



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**TURKMENISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

# Business Knowledge Lands Employment

**USAID program alumna obtains a prestigious job in a well-known travel agency**



Photo: Junior Achievement

Kristina Kolesnikova at her workplace.

***“USAID-funded courses helped me become more determined and self-confident. Thanks to these qualities, I was able to secure employment with my current company.”***

***-Kristina Kolesnikova, Junior Achievement alumna***

Today Kristina Kolesnikova manages tourist programs at Ayan Tourist and Travel Company, one of the leading tour operators in Turkmenistan. The 19-year old says that she got this job largely because of her participation in a USAID-supported entrepreneurship training program, operated by Junior Achievement.

“Thanks to USAID-funded Junior Achievement courses, I have not only acquired valuable knowledge in economics and business, but also gained leadership skills, became more determined and self-confident,” she said. “These skills played a huge role at the job interview.”

Kolesnikova was a secondary school student when she first came across the USAID-supported program. With funding from USAID, Junior Achievement was running economics and school company courses at her school, and Kolesnikova decided to enroll. The courses sparked the teenager’s interest and encouraged her to consider business management as a future career option. The courses provided Kolesnikova with a wide variety of knowledge and skills in economics and business, and cultivated such personal qualities as leadership, responsibility, communicability, and self-reliance.

“I was impressed how accessibly and clearly the USAID-funded program explained such complicated concepts as economics, management, and business,” says Kolesnikova. “I am much obliged to USAID for the opportunity to participate in these courses.”

By the time Kolesnikova graduated from school, she was determined to pursue jobs related to business and economics. She soon came across a job advertisement from Ayan Tourist and Travel Company, and submitted her application. Even though Kolesnikova had no work experience in the travel industry, and the competition for the position was steep, the young woman was selected to fill the vacancy.

The new job keeps Kolesnikova busy, but she finds time to participate in the alumni activities of the USAID-supported program. Together with other young professionals that had studied business and entrepreneurship with Junior Achievement, Kristina helps organize and conduct events for young men and women interested in economics, and promotes these programs to the country’s youth.