



TAJIKISTAN PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

United States Agency for International Development/Central Asia Region

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html

ENTERPRISE & FINANCE	Implementing Partners
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<p>BUSINESS INFORMATION AND SKILLS: Through Enterprise Development Centers (EDC) in Dushanbe and Khujand, USAID's Enterprise Development Project (EDP) is delivering a comprehensive package of information, technical assistance, business training and advisory services to entrepreneurs and business managers. This assistance includes a newly developed internet-based trade network and team of USAID business advisors to help firms increase their competitive advantage and establish new trade links. USAID technical assistance in accounting reform led to a government commitment to adopt national standards of accounting that are fully compliant with International Accounting Standards (IAS) by 2003. USAID supports a training, examination and certification program to develop a cadre of internationally recognized IAS-certified accountants. Work with accounting reform, advocacy groups and professional associations is improving the SME environment by promoting greater transparency and accountability. Winrock's Farmer-to-Farmer program supports SME development through short-term consultancies focused on improving marketing strategies for farmers, modern pest management, and better product packaging.</p> <p>At the university level, USAID's scholarship program allows bright students from Tajikistan to enroll in a two-year master's program in economics at the Kazakhstan Institute for Management and Economic Research (KIMEP). USAID's Education Network (EdNet) provides university students from member universities with modern business and economics curricula, re-trained professors in modern business and economics and improved teaching methods, as well as textbooks and teaching materials. USAID sponsored long-term computer technology retraining for higher education teachers. As a result, 327 EdNet Academy program participants for the first time gained access to innumerable research materials and at no cost were able to download these valuable materials for their own business and economics research and for the use of their students. USAID also supports the development of economics programs in high schools through Junior Achievement.</p>	<p>Pragma Corporation, Carana Corporation, MBA-EC, Junior Achievement International, KIMEP, Winrock International</p>
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<p>FINANCIAL MARKETS: USAID provides technical assistance, training and small grants to build capacity among microfinance institutions and to strengthen banking supervision practices. In cooperation with ACDI/VOCA, USAID established a microfinance institution in the politically volatile Ferghana Valley region, giving micro entrepreneurs and farmers access to loans that do not require collateral, but are a group-guarantee bond. These loans provide greater opportunities to expand businesses and improve individuals' quality of life. USAID also used supplemental funding to partner with the International Finance Company (IFC) to draft a very progressive law to govern microfinance institutions in Tajikistan. The USAID-supported Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF) provides equity, term-debt, and lease financing to enable entrepreneurs to operate and expand their businesses. USAID is helping the National Bank of Tajikistan improve the system regulating commercial banks to protect depositors from losses arising from fraud or excessive risk taking, and improve banking practices. USAID also installed an off-site supervision system for the National Bank. USAID is working to improve the ability of the Ministry of Revenues to reform and modernize tax and customs administration by implementing transparent processes for collecting taxpayer data and develop improvements to the tax code that would foster greater tax compliance through simplification.</p>	<p>SEAF, ACDI/VOCA, ACDI/VOCA/FINCA, IFC, SETA Corporation, Abt. Associates/BearingPoint</p>
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<p>COMMERCIAL LAW & TRADE: USAID trains Tajik judges and attorneys in the interpretation and application of commercial law in order to help courts better establish property rights, enforce contracts, and support the drafting of the basic commercial legislation necessary for the operation of a market economy. The training, designed to be as practical as possible, focuses on newly enacted commercial legislation, professional practice (judicial ethics and court management) and commercial law-related issues that commonly occur in the context of Tajik court cases. Such issues include economic crime, privatization, commercial transactions, bankruptcy, banking, and judicial remedies. USAID has developed a comprehensive legal database containing approximately 2,500 Tajik laws and normative acts, and is working with the Tajik court system to establish modern methods of judicial administration and case management. In the area of court reform and administration, USAID continues to support the Council of Justice to establish the judiciary as a truly independent branch of government. Thanks largely to the Council's efforts, the judiciary has operated relatively free of interference and pressure from the executive branch. One of the key results of USAID's efforts has been the establishment and institutionalization of a merit-based system of judicial testing, selection, retention and promotion. As a direct result of the judicial examination process, a significant number (approximately 41 to date) of sitting judges resigned or have been removed from the bench. USAID is also assisting the government in its application for accession to the WTO.</p>	<p>ARD/Checchi, Pragma Corporation</p>
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">ENERGY & WATER MANAGEMENT</h2>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Implementing Partners</h3>
