



British Embassy
Bishkek

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



BISHKEK 2014



USAID
АМЕРИКАНЫН ЭЛИНЕН

**Кыргыз
Республикасынын
Жогорку
Кеңешине
көмөктөшүү
программасы**



<http://kyrgyzstan.usaid.gov>



Department
for International
Development

**Kyrgyzstan
Parliamentary
Strengthening
Program**



<http://www.dfid.gov.uk>



FOREWORD



Welcome to the 2014 edition of the "UK Assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic" Overview of Projects and Activities Funded by British Government in Kyrgyz Republic brochure. We are delighted to share with you the important work we are doing here in close cooperation with our partners from the Kyrgyz Government, civil society, communities and the international aid community. I hope you will find the information presented in this brochure informative and useful for your work.

Since the UK recognised Kyrgyz independence in January 1992, the bilateral relationship has been growing and deepening. The Department for International Development has had a presence here since 1998. In March 2012, the British Embassy in Bishkek was opened, signalling a clear commitment from the UK government to developing stronger and deeper ties between our two countries. Kyrgyzstan is an important partner for the UK in the region. Our priority

here is to support the development of a democratic, stable and prosperous Kyrgyz Republic.

We have several instruments, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence, which help us achieve our goal in Kyrgyzstan. This brochure will provide more detail on each of these instruments, which we hope will give you a better understanding of the work the UK is doing in Kyrgyzstan.

Judith Farnworth
Her Majesty's Ambassador

OVERALL UK PRIORITIES IN KYRGYZSTAN

Mission:

The UK works with Kyrgyz partners to develop the bilateral relationship, and to promote security, democratisation and prosperity. UK work is focused on deepening democracy in Kyrgyzstan and incorporating international principles in Kyrgyz legislation; supporting defence and security co-operation; working to reduce conflict; fostering sustainable economic growth; promoting person-to-person contacts between our two countries; and providing modern and efficient consular services to British nationals.

Priorities:

- **Promoting stability and prosperity in Kyrgyzstan** - Together with international donors, we are assisting the Kyrgyz government in developing and implementing coherent and effective governance and reform programmes, which promote economic and social development for all.
- **Preventing conflict in Kyrgyzstan** - We are working with Kyrgyz and international partners, to help the Kyrgyzstan government deepen democracy and embed international human rights standards in Kyrgyz law.
- **Supporting development in Kyrgyzstan** - Promoting good governance and a favourable investment climate is paramount to the development of Kyrgyzstan. The Department for International Development (DFID) works with the Kyrgyz government and civil society to ensure that the state is accountable to its citizens, and to support the Kyrgyz government's efforts

to improve the quality and transparency of its scarce public finances.

- **Improving business links with Kyrgyzstan** - We aim to contribute to Kyrgyz and UK prosperity by encouraging reform to improve the overall business and investment climate in Kyrgyzstan, and by identifying potential opportunities for UK business. We welcome approaches from British business operating in or considering entering the Kyrgyz market.

INSTRUMENTS

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

About: DFID has been active in the Kyrgyz Republic since 1998 and continues its operation from our newly established Embassy in Bishkek.

Funding allocated/available: Over the 2009-15 programming period, some J27.4m (\$41m) have been allocated to projects and budget support in Kyrgyzstan.

Objectives of DFID in Kyrgyzstan are:

- Strengthening democracy, promoting equality and improving public financial management
- Promoting an improved business climate
- Increasing accountability of and public trust in the Jogorku Kenesh
- Promoting government policies which are more pro-poor and a reduction in inter-ethnic conflict
- Supporting regional trade in goods and energy and supporting migration
- Working with rural communities e.g. to mitigate the impact of climate change

