



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### U.S. and Russian Embassies Together Restore Community Sports Center in Osh

On September 14, 2011, the United States Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Russian Consulate in Osh, the State Directorate for Reconstruction and Development (SDRD), NGO “Tuura Kadam”, and the Child Youth Club for Physical Training, have commemorated the rehabilitation of the Child Youth Sports Center in Osh. USAID Representative Ashley Moretz, the Russian Federation representative Sergey Barsukov, and Osh oblast and city government representatives have opened the facilities by launching an oblast-wide volleyball tournament in the renovated sports hall.

In the aftermath of the civil disturbances in June 2010, the lack of public resources for improving community sports facilities jeopardized the future access to public spaces for multi-ethnic activities. To address this, USAID, the Russian Consulate in Osh, and SDRD signed a memorandum of understanding to initiate a joint rehabilitation project. USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) provided a grant to renovate the Child Youth Sports Center in Osh by refurbishing two indoor gyms, and the locker rooms and showers. The SDRD and the Russian Consulate in Osh plan to renovate the Delfin swimming pool at the end of the summer season.

Through an earlier partnership with the Osh-based NGO “Tuura Kadam,” USAID contributed funds to rehabilitate eight tennis courts and a public soccer field near the Delfin complex, and install a new children’s playground. This grant activity was part of USAID/OTI’s “Renewal” campaign to encourage positive interaction among Osh’s multiethnic residents during the summer months. Completed in July 2011, these recreational spaces were among a larger group of similar rehabilitated parks already opened and handed over to communities in the Kulatov, Yugo-Vostok, Cheremushki, Salieva, Oshskiy and Dostuk micro-districts of Osh city.

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