in June 2014.

The challenges for the project, the approved changes and the rationale for the change of the original list of commodities could be summarized as follows:

October 2012, when the ASHA Grant had been approved, the OSI management was pretty close to negotiating a very significant grant that would allow the school to construct a brand new Campus Learning Center containing a modern dining facility, a modern library, space for student lockers, space for students to gather and administrative office. The project will allow the College to move the central building of our campus to 21st century.

As of June 2014 the College negotiated the Grant for the project described above, completed the conceptual architectural drawings for the building and made a significant progress with the permitting process. The original list of commodities as approved by ASHA included office

furniture for the new Campus Learning Center. As of the summer of 2014 based on the stage of the project the OSI was not in a position to make a reasonable choice of furniture for offices that were not yet constructed. In our new proposal the OSI asked for the AOR permission to replace the office furniture and related installation costs with school lockers for the same building. Prior to the request for modification of the list of commodities the OSI had found a Bulgarian company that can deliver the quality school lockers that were recommended by the American architects and comply with the standards in an American school.

In addition, the OSI requested USAID ASHA permission to replace the originally approved stationary computers for the science laboratories with tablets. The school IT department along with faculty representatives and members of the school technology committee did a detailed research and comparison of latest technology and concluded that the portable computer devices correspond best to our current needs and will allow for easy access to research data and application of modern educational approaches with respect to experimental work.

Due to the changes of the original list of commodities the OSI requested for an extension of the term of the Grant with 6 (months), i.e. through March 31, 2015. The successful completion of the master planning process for the campus had clarified the school needs and priorities but the management needed time to select the best offers for the revised purchases so that the OSI could report that ASHA money were spent wisely and the best providers in terms of quality and price were selected.

All the requested changes were approved by the ASHA Director and the AOR as the revised list of commodities was within the original intent and scope of the project and the total amount of the federal funds requested had also not changed.

SUCCESS STORIES:

Due to the generous support of USAID ASHA the school has been able to purchase brand new school desks, chairs and white boards for the classrooms and provide modern equipment for the science labs. A significant portion of the federal funds were also invested in the purchase of school lockers with a padlock style locking and a stable structure with thickness 1.5 mm and fortified doors that comply with the best quality standards. This has resolved the school most pressing need to provide a secured space for student belongings for all of our students.

The Biology lab received 17 new microscopes, dissecting sets, microscopic slide-preparations, special slide cabinet, and many modern technology sensors. The new equipment and materials allow quick measurement of various parameters related to water quality, human physiology, ion-selective measurements and other hands-on activities and experiments.

The devices that we received for the Physics lab provide new experiments in the field of mechanics and optics, spectroscopic measurements and observations, waves, resonance, and hydrostatics. Also some new additions to the electrostatics and magnetic field kits will enrich the variety of demonstrations.

The Chemistry lab received a new latest technology fume hood, ventilation cabinets to store chemicals, spectrophotometer and other materials.

Last on the list but also very exciting is the portable IT lab.

The Science department also got 46 tablets (ASUS Transformer Book T100), one new printer (Xerox), and one scanner. The teachers and students have started using the tablets for in-class research, simulation labs, data processing and many new applications of IT.

All science teachers are enthusiastic to include more and more experiments in their lessons, and thus help their students develop crucial for modern science education inquiry skills.

Latest Physics Success Story

A total of 375 students from all over the country participated in the Spring National Physics Competition held in Varna, Bulgaria on March 7-8, 2015. The American College of Sofia sent 16 students to the Olympiad – four students from each grade level.

The 9th grader Ivan Ivanov qualified for the last National round of the Physics Olympiad, achieving an impressive score of 30 out of 30 possible points. Only 22 students from Bulgaria qualified for the National round in the grade level 9, and Ivan won his place among them. The senior Konstantin Karchev competed in the prestigious Special Theme and also qualified for the last National round of the Physics Olympiad. Konstantin Karchev will be competing for the honor to become a member of the national team for the International Physics Olympiad. Radostina Plamenova from 12th grade, Vasil Avramov from 11th grade, and Hristo Papazov from 10th grade won 2nd prizes, while Ivan Ganev from 10th grade returned with a third prize.

Another Great Win for ACS Students!

The American College of Sofia sent 15 students to the April National English Speech and Debate Tournament, organized by the Bulgarian Forensic League. Approximately 246 students from 22 high schools across Bulgaria competed in the events of Dramatic Duo, Original Oratory, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, and Karl Popper Debate. ACS became school champion in the Medium Schools Division (schools with 6-11 entries).

Georgi Dumanov and Katherine Krem ranked first in the US-qualifier Dramatic Duo division. In addition to their trophies, Katherine and Georgi won a trip to Overland Park in Kansas, where

they will represent Bulgaria at the Speech and Debate Association's National tournament. Georgi Dumanov, Katherine Krem and the winner in Original Oratory Nia Docheva (Ekzarh Yosif I Foreign Language High School) will be the first-ever international entrants in this prestigious event.

COST EFFECTIVENESS:

Except for the challenges and related modifications of the Grant Agreement mentioned above there have not been other major issues with respect to the implementation of the purchases under the grant.

The laboratory equipment was purchased from companies world-famous for their school equipment – Carolina, Vernier, Nasco. The school lockers were ordered and purchased from Bulgaria. They were selected taking into consideration the recommendation of the OSI consultants from a prominent US-based architectural company. The school furniture has been ordered from a Bulgarian provider who offered the best price and delivery terms. The portable tablet sets were supplied by a provider who has been a long-term and reliable partner of the school for years and has also offered compatible price and acceptable payment and delivery terms.

Therefore the school has been able to purchase all approved commodity items prior to the completion date of the grant and spend the ASHA money at a total amount of USD 179 000 wisely for much needed improvements in classrooms and science laboratories. The school has also fulfilled its obligation under the grant to co-share in the purchases with a total amount of USD 17 900.