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Dr. Halima Subankulova of Bishkek City Perinatal Center works with new mothers and families to ensure good care of infants once they go home.

## TEACHING EFFECTIVE CARE FOR HEALTHY BABIES

The USAID Quality Health Care Project and the Government of Kyrgyzstan are working together to implement and institutionalize the World Health Organization's Effective Perinatal Care program in maternity hospitals across the country. Through training workshops and supportive mentoring, USAID is teaching health care providers how to provide postpartum counseling to new mothers and their families to prevent serious health problems among newborns.

Dr. Halima Subankulova (far right) explains to her patient that parents can help protect new babies from many health risks. Health care providers advise mothers and families on how to prevent hypothermia and infections among infants, and how to properly breastfeed. In Bishkek City Perinatal Center, which handles over 7,600 deliveries each year, USAID has trained 30% of health care providers, including Dr. Subankulova, in Effective Perinatal Care. Over the next year, USAID will train an estimated 60% of health care providers in Jalal-Abad and Naryn Oblasts and Bishkek.

The USAID Quality Health Care Project is a five-year program to strengthen public health systems in Central Asia and to improve the health of the region's population.