Table of DFID-supported activity in Kyrgyzstan in 2009-2015

| Title | Implementer | Purpose | Duration | Amount |
|---|--|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Support to UNICEF's Equity Programme in Southern Kyrgyzstan | UNICEF | Improved peace and stability and a lessening of ethnic tension in the conflict affected areas of Southern Kyrgyzstan | 2012 – 2015 | £5 mln |
| Strengthening Public Finance Management | Ministry of Finance | To strengthen effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of Public Finance Management | 2009 – 2015 | £5 mln |
| Deepening Democracy in the Kyrgyz Republic | USAID | Improved service to the interests of the poorer citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic through the role of Parliament | 2012 – 2015 | £4 mln |
| Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Phase 2 | ARIS (Community Development and Investment Agency) | To strengthen the policy, legislation and delivery of safe water, sanitation and hygiene at village and family level in 3 oblasts (provinces) Issyk-Kul, Talas and Naryn. ADB target the remaining 4 oblasts Chui, Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh | 2009 – 2014 | £1 mln |
| Central Asia Regional Migration Programme | International Organization for Migration, UN Women, World Bank | Protecting the rights and enhancing the social and economic benefits of migrant labour, and ensuring labour migration benefits both -sending and -receiving countries. | 2010 – 2015 | £5,9 mln |
| Central Asia Programmatic Poverty Assessment | Governments of Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan National Statistics Committees | To strengthen national poverty assessment systems in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic to track and analyse poverty and human development outcomes. | 2010 – 2015 | £1 580 000 |
| Central Asia Investment Climate Programme | International Finance Corporation | The Programme will promote investment climate reform, through improving the quality of legislation at the central government level, promoting compliance and implementation by large and small businesses in the major cities and in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. | 2012 – 2015 | £3 mln |

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THE UNITED KINGDOM'S CONFLICT POOL FOR CENTRAL ASIA

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About: The Conflict Pool, established in 2001 and re-structured in 2008, is managed jointly by three UK Government Departments: The Department for International Development (DfID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The British Embassy in Bishkek provides a regional hub for the Central Asia Regional Conflict Adviser and the Projects Officer. Our priorities for Conflict Pool projects in Central Asia are to reduce the potential for conflict and to promote stability in the region. The programme currently runs 24 one- to three-year projects on improving security and justice. We also focus on building the capacity of local communities and governments to prevent and resolve conflicts, and increasing the capacity of security and law enforcement institutions, as well as developing economic cooperation, trust and dialogue in communities across conflict divides and borders.

Funding allocated/available: The total budget available for projects in Central Asia is approximately £7 million for the period 2013-15.

Objectives of the Conflict Pool for Central Asia:

- Increased links & understanding across conflict divides and in border areas between Central Asian states and between Central Asian states and Afghanistan.
- Improved compliance with and application of international human rights standards in the security and justice sectors aimed at reducing the number, coverage and seriousness of conflicts and security problems affecting the governments and citizens of Central Asian states.
- Improved capacity of the national justice and security sector (police, military, border guards, counternarcotics agencies) to prevent and reduce violence and criminality and to effectively police borders.

Table of Conflict Pool supported activity in Kyrgyzstan in 2012-2015

| Title | Implementer | Purpose | Duration | Amount |
|---|---|---|-----------------|---------------|
| Research in action | INTRAC | Enhanced civil society capacity to research potential conflicts and improve accountability of local government by lobbying for basic rights and services to marginalised and vulnerable communities | 2012 – 2015 | £111,000 |
| Management of conflict over pasture resources | Camp Alatoo | Increased capacity of local institutions to manage the current conflicts over pasture resources in the watershed of Leylek river in the South of Kyrgyzstan | 2012 – 2015 | £148,500 |
| Promoting resolution of the issues of statelessness in southern Kyrgyzstan | Ferghana Valley Lawyers Without Borders | Creating an enabling environment for stateless persons and people that lost documents proving their identity and citizenship due to the mass disturbances in the South Kyrgyzstan to get a legal status in order to participate fully in civic life and thus be less prone to resorting to extremism as a solution to exclusion | 2012 – 2013 | £45,080 |
| Community Security and conflict prevention in Ferghana Valley Phase III (3 years) | Saferworld | Communities and security providers work together to resolve local security problems and build confidence in the Ferghana Valley, including across borders and ethnic divides | 2012 – 2015 | £409,728 |

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| Upstream Conflict Prevention in Central Asia (UCPCA) | International Alert | Improving ability of communities along the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border to resolve disputes at the local level and resilience to nationalism and radicalisation | 2012 – 2015 | £392,000 |
| Interaction of young people across ethnic lines and public discourse on youth's role in building peace and strengthening tolerance | UNICEF Kyrgyzstan | Increased capacity of young people in conflict-prone areas in Osh and Jalalabad provinces to express themselves and interact in a meaningful manner across ethnic lines with the help of youth theatres. A nationwide public discourse on young people's concerns and their role in building peace and strengthening tolerance through a series of television programmes | 2012 – 2015 | £192,800 |
| OSCE Secondee – Bishkek | OSCE Centre in Bishkek | Supporting OSCE Secondee – Bishkek | 2012 – 2013 | £198,000 |
| Capacity Building for Conflict Prevention in Kyrgyzstan | Institute for Public Policy | Decreasing the conflict potential in the country by introduction of peace education to youth and providing experts analyses of the most pressing and conflict-sensitive issues to stakeholders | 2013 – 2015 | £240,000 |

