



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**TAJIKISTAN**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### USAID: CELEBRATING OUR SHARED VALUES

Op-Ed/Statement from Erin Elizabeth McKee Regional Mission Director USAID/Central Asian Republics

November 3rd marks the 50th anniversary of U.S. President John F. Kennedy's creation of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Whether it is vaccinating children against preventable diseases, improving crop yields, or responding to disasters, USAID has been a quiet force for progress not only in Tajikistan, but in 100 other countries, fostering a more peaceful and secure world.

A short time after Tajikistan's independence, USAID arrived to help establish market economies, cultivate democratic governance, and reform health systems. During the rebirth of this nation, we were here as a partner for progress.

Since then, USAID has boosted food security by helping farmers organize irrigation associations, teaching families to grow nutritious foods in kitchen gardens, and building the capacity of farm stores to provide advice to agricultural producers around the country. USAID assisted 2,055 members of Water User Associations to sustainably manage their irrigation systems and increase their incomes by as much as 200% through USAID's Water Users Association Support Program. This program indirectly benefitted over 275,000 rural citizens of Tajikistan. USAID helped halt the spread of polio last year and has supported vaccination campaigns to ensure that this crippling disease does not return to Tajikistan. In addition to assisting with national policies USAID also reaches out to rural, often remote, communities to support community services such as: drinking water supply; health and nutrition education; and providing emergency funds for communities to draw on in times of need.

Today we stand at an important turning point. In partnership with the people of Tajikistan, USAID is transforming from a traditional aid agency into a modern development enterprise that is unleashing a new spirit of innovation and results-based development. Our success depends on listening and connecting with local leaders and communities, leveraging trust and partnership to support the vital work that still needs to be done. Together, this will allow us to walk a straighter path toward economic prosperity.

We are in the business of promoting economic development so that our services will no longer be needed. We are trying to work ourselves out of a job. We aim for a world where people live in freedom, dignity, and self-sufficiency – free from conflict, disease, and want. The dreams we are working to make reality are shared by the American and Tajik people, and form the basis of our partnership.

On behalf of all the men and women of USAID in Tajikistan, we would like to thank the Tajik people for your partnership and friendship. Our work will continue to reflect our shared values, goals and beliefs.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by American 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 Kazakhstan. For more information about USAID programs, please visit our website at <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.

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