



USAID | KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2011

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PRESS RELEASE

The Russian Federation and the United States of America Will Donate 180 Pediatric Wheelchairs to Disabled Children in the Kyrgyz Republic

On December 8, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. a ceremony to mark the handover of wheelchairs to disabled children took place at the Kyrgyz Republic Historical Museum, Bishkek.

The handover of 180 wheelchairs to disabled children is a humanitarian effort made possible with the support from the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Both governments provided financial and organizational assistance for the purchase and delivery of the wheelchairs in response to the request from the former President of the Kyrgyz Republic Roza Otunbaeva.

Roza Otunbaeva, former President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Vladimir Rushailo, Presidential Envoy of the Russian Federation to Kyrgyzstan, Pamela L. Spratlen, Ambassador of the United States to the Kyrgyz Republic, Valentin Vlasov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kyrgyz Republic, Aigul Ryskulova, Minister of Social Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic, Charles North, USAID/Russia Mission Director, Carey N. Gordon, USAID Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic and Nina Kostina, President of Frank Foundation Child Assistance International, took part in the ceremony.

20 children, who have received the wheelchairs, have been invited to the ceremony. The Ministry of Social Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic will provide delivery of the remaining 160 wheelchairs to each child's home.

The US Government, represented by the United States Agency for International Development provided funds to purchase ninety wheelchairs. The other ninety wheelchairs were purchased by the Russian Federation with funds from commercial companies OJSC "Rusneft" and CJSC "Polyus". Noncommercial organization "Frank Foundation Child Assistance International" procured the wheelchairs in the US and their delivery from the USA to the Kyrgyz Republic via Russia was managed by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The parties noted that the handover of the wheelchairs represents successful cooperation between public organizations and the private sector of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic, who joined efforts based on principals of human rights, dignity and compassion to help the disabled children of Kyrgyzstan.



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In October of this year, the Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development of the Russian Federation donated 50 modified wheelchairs to disabled children in Kyrgyzstan.

In 2011 885 people in the Kyrgyz Republic have received wheelchairs. More than 23,000 disabled children receive government support through the Ministry of Social Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic. Since July 1, 2011 the disability payments to families with disabled children increased from 1,500 to 3,000 som.

For additional information please contact:

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INFORMATION

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) began providing assistance to Kyrgyzstan in 1992, soon after the country became independent. Since that time, the American people through USAID have provided over \$490 million in programs that assist the development of the country's economic growth, education and healthcare systems, support good governance, and provide assistance to the victims of natural and other disasters. USAID programs cooperate



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with ministries of the Kyrgyz Government, various governmental and non-government organizations, businesses, and communities to improve laws, create jobs, increase incomes, improve services, and better manage available resources. USAID has been working in Russia since 1992 in partnership with Russian and international organizations in healthcare, civil society and local governance development, support of youth entrepreneurship and global climate change.

“Frank Foundation Child Assistance International”, (FFCAI) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental child advocacy organization with headquarters in metropolitan Washington, DC, USA and offices in Moscow, Russia and Baden Baden, Germany. FFCAI undertakes a variety of activities that are guided by two objectives: delivering immediate relief for children with the greatest need and sustaining ongoing efforts to eradicate suffering for all children. Since its foundation in 1992, it has achieved noteworthy results working with thousands of children around the world through medical intervention, educational exchange, general child advocacy and humanitarian assistance programs.

CJSC “Polyus” is an international company, the leading gold producer in Russia and Kazakhstan and the only Russian company among the world’s largest gold producers. Headquartered in Moscow, Polyus Gold’s operating mines and development/exploration projects are located in 5 major gold mining regions of Russia – the Krasnoyarsk Territory, the Irkutsk, Magadan, Amur regions, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), as well as in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Romania and Kyrgyzstan. Polyus Gold is honored to be able to support the children of Kyrgyzstan through this noble effort.

OJSC “Russneft” is one of the top 10 largest oil companies in the Russian Federation. There are 24 mining companies in the “RussNeft” oil corporation. 167 oil-gas fields are being developed. “RussNeft” covers 11 regions of Russia and CIS, including Khanty-Mansiisk Autonomous District, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District, Tomsk, Ulyanovsk, Penza, Bryansk, Saratov, Kirov Oblalsts, Udmurt Republic and the Republic of Belarus. The company is headquartered in Moscow.

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