



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

U.S. foreign assistance coordinated by the Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (ACE) advances the United States' foreign policy objectives of a sovereign, independent, and stable Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. government (USG) assistance supports the Kyrgyz Republic's continued democratic development, economic reforms, and security priorities, including countering threats posed by transnational criminal organizations. USG assistance also promotes improved educational and strengthened health-care systems, which are critical to the country's economic and political future. Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance programming continues to be the largest portfolio. While the Kyrgyz Republic has periodically faced governance challenges and instability, U.S. investments have had a significant long-term impact -- Kyrgyz civil society and independent media remain the most robust and mature in the region.

over \$2.1 billion

USG assistance since 1992

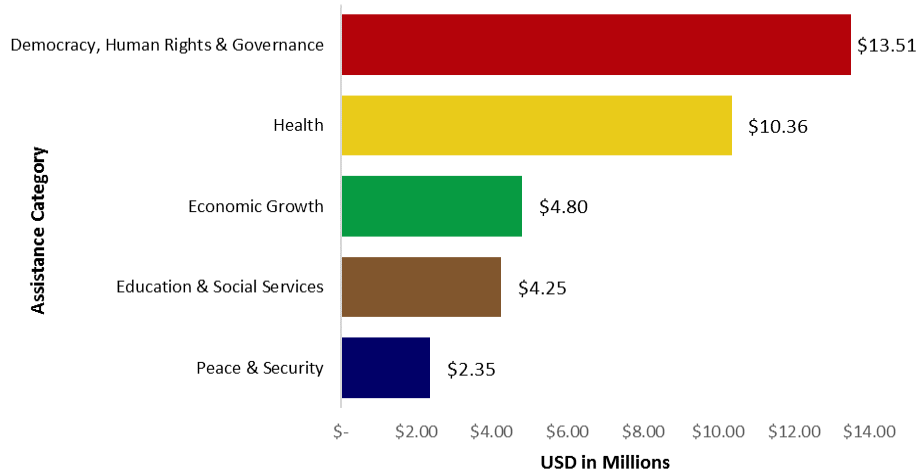
\$35.3 million

State/USAID assistance for FY 2020*

\$7.8 million

COVID-19 assistance**

FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic by Category* (\$35.3m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or \$4.38 million in FY 2020 COVID supplemental funds.

**COVID assistance includes reprogrammed, supplemental, and other USG funds.

NOTE: The assistance highlights below are examples of results achieved by funding in each category in the chart.



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) implements a community policing program to build trust and cooperation between the police and the public to promote respect for human rights and good governance. With the participation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in FY 2020, the program opened three new crime-prevention centers, bringing to 35, the total number opened since the program began in 2014. These centers serve as a welcoming environment for community members to approach police to strengthen efforts to prevent crime, reduce domestic violence, combat illicit drugs, and reduce the drivers of violent extremism.



ANTI-CORRUPTION, RULE OF LAW & GOOD GOVERNANCE ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USG good-governance assistance has resulted in 50 partner municipalities adopting more effective management tools, enabling residents to participate more actively in decision-making processes and advocate for concrete, visible changes in their daily lives. As a result, after four years of consistent USAID support, over 410,000 residents from 34 municipalities gained access to clean drinking water, nearly 600,000 citizens in 41 municipalities have improved sanitary conditions, and 388,000 children and youth from 32 municipalities now benefit from publicly supported sports and extracurricular activities. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the INL Bureau also foster constructive citizen-government engagement to combat corruption, strengthen the rule of law, and assist with the implementation of prosecutorial and judicial reforms.

