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## PRESS RELEASE

### US Promotes Active Citizenship of Region's Young Leaders, in Partnership with UNDP and Soros Foundation

Kemin, Kyrgyzstan – On November 19-23, 2011, the United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will conduct a five-day seminar entitled “New Leaders – Positive Changes” for twenty-five young leaders from across Kyrgyzstan. USAID’s youth leadership program (Jasa.kg) is leading this effort in partnership with the UNDP Democratic Governance Program and the Youth Program of the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan.

The young participants will gain new critical thinking and advocacy skills, as well as strengthen their analytical, decision-making and presentation skills, and learn how to participate more fully in the economic and political life of the country. This training seminar will be followed by a two-month mentoring program for participating youth. The mentors, who are primarily public figures from Kyrgyzstan’s civil society sector, will work to develop participants’ personal and professional qualities, and encourage them to be more civically engaged. During the mentorship period, the young leaders will publish analytical articles related to social, economic, and political issues in a range of media outlets.

The USAID-funded Jasa.kg Program has four primary objectives including inspiring active citizenship among Kyrgyzstan’s youth, preparing young people for the workplace, creating a culture of positive youth development, and working with youth in residential care facilities (orphanages) to promote their life skills development.

For more information about USAID programs, please visit our website at:  
<http://kyrgyzstan.usaid.gov/kyrgyzstan>.

*The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and is funded by the American people. Since 1992, USAID has supported local efforts to improve economic growth, governance, and the quality of health and education in Kyrgyzstan.*

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