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<p>WATER SECTOR: Tajikistan is an important source of water for the region, and improving its ability to manage water resources is key to meeting both its own agricultural production and electric energy development needs, and those of the entire region. USAID focuses on improving the capability of Tajik water authorities to better collect, analyze, and transmit critical water data that will lead to more accurate and appropriate water allocations and improved efficiencies in water use. Assistance in the form of improved equipment and training for the modeling of water runoff from snowmelt will assist planners and managers with more timely and accurate data. The installation of meteorological stations is designed to improve collection, use, and sharing of water and weather data. USAID is also assisting with the installation of a modern communication system to facilitate the regional flow of information between Central Asia's water managers, as well as provide a stronger, more objective base of information for Tajik policy-makers to participate in future transboundary water and energy agreements. Using supplemental funds provided in FY 2002, USAID has successfully completed the rehabilitation and refurbishment of seven pump station sites to restore primary irrigation infrastructure in the last year. These pump stations had fallen into severe disrepair since independence and due to the prolonged civil conflict in the country. The corresponding water delivery systems in these seven sites serve an area of approximately 20,000 hectares and a population of 60,000 people who are dependent upon this system for their water needs. Improvements include the rehabilitation of key pumps, motors, and related system improvements, at four irrigation water pumping stations in southwestern Tajikistan. In the coming year, USAID's program will continue to rehabilitate several addition pump stations in key irrigated areas, as well as refurbish and place into operation up to 70 shallow well-sites in the northern area of the country to improve water supply for both irrigation and potable water. Rehabilitation is being implemented with the close participation of the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture. USAID is also demonstrating better practices in on-farm irrigation and district-level water management, which will contribute to the sustainability of the systems after rehabilitation.</p>	<p>PA Consulting, Winrock International, Development Alternatives Inc., Riverside Technologies Inc., Meteor Communications Corporation</p>
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<p>ENERGY SECTOR: USAID's Natural Resources Management Project is directly assisting Tajikistan in resource planning in the energy sector and through an innovative heating efficiency program. Because Tajikistan energy is heavily subsidized and is need of rehabilitation, USAID is working with the people of Tajikistan to develop an energy plan that meets their needs. In its innovative heating efficiency program USAID is operating in three pilot schools and one orphanage, all in Dushanbe. The schools serve about 2,000 children each, while the orphanage hosts more than 500 children. The program consists of the installation of equipment that allows administrators to automatically regulate heat in the buildings during the day, nights, weekends and holidays, as needed. The objective of this activity is simple - to</p>	<p>PA Consulting, Winrock International, Development Alternatives Inc., Riverside Technologies Inc.</p>
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<p>increase heating efficiency and decrease losses. Project technicians are currently collecting data that will demonstrate differences and savings. The system is expected to pay for itself within a year. Already convinced of the benefits, city officials are looking for the means to duplicate these cost-efficient and effective measures in other buildings on their own.</p>	
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<h2>DEMOCRACY & CONFLICT MITIGATION</h2>	<h3>Implementing Partners</h3>
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<p>CIVIL SOCIETY: USAID/CAR's civil society program supports a network of seven civil society support centers that provide training seminars, technical support, information resources, networking opportunities and professional services to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. USAID provides training and resources to strengthen the financial and institutional sustainability of these centers. The program includes funding to provide institutional grants for leading NGOs in specific sectors, community development grants to help NGOs to engage with their communities and advocate for their needs at the local level, and focusing on social partnerships and advocacy at the national level. USAID also provides assistance in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO sector, as well as direct legal support and services for NGOs through the CSSC Network.</p>	<p>IREX, ICNL</p>
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<p>MEDIA & INFORMATION: An informed citizenry is an essential component of democracy. USAID is strengthening independent media so that citizens have access to information and can make informed decisions. Tajikistan's journalists continue to work under difficult economic and political conditions. USAID-sponsored training is helping to improve the situation. USAID continues training for media professionals to enable them to create an independent and economically viable press that serves the information needs of citizens. This year's training seminars include basic journalism, TV and radio production, media management, legal issues, marketing, and ad sales. USAID-funded media law experts continue to draft and analyze proposed legislation, publish commentary on legal issues facing media, advise legislators, and provide legal consultation to media and journalists. A USAID-financed production fund allows local stations to produce original programming. USAID also underwrites Nabzeh Zindagi (The Pulse of Life), the only Tajik-language program to bring together information among all the regions of the