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| Enhancing Capacity of the Kyrgyz Republic for Physical Security and Stockpile Management of the SALW and CA | OSCE Centre in Bishkek | Strengthening the capabilities of the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic to effectively manage and control the Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition (SALW and CA) stockpiles | 2013 – 2015 | £480,005 |
| Strengthening capacity to counter violent religious extremism in Kyrgyzstan | Search for Common Ground | State institutions and religious leaders effectively work together to prevent Islamist radicalisation and promote positive uses of Islam in resolving conflicts | 2013 – 2015 | £529,157 |
| Mitigating Conflict through Increased Access to Irrigation Water | MSDSP KG | Institutions and procedures put in place to mitigate conflicts over irrigation water in Naryn oblast | 2013 – 2015 | £249,769 |
| Human rights protection for conflict prevention and stability in the South of Kyrgyzstan | OHCHR Osh | Improved human rights situation in the South of Kyrgyzstan with a reduced number of human rights violations, in particular in the area of administration of justice and fight against torture | 2013 – 2015 | £186,198 |

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| Mitigating the effects of and the potential for conflict in Kyrgyzstan through targeted investments in the protection of the most marginalized children and youth | UNICEF Kyrgyzstan | The most vulnerable and marginalised girls and boys benefit from social services (psychological, legal and social support to child victims of violence and abuse as well as rehabilitation and re-integration support programmes (such as life skills programmes) for girls and boys who are about to be released from juvenile justice institutions) in targeted areas of the country that promote social cohesion between and within communities and the respect for child rights and help reduce inequities, tensions and conflict potential | 2013 – 2015 | £595,990 |
| Prevention and reduction of electoral conflicts, creation of favourable conditions for their resolution | Public Foundation “Legal Clinic “Adilet” | Creating a favorable legal environment in the electoral process, improved observance and ensuring of electoral rights, increased public confidence in state authorities and reduced number of electoral conflicts in the Kyrgyz Republic | 2013 – 2015 | £197,129.46 |
| Reducing the potential for conflict at the state borders through assistance in resolving the problem of statelessness and documentation of the population in border areas | Ferghana Valley Lawyers without Borders (Public Union) | Reducing the potential for conflict at the state borders through assistance in resolving the problem of statelessness and documentation of the population in border areas in order to participate fully in civic life and thus be less prone to resorting to extremism as a solution to exclusion | 2013 – 2015 | £123,530 |

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| Humanisation of the criminal justice systems of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through establishing criminal legislative codes in line with international human rights standards | Penal Reform International | Criminal justice systems of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are strengthened and more humane through establishing criminal legislative codes that comply with international human rights standards | 2013 – 2015 | £159,612 |
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FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE (FCO) BILATERAL PROGRAMME BUDGET

About: Projects supported through the Bilateral Programme Budget on behalf of the FCO are small-scale, one-year projects aimed at promoting advocacy and respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic norms, as well as stability, economic prosperity and progress in cooperation with

the Kyrgyz Government and civil society.

Objectives of the Bilateral Programme Budget in Kyrgyzstan are to:

- Increase respect for human rights
- Strengthen the rule of law
- Support democratisation
- Build stability
- Foster economic prosperity

Funding allocated/available: In the 2013-2014 financial year (which runs from April to March) the Embassy is implementing initiatives together worth J57000. These aim to increase bilateral cooperation and understanding between the British and Kyrgyz governments through the:

Criminal Justice Dialogue – A series of inward and outward visits by Kyrgyz and UK experts aimed at strengthening mutual understanding of the two criminal justice systems; and supporting reform of the Kyrgyz system. The dialogue includes:

- A British Crown Prosecution Service visit in June 2013 to the Kyrgyz Prosecutor General's Office for an exchange of knowledge, practices and skills;
- Visit to Kyrgyzstan by Ben Morgan, Head of Bribery and Corruption Department of the UK Serious Fraud Office
- High-level seminar in November 2013 on "Combatting Corruption: the Experience of the United Kingdom and the Kyrgyz Republic". The session examined the negative impact of bribery and corruption on economic development, and explore British and Kyrgyz governmental approaches to the problem;
- Police seminar in December 2013 on "UK's best practices in policing and criminal evidence". The main goal of the seminar was to inform participants from the Kyrgyz criminal justice system about the British system – including arrest, criminal evidence gathering, and submitting evidence to court.
- In March 2014, study visit of a high level delegation from the Kyrgyz criminal justice system to the UK with an aim of learning more about

the British system in practice. The visit includes meetings with the International Police Complaint Commission, the Probation service, the Crown Prosecution Service, as well as the visit to Brixton prison facility among others.