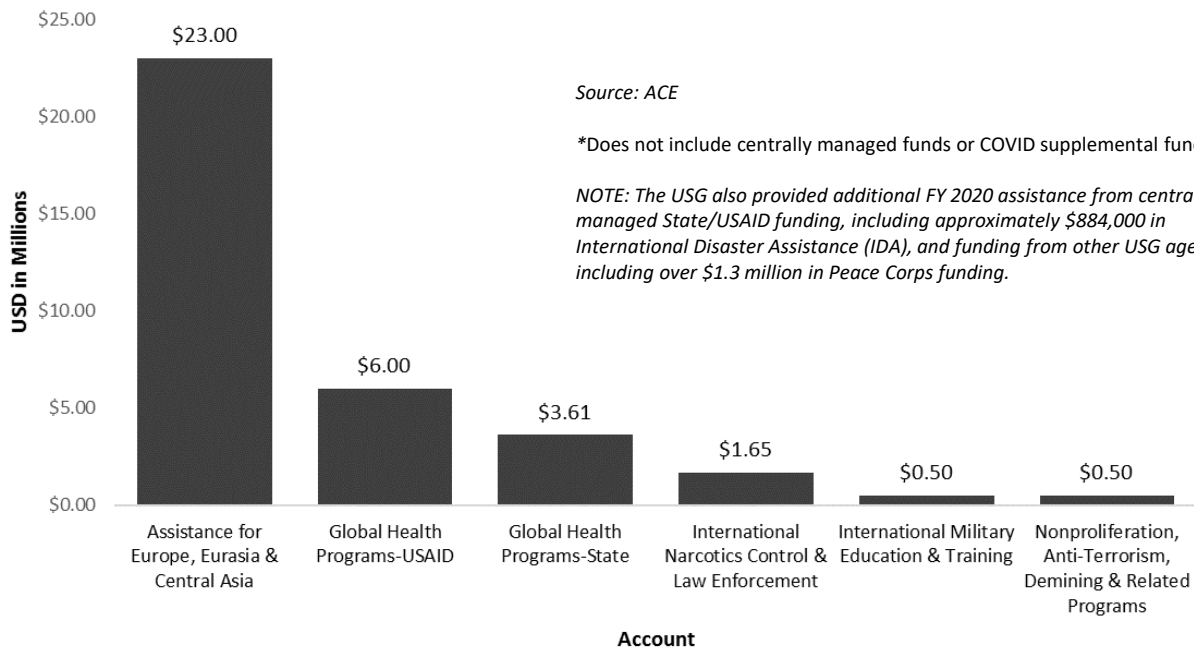


EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID is a lead donor in the basic-education sector, with nationwide investments dedicated to enhancing the quality of instruction and improving learning outcomes in reading and math. This platform was a critical support to the Ministry of Education and Science when the COVID-19 pandemic forced a rapid transition to virtual education; the program developed three advanced reading modules and five math training modules in English, Kyrgyz, and Russian languages, along with support applications and a training module for teachers that can be taken either online, offline, or in combination. At the request of the Ministry, USAID supported the production of more than 570 video lessons for remote education in reading and math in primary grades. These video lessons were the country's chief means for educating students during the pandemic. USAID's partner produced and uploaded online more than 250 different books for grades 1-4 in Russian and Kyrgyz with illustrations by local authors; these have been posted online on various platforms in the country, including the Ministry's website. In addition, the Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) of the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek launched a program to provide classes, study materials, quizzes, and communication tools for comprehensive distance learning in remote areas lacking internet connection, providing platforms for new teachers and content publishers, giving rural schoolchildren and their parents alternatives for studying with emerging teachers and storytellers.



FY 2020 ACE-Coordinated State/USAID Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic by Account* (\$35.3m)



Source: ACE

*Does not include centrally managed funds or COVID supplemental funds.

NOTE: The USG also provided additional FY 2020 assistance from centrally managed State/USAID funding, including approximately \$884,000 in International Disaster Assistance (IDA), and funding from other USG agencies, including over \$1.3 million in Peace Corps funding.



HEALTH ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID health programming focuses on improving maternal, infant, and young child nutrition behaviors and fighting infectious diseases, including HIV and tuberculosis. The Kyrgyz Republic has one of the highest rates of drug-resistant tuberculosis in the world, and the investments in containing the spread of these diseases proved critical in supporting the country's health system as it pivoted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the pandemic, the USG has provided over \$6 million in COVID-19 mitigation assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic, including \$4.38 million in USAID COVID-19 supplemental resources, \$1.4 million in USAID existing resources, and \$114,000 in State existing resources. USAID assisted the national reference laboratory system that previously focused primarily on tuberculosis (TB) to shift priorities to meet COVID-19 testing needs. Rather than develop an entirely new tracking and notification system for COVID-19 testing, USAID's TB partner was able to optimize the existing system to include a new module for diagnosis of COVID-19 and place it in all 12 national laboratories, providing real-time data on all lab results. USAID also supported development of an SMS notification system, with appropriate safeguards to protect personal information, to inform patients of their COVID-19 test results, providing a link where recipients can log in to view their test results and download or print their results in a PDF document.



INDEPENDENT MEDIA & COUNTERING DISINFORMATION ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USG assistance aims to strengthen the independence and capacity of local media to hold leaders accountable and keep the public informed. At the height of the pandemic in the Kyrgyz Republic, USAID supported a prime-time, political debate program featuring academics, politicians, public figures and civic activists who discussed the most pressing issues for Kyrgyz citizens. Focusing on themes like the COVID-induced banking crisis and loan repayments for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the increase in domestic violence during quarantine, the state of the Kyrgyz health care system, and abuses by security services, the show gave Kyrgyzstanis the critical information they weren't getting from State television. In order to counter increased disinformation at the beginning of the pandemic, USAID supported media fact checkers; within one month they had verified over 120 pieces of fake news from Bishkek and the country's regions.



CIVIL SOCIETY & POLITICAL PROCESSES ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

USAID has long supported civil-society efforts to defend democratic and civic space in the Kyrgyz Republic. In FY 2020, USAID supported timely legal assistance to civil society organizations to successfully combat draft legislation designed to intimidate and harass independent civil society through additional and burdensome reporting requirements. In FY 2020, USAID also supported civil society to undertake a statistically based domestic election observation of the 2020 Parliamentary election, including both short- and long-term observers, which highlighted significant voter fraud. USG assistance also helped citizens and Members of Parliament (MPs) to hold the government accountable during the pandemic by helping MPs set up virtual public hearings; these live sessions attracted well over 1,000 people each and the recordings have been viewed tens of thousands of times. Restoring communication between the Parliament and citizens has helped highlight human-rights abuses by security forces and inconsistencies in the government's COVID-19 response.



TRADE & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHT

The Kyrgyz Republic's economy is closely tied to Kazakhstan and Russia for transport links, migration, and trade. Limited export markets due to the Kyrgyz Republic's geographic location and limited transport infrastructure, and an economy heavily reliant on remittances undermine the country's medium-term outlook. Microenterprises account for over 20 percent of employment, employing over 400,000 citizens. In FY 2020, USAID leveraged and mobilized more than \$4.2 million in private-sector capital and expertise to accelerate the growth of farmers and small businesses in the apparel, tourism, and agriculture sectors. The USG also supported SMEs' efforts to reach alternative international markets by helping private companies comply with international technical, quality, and safety standards. USAID's investment of \$1.2 million into 32 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) benefited over 3,000 households and small farmers, increasing beneficiary household incomes by at least ten percent. Of these 32 MSMEs, 53 percent are women-led MSMEs or youth-led start-ups.