country, which reaches 18 participating stations and a potential audience of one million. USAID recently began support of a new program to support press freedom advocacy in Tajikistan. A pilot civics education course for 43 secondary schools was initiated in four regions, reaching 3,000 ninth and tenth grade students, accompanied by teacher training courses and a teacher's manual. Another 80 schools and 10,000 students are expected to benefit from the program this year. In addition to improving the initial Tajik version of the book, this year USAID translated the textbook into Uzbek, enabling it to reach a large ethnic minority in the south and north of Tajikistan. USAID is developing more democratic teaching methods in schools and helping increase both the involvement of parents in the education process and student activism. To give students a practical ground for the theoretical knowledge they gain during the course, students are given a chance to participate in various extra-curricular activities such as Summer Democracy Camps, Student Action Committees, and Student Local Government Days. A new anti-trafficking program began activities to implement a public information campaign on this terrible issue.</p>	<p>Internews, ICFJ, Adil Soz IFES, IOM</p>
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<p>ACCOUNTABLE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS: USAID is supporting the development of a multi-party system in Tajikistan. USAID's technical assistance, seminars and discussion groups support political parties through improved communication between party branches, membership development, recruitment strategies, and constituent relations. USAID is assisting political parties build strong constituencies by providing training to promote women's and youth membership, better media relations and public outreach, televised parliamentary roundtable series, and bringing parties and citizens together in televised town hall meetings. Parliamentary assistance improves information management and research capabilities to help establish a stronger legislature. This year, USAID will expand efforts to support human rights through programs which train lawyers in human rights laws, establish a central source of legal information in Dushanbe for lawyers and judges, and disseminate legal information to rural areas through mini resource centers. Moot court competitions improve law students' advocacy skills. USAID expanded its commercial law training and testing for judges</p>	<p>IFES, ABA/CEELI, ARD/Checchi, Urban Institute</p>
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<p>to include non-commercial civil and criminal judges. Through its local government program, USAID is supporting a Presidential Working Group formed to develop local government legislation. USAID is also working in two pilot sites, Kulyob and Kurgan Teppe, to improve and create more participatory processes for governance.</p>	
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<p>CONFLICT MITIGATION: USAID used supplemental funding to focus on reducing the threat of extremism and ethnic- or resource-based conflicts in Tajikistan and the rest of Central Asia. Conflicts and discontent in the region have historically arisen as a result of disputes over natural resources such as water and land, ethnic or religious intolerance, and the lack of peaceful channels to vent frustration or express different political views. These are exacerbated by limited economic opportunities. Tajikistan is unique in that USAID is addressing both the post-conflict situation in areas where the civil war took a large toll, while at the same time addressing issues common to other Central Asian states that make them prone to future conflict. In Tajikistan, these issues are more specifically border problems, lack of social and physical infrastructure, and further declines in economic opportunity. USAID is expanding conflict prevention activities beyond the initial 72 communities (about 45,000 beneficiaries) in Khatlon Oblast and in the Ferghana and Rasht Valleys and will equalize the focus on rural and urban settings, especially along the transit route for drugs from Afghanistan. Coordination with other partners will address issues of unemployment, human rights and cultural awareness. Although none of the conflict mitigation activities will, in and of themselves, end conflict or extremism in Central Asia, they are a focal point for the USG's only non-military approach to mitigate potentially violent discord here. An estimated 525,000 or more direct beneficiaries of the small-scale, community-driven social and physical infrastructure projects generated through community action are expected by the spring of 2005. More importantly, the community strengthening component of this activity will build the capacity for communities to solve local conflicts on their own. The Peaceful Communities Initiative (PCI) began activities in 18 communities across the Ferghana Valley, including mobilization training and a number of small infrastructure projects (school roof repair, natural gas pipelines, and a drinking water system).</p>	<p>Mercy Corps, Aga Khan Foundation, UNDP</p>
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<h2>HEALTH & EDUCATION</h2>	<h3>Implementing Partners</h3>
