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PRESS RELEASE

US Convenes a National Forum and Roundtable to Strengthen the Development of School Social Work in Kyrgyz Republic

On December 7 – 9, 2011, the United States Government, through the US Agency for International Development's Quality Learning Project (QLP), is organizing a national forum and roundtable on "Social Work in Kyrgyzstan: Problems and Prospects" to provide practical assistance to school social pedagogues and Kyrgyzstan's educational leadership. The roundtable on December 9 will involve policymakers and stakeholders who will focus on ways to improve the coordination and impact of the of school social workers in enabling students to access secondary education. The national forum and roundtable will be held at the Holiday Hotel, 204 Abdurahmanova Street in Bishkek.

The national forum and roundtable will be attended by school social workers, local and international experts on social work, representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Kyrgyz Academy of Education, district educational departments, and local and international non-governmental organizations, who will share best practices and lessons learned to improve coordination and effectiveness. Participants will develop recommendations for improving the effectiveness of school social workers and how they can cooperate with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the schools, and communities to maximize impact for children.

The USAID Quality Learning Project has been working closely with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Kyrgyz Academy of Education to improve the quality of basic education in the Kyrgyz Republic since 2008 by strengthening the capacity of administrators and the professionalism of teachers.

This is one of many assistance projects supported by the American people through USAID. For more information about USAID programs, 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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