



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**TURKMENISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

# Turkmen Learn ICT

### USAID helps spread information communication technology in Turkmenistan



*Gulnur Yusupova, family doctor, above, learning computer skills.*

**"We understand that currently, every professional who works in various areas of the economy cannot operate without knowledge of computer technology, computer programs and the latest technology at work."**

– Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov,  
President of Turkmenistan

Gulnur Yusupova, a family doctor, learned computer and Internet skills through the USAID-funded Promotion of Information Communication Technology in Turkmenistan (PICTT) program as part of the retraining courses for doctors from the clinic where she works. She recently shared how her skills helped her professionally and financially.

Doctors at her clinic were told they urgently needed to move records to an electronic patients' database. Gulnur and her colleagues were some of the only doctors in the clinic who were adequately armed with the skills to perform the task. "While other doctors rushed to over-priced computer courses... we were ready for the change. I appreciate the timely and high-quality training offered by the PICTT program," said Gulnur Yusupova.

Recently, the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, introduced efforts to computerize health and education facilities and open access to the Internet to strengthen the country's education and health systems. According to *Neutral Turkmenistan*, on January 11, 2011, the president said, "We understand that currently, every professional who works in various areas of the economy cannot operate without knowledge of computer technology, computer programs and the latest technology at work."

President Berdimukhamedov stressed the need for government workers to learn computer skills. However, there are limited free options such as PICTT for retraining, and paid ICT courses cost roughly \$100 to \$200, which would sap 45% to 70% of an average teacher's or doctor's monthly paycheck.

PICTT provides educational institutions, teachers and students with essential technology tools that enhance classroom learning and develop participatory educational methodology through online resource development, teacher training and the integration of ICT into education. The story of Dr. Yusupova reflects the need in the country for ICT skills and is an example of how USAID supports the government's goal of developing its human capacity.