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<p>QUALITY PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: USAID envisions a health care system where families get affordable quality health care that meets their needs. Thus, USAID, along with several other donors, is helping to develop the Tajikistan primary health care (PHC) system. Family doctors will be able to provide higher quality services in communities after being retrained by expertly prepared family medicine trainers. USAID is supporting an 11-month training program to prepare trainers for oblast-level centers in a newly renovated Family Medicine Training Center staffed by western-trained family doctors. Resource-starved family doctors also benefit from provision of doctor bags and family medicine texts in Russian. USAID is promoting evidence-based medicine through strategies to implement new clinical protocols. And a Drug Information Center is scheduled to open in mid-October 2003. In addition to providing detailed information and advice to requests from doctors and patients, the Drug Information Center will provide training to health facilities on the advantages of using a restrictive list of effective, safe, and affordable drugs.</p> <p>USAID also supports a small grants program to NGOs working in the health sector and helps them upgrade their technical skills. Multi-media health promotion campaigns reinforce this by educating the public about how to keep children healthy and are beginning to develop the skills of counterparts in the Centers for Healthy Lifestyles. In close collaboration with the World Bank, USAID is helping improve the resources available to PHC through introduction of new</p>	<p>Abt. Associates, Counterpart Consortium</p>
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<p>payment systems for primary health care in select locations. CDC is implementing a pilot program to introduce the internationally-accepted WHO-definition of infant mortality. This involves policy change at the national level, training of perinatologists, obstetricians, and pediatricians, and provision of equipment to assist in resuscitation and measurement of newborns.</p>	
<p>MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH: Due to a three-year drought and poor economy, children remain at risk for or are suffering from malnutrition. A shocking finding from a 2002 national survey was that one third of children in Tajikistan are stunted, showing the cumulative effects of poor nutrition and poor household security. USAID is expanding efforts to identify malnourished children and get needed help to them. Last year, out of 26,961 examinations, 2,377 children were diagnosed as moderately malnourished and enrolled to receive supplementary foods. A further 331 severely malnourished children were referred for treatment at hospital-based therapeutic feeding centers supported by USAID and the World Food Program (WFP). USAID supports basic health education, nutrition monitoring and food supplementation and promoted access to primary health care among the rural population of south Tajikistan. As a result of USAID-funded, nurse-led education sessions, women know more about advantages of breastfeeding and how best to introduce solid food for their babies.</p> <p>USAID has started a new five-year program to expand and strengthen maternal and child health and reproductive health in Khatlon Oblast through improvements in service delivery and community mobilization activities. 50% to 90% of pregnant women continue to deliver at home, where they face risk of hemorrhage and other complications, far from medical assistance. USAID supports improved quality of health care, through provider training, including, training of district midwives who currently deliver a high proportion of the babies born at home, as hospitals and maternity facilities are largely non-functional. Midwives trained in basic lifesaving skills are able to save lives by directly taking action or by recognizing emergencies and arranging transport for these women. Women and communities are also given better information on safe motherhood, reproductive, and child health initiatives. USAID's regional cross-border Sports and Health Education Project is being extended to include Tajikistani communities. USAID has joined with the World Bank to undertake a Living Standards Survey to establish Tajikistan's current demographic and health status.</p>	<p>Abt Associates Action Against Hunger, Project HOPE, World Bank</p>
<p>INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL: USAID trains health staff on the Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) approach to treat tuberculosis in pilot sites in Dushanbe City and nearby Leninsky district. The monitoring system for laboratories and facilities is also being strengthened. The actual treatment of TB patients under the USAID-supported DOTS implementation program began in two pilot sites in July, 2002. To-date, USAID trained more than 100 TB specialists and primary health care doctors and 17 TB laboratory specialists. Due to improved diagnostics, the TB case notification rate increased more than two times from 74/100,000 (national level) to 150/100,000 (pilot sites) in June of 2003. With USAID assistance, weekly TB coordination meetings were established for head doctors of primary health care facilities in the pilot sites as well as for the TB specialists. These regular coordination meetings allow staff to track every TB patient in the pilot sites and take steps to prevent treatment interruption. USAID coordinates its efforts with the World Food Program that provides food for the families of vulnerable TB patients as well for the underpaid medical staff in pilot sites. This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are establishing a regional training program on blood safety that will equip one serology lab in Tajikistan and train specialists on laboratory quality control. The malaria situation in Tajikistan has been deteriorating since 1992 due to lapsed control measures, civil war, a deteriorating economy and uncontrolled malaria in bordering Afghanistan. USAID is supporting the WHO's Roll Back Malaria initiative in 40 districts of Tajikistan, with primary focus on improving surveillance, accuracy of laboratory diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Out of 10 sentinel sites selected for assistance, three are functioning, accurately reporting data, and applying guidelines that explicitly define a malaria case. More sites are coming on line in the next few months. USAID is also initiating public awareness campaigns to increase people's knowledge about disease prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is establishing a regional training program on blood safety that will equip 4 serology labs, located in Tashkent and in oblasts, and that will provide lab quality control training. This year, one Tajik health professional is sponsored for the two-year Applied Epidemiology program at the</p>	<p>CDC, MERLIN, Project HOPE</p>

