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TURKMENISTAN

FIRST PERSON Learning Leads to Success

USAID-funded programs help a young woman to gain confidence, secure employment



“I’m very thankful to Junior Achievement Turkmenistan for the possibility to participate in its programs and contests. It helped me to get and to keep a job, because success implies learning.”

- Mengli Nurmuradova, Junior Achievement alumna, Ashgabat

Mengli Nurmuradova credits the USAID-funded Junior Achievement programs for her ability to secure employment with the largest mobile phone company in the country. But even more importantly, these USAID-funded programs turned Nurmuradova from a shy girl to a sociable and self-confident person.

“I’m very thankful to Junior Achievement Turkmenistan for the possibility to participate in its programs and contests,” says 24-year old Nurmuradova. “The skills and knowledge I gained not only helped me get the job, but also enabled me to keep it.”

Nurmuradova always liked economics, but she lacked confidence to go after her dream. So after completing high school, she decided to enroll in the vocational school to become a bookkeeper.

The Ashgabat City Vocational School #5 where Nurmuradova was studying offered the Junior Achievement economics course that USAID had helped introduce into the school curriculum. Soon, Nurmuradova was attending other Junior Achievement courses and trying her hand in its competitions that were made available with funding from USAID. Nurmuradova also took advantage of the Junior Achievement’s Job Shadow Program where she observed the work of a manager at a large flower shop for several days.

The skills Nurmuradova gained from these USAID-funded programs came into play when the young woman began searching for employment. She knew that it would be difficult to find a job without work experience, but felt that Junior Achievement programs helped her prepare as well as possible.

She decided to join the country’s largest cellular communications operator, the MTS Company. Nurmuradova completed preliminary courses, passed the pre-employment test, and was offered a job as a customer service representative at MTS. She is responsible for answering phone calls, communicating with customers, and providing inquirers with necessary information. “Junior Achievement programs helped me become more sociable and self-reliant, which is so important in my job,” says Nurmuradova.

Encouraged by her success, Nurmuradova is now planning to enroll into the university program to study economics. Nurmuradova is confident that the skills she has gained will help her achieve her dream.