Contribution to Bir Duino human rights documentary film festival – Promoting media freedom and human rights awareness by screening documentaries charting individual struggles to secure basic human rights. British filmmaker Marc Isaacs claimed the top prize with his film entitled "The Road: A Story of Life and Death" – a human interest documentary film that weaves together stories of loss and the search for belonging of different families and individuals in Italy.

British Week – A series of events celebrating the opening of the British Embassy in Bishkek, including a film festival, poster and art competition and a debating tournament.

Support to the Institute of the Ombudsman of the Kyrgyz Republic – Increasing awareness of the general population of Kyrgyzstan about the Ombudsman's Office and its functional responsibilities through a TV programme aired weekly on national television.

Support to conference on "Public accountability of government and civic participation in good governance" – Aileen Walker, Director of Public Engagement in the Department of Information Services of the UK House of Commons spoke about the importance of trust and transparency between the public and state institutions at an event organised by the Roza Otunbaeva Foundation.

In the 2012-2013 financial year, the Embassy implemented Bilateral Programme Budget projects totalling J80 000. This work reduced violence against children in the juvenile justice system, and supported preparations for democratic elections, including the 2012 local elections.

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UK MINISTRY OF DEFENCE ENGAGEMENT IN KYRGYZSTAN

About: Defence Relations were established between the Governments of UK and Kyrgyzstan through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006. At this time the UK's Defence Attache in Kazakhstan was also accredited to Kyrgyzstan. The MOU intends through cooperation in the Defence sphere to strengthen confidence, stability and security, and the areas of cooperation include: the exchange of information and opinions on arms control, military doctrine, legal and medical matters, the provision of English Language Training and staff, command and tactical training. The Military Cooperation Plan is agreed at annual Defence Staff Talks.

Funding allocated/available: The UK MOD's resourcing of Military Cooperation activities is done differently from Project work. Assistance is provided free at the point of delivery and therefore only travel and subsistence costs for Kyrgyz students are met through the UK's Defence Assistance Fund.

Objectives of the UK Ministry of Defence in Kyrgyzstan include:

- Improved levels of English Language in the Kyrgyz military. This is achieved through language courses in the UK, assistance to English language teachers in Kyrgyzstan, the provision of teaching materials and the development of the testing regime. It operates under the framework of a specific English Language Training MOU.

- Assistance with Peacekeeping training. This is achieved through the provision of instructor courses for officers and non-commissioned contract personnel at the British Military Advisory Training Team in the Czech Republic.
- Exchange of expertise in the area of military legislation and legal support for the Armed Forces, particularly to enable deployment on UN Peacekeeping operations.

Through participation in the regional Peacekeeping Exercise STEPPE EAGLE in Kazakhstan and through deployments on UN Peacekeeping operations the Kyrgyz Armed Forces will gain experience which will assist with Defence Reform.

Examples of Ongoing Military Cooperation:

- Three junior officers attended the British Military English Course at York St John's University in the UK Jan-Mar 13. A further 4 students are planned to attend the course Jan-Apr 14.
- The British Council English Language consultant (Nick Fletcher), who is based in Bishkek, is working closely with the Frunze Military Institute Foreign Languages Department. He provides advice to the English Language teachers and has refurbished the English Language classroom.
- Lecturers from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst delivered a one week Media Operations Course for Peacekeepers at the Frunze Military Institute 25-29 Mar 13.
- Kyrgyz English Language teachers attended a 2 week seminar with other military English Language teachers at the PfP Centre in Almaty in Oct 13 to help improve their teaching skills.
- Approximately 10 junior officers and non-commissioned officers will attend various Peace-

keeping instructor courses run by the British Military Advisory Training Team at Vyskov in the Czech Republic. A senior officer delegation visited the training centre in Feb 13 to be updated on the opportunities for Kyrgyz students.

- It is anticipated that discussions over the provision of equipment to assist in the development of the Kyrgyz Armed Forces Peacekeeping capability will start once UK-Kyrgyz Transit Agreements are concluded. The equipment will become available as UK Forces redeploy from Afghanistan.
- The next round of Defence Staff Talks will take place in Bishkek in Nov 13 and will agree the Military Cooperation Plan for 2014.

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