Kazakhstan School of Public Health.

HIV/AIDS CONTROL & PREVENTION: HIV prevalence in Tajikistan is not known. Only 96 cases have been officially reported, concentrated among injecting drug users, though the real number of HIV-positive people is estimated to be much higher because the practice of intravenous drug use is thought to be common. Within Central Asia, Tajikistan is seen as one of the most vulnerable countries because it has the longest border with Afghanistan and the weakest economy in the region. Since 1996, Tajikistan has become the main transit route for drugs from Afghanistan, subsequently resulting in a sharp rise in drug use. USAID supports identification and mapping of high HIV transmission areas. Epidemiologic information regarding the distribution and spread of HIV infection is critical in planning and implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and control programs. A study of HIV seroprevalence among high-risk groups will be conducted this year, and specialists will be trained in modern surveillance methods.

Containing HIV in Tajikistan requires a number of approaches, including a wide-scale program to increase knowledge and skills to prevent drug abuse among youth, commercial sex workers, prisoners and migrants. USAID supports seven NGOs, each of which offers basic medical care, free condoms, access to STI clinics and HIV testing sites, and referrals to legal and social services. Condom social marketing program will promote delay of sexual debut, use of condoms for sexually active young people and fidelity to one sexual partner. The educational component includes school-based peer education on HIV/AIDS and STIs, outreach educational campaigns to high risk groups. Because the HIV epidemic in Central Asia is fueled by injecting drug use, USAID is also supporting efforts to reduce demand for illegal drugs by promoting effective and sustained countrywide drug prevention policies and by supporting local organizations that work with vulnerable populations including youth, sex workers, prisoners, and migrants/displaced persons/refugees.

