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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SUCCESS STORY

Education Leaders Ease Tension in Southern Kyrgyzstan

USAID responds to inter-ethnic conflict by training education and community leaders



Photo: USAID Quality Learning Project

USAID Quality Learning Project trainers, above, are learning and acquiring conflict mitigation skills in the training session in Kok-Jangak city, Jalalabad Region, Kyrgyzstan.

“To me, the training content is like helping a person who is searching for water in the desert, or how to provide medical treatment when a patient is ill.”

*—Amangeldi Asanov,
Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan*

The outbreaks of violence in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010 created widespread fear and uncertainty. USAID’s Quality Learning Project responded to challenges facing those caught up in the violence and subsequent insecurity in Jalalabad Oblast.

USAID worked to create safe school environments to help students, teachers and communities cope with the violence. In August 2010, the project conducted trainings for school administrators and community leaders in conflict resolution and tolerance in partnership with Kyrgyzstan’s Ministry of Education and Science.

Thirty trainers worked in three languages: Russian, Kyrgyz and Uzbek. Training sessions included exercises and materials that provided participants with the skills to help guide a school through the difficult process of bringing students and communities together after ethnic conflict. Training sessions provided participants with information about child behaviour during and after crisis situations, specific competencies for school and community leaders on how to assist students and parents after emergency situations, and techniques on how to deal with stress at communities and schools. Another goal of the activity was to prepare school administrations and communities so that schools would be prepared for the opening of the school year on September 1.

Local school principal, Amangeldi Asanov, said, “Training sessions were designed and conducted at just the right time. Sessions covered in the training were practical and important. To me, the training content was like helping a person who is searching for water in the desert, or how to provide medical treatment when a patient is ill.”

Training sessions were conducted in 420 schools for 2,300 participants. Participants included school principals and deputies, social workers, inspectors for juvenile offenders, local committees for youth affairs, District Education Boards, parent committees and social counsellors.

USAID’s Quality Learning Project, jointly with Jalalabad Methodological Center, is strengthening the professional skills of educators to reduce tension in schools and communities.