

QUARTERLY TECHNICAL REPORT



Turkmenistan Youth Center Project

**First Quarter Report – First Year
1 October 2009 – 31 December 2009
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by

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)



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I. Programmatic Progress

This is the first quarter after JSI was given an award for the provision of support for implementation of the program entitled “Youth Centers in Turkmenistan.” In accordance with the cooperative agreement, within thirty days of award, JSI prepared and submitted a performance monitoring plan, branding and marking implementation plans and initial work plan for review and approval by the Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR). Furthermore, JSI has hired the program director for this project and obtained the AOTR approval for this candidacy.

As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan suggested developing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this project instead of extending the CAPACITY one, during this quarter much effort was put to get that MoU done. The English version of the MoU prepared by USAID was translated into Russian and Turkmen languages and then provided to the director of the National AIDS Prevention Center and Deputy Minister of Health for review. After they reviewed and expressed their agreement with the content of MoU, it was officially sent by USAID for signature.

While the MoU was in process, JSI did the following preparatory work:

- collected and reviewed available Information Education Communication (IEC) and training materials on new topics such as adolescent health, reproductive health, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, nutrition, diet and physical exercise;
- developed job descriptions for project staff recruitment;
- developed office share agreement to be signed with the National AIDS Prevention Center after the MoU is signed;
- started work on office operational documents; and
- drafted focus group discussion guidelines.

During this quarter, the program director, Sona Valiyeva, participated in a post-award meeting with the USAID Agreement officer, Dale Gredler, Country Representative, Ashley Moretz and AOTR, Lena Samarkina. Furthermore, the program director met with Chevron Nebitgaz B.V. representative, Irina Begjanova, to give an update on the project status and brief about the project work plan. In addition, the program director participated in the meeting with the USAID Consultant, Susan Somach, for discussion on gender related issues in Turkmenistan.