CDC,
Johns Hopkins University,
PSI,
Soros

BASIC EDUCATION: Tajikistan's progress in restructuring its education system has been severely hampered by the five-year civil war and the social and economic challenges that are exacerbated by a weak economy. Given these constraints, the education sector receives limited attention and is in sharp decline. The USAID Basic Education Sector Strengthening Program (BESSP), begun in winter 2003, focuses on five major aspects of the education system: in-service teacher training, classroom-level learning materials development and textbook development, parent and community involvement in education decision making, management and technical capacity at all levels of the education system; and rehabilitation of school infrastructure. The program will also facilitate policy dialogue on education finance through a finance working group which will propose solutions and implement pilots to solve larger education finance issues. In Tajikistan, the program targets grades 1- 4 to maximize impact on education for young children. BESSP works at all levels of the system with a targeted number of schools and communities selected as pilot sites to measure the impact of the full range of activities. During the first stage of the program, twenty primary schools were selected as pilot sites of BESSP. Training of trainer activities have commenced at pilot schools during the summer of 2003, introducing modern teaching methodologies, such as Step-by-Step to 336 teachers of primary grades. 201 school administrators and education authorities received initial training on effective school management and strategic planning. Closer ties between the school and parents and community were built through Community Education Committees - CECs (22 CECs formed to date with the participation of over 600 community members). Infrastructure rehabilitation activities will begin in the summer of 2004 after schools develop their infrastructure improvement and maintenance plans.

AED,
OSI,
Aga Khan Foundation

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Implementing Partners

<p>EURASIA FOUNDATION: Eurasia grants help to implement USAID's objectives and complement programs in the economic and democracy sectors. The Eurasia Foundation awarded 23 grants to Tajikistani NGOs in FY 2003, with an average grant size of nearly \$20,000. Eurasia grant funds support private enterprise development and target improvements in the areas of civil society and public policy and administration. Through the Ferghana Valley Initiative, aimed at forging cross-border connection in this politically sensitive region, Eurasia awarded six grants in Tajikistan in the areas of mass media development, cross-border trade, and legal and civil rights defense in FY 2003. To reduce tension along the Afghan border, the Eurasia Foundation concentrated agricultural support grants in the impoverished border oblasts of Gorno-Badakhshan and Khatlon, including a grant to yak farmers in the Pamir Mountains. The Khaft Paykar Artisans Association, a Eurasia grantee, is advocating legislation that will give more than 5000 artisans access to pensions, basic disability insurance and state-subsidized education.</p>	<p>Eurasia Foundation</p>
<p>PARTICIPANT TRAINING & EXCHANGES: In FY 2003, over 2,200 Tajikistani citizens (approximately 40% of whom were women) were trained with an emphasis on encouraging NGO development and strengthening civil society, SME development, tax policy reform, judicial and legal reforms, health care reform, gender issues with a special emphasis on micro-lending and business education, and commercial law reform. A major focus in FY 2003 has been support for implementation of laws and regulations critical to small and medium sized enterprise development. A number of third country and in-country training programs have been funded to encourage and promote this process. USAID has also utilized the participant training program to assist efforts in the area of educational system reform. Participants represent a broad cross section of society, from government ministers, to heads of businesses and NGO leaders, to individual citizens committed to reform in their areas of expertise. An important aspect of training is its regional nature, which allows colleagues across borders to share lessons learned and, where relevant, to develop cooperative solutions to common problems.</p>	<p>AED</p>

Glossary of Acronyms:

<p>ABA/CEELI: American Bar Association/ Central and East European Law Initiative</p> <p>ACDI/VOCA: Agricultural Cooperative Development International/ Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance</p> <p>AED: Academy for Educational Development</p> <p>AIHA: American International Health Alliance</p> <p>CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p> <p>HOPE: Health Opportunity for People Everywhere</p> <p>ICFJ: International Center for Journalists</p>	<p>ICNL: International Center for Not-for-Profit Law</p> <p>IFC: International Finance Company</p> <p>IFES: International Foundation for Election Systems</p> <p>KIMEP: Kazakhstan Institute for Management and Economic Research</p> <p>MBA-EC: MBA Enterprise Corps</p> <p>MERLIN: Medical Emergency Relief International</p> <p>PSI: Population Services International</p> <p>SEAF: Small Enterprise Assistance Fund</p>
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USAID assistance to Central Asia helps increase opportunities to improve citizens' knowledge, livelihoods, participation and dialogue in social, economic and political life.

To learn more, please visit our website at: http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/car/index.html

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