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### **USAID Supports Educational Opportunities for Children in New Settlements around Bishkek**

On September 1, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Quality Learning Project, supported by the United States Government, will hold a media tour to attend the opening ceremony of the new school year in Kalys-Ordo School # 86, and visit a small grants project in the Ak-Tilek neighborhood, located in the new settlements around Bishkek. USAID Representative Carey N. Gordon will participate in the tour along with education officials of the Kyrgyz Republic.

This year USAID-supported early learning activities are focused on ensuring that 1367 children of school age participate in a 100-hour state-operated training course, preparing children for school and helping their families with school registration. Other activities provide small grants to NGOs to assist children who have dropped out of school, helping them to become motivated to return to the formal education system through accelerated learning courses.

In Ak-Tilek, the project is helping an NGO to build a playground for children and providing training for children on team-building, leadership, and conflict prevention.

In partnership with teachers and social workers of the Municipal Territorial Administrations in 45 new settlements around Bishkek, USAID supported 210 children from low-income families with school registration and provided school uniforms and school stationary.

The USAID Quality Learning Project has been working closely with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Bishkek City Mayor's Office to improve the access and quality of education for children in Kyrgyzstan since 2008.

This is one of many assistance projects supported by the American people through USAID. For more information about USAID programs, visit our website at: <http://centralasia.usaid.gov/kgmap/?lang=ru>

*The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011. USAID was created in 1961 by 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 Kyrgyzstan.*

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