

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USAID and Counterpart Are Helping Communities Launch Four Economic Development Projects

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, January 15, 2009. The USAID-funded Turkmenistan Community Empowerment Program (TCEP), implemented by Counterpart, is launching four joint economic development projects with local communities in Ahal and Dashoguz velayats.

At the end of December 2008, the Ministry of Economy and Development of Turkmenistan registered four of five economic development projects funded by TCEP, thus giving them a green light for implementation. The projects include setting up a dairy shop in Geoktepe etrap, Ahal velayat, constructing a greenhouse in Boldumsaz etrap, Dashoguz velayat, constructing a cattle farm in Kaahka etrap, Ahal velayat, and building a vegetables and fruits storehouse in Gyrogly etrap, Dashoguz velayat.

These initiatives are of special importance in light of the Turkmen government's steps aimed at ensuring stable growth of the agricultural production. "I am confident the production of our dairy shop will be high quality and in big demand in the market", said a business project manager from Ahal velayat.



Tomato seedlings will be planted in a greenhouse built under the economic stimulus grant in Boldumsaz etrap cluster

The projects are aimed at strengthening the foundations of local economic development in 12 communities, in which animal husbandry, vegetable growing and gardening are considered the priority sub-sectors. With support from USAID and Counterpart, communities assessed their priority needs, worked with the local governments to plan their initiatives, and now will begin their implementation.

TCEP is one of the many programs, made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to create demand for good local governance, increase the skills of Turkmen citizens who seek greater participation in local governance and strengthen communities through increased economic independence.

For additional information please contact: Chary Nurmuhammedov
Counterpart International Turkmenistan
Ashgabat, 744006, 2013 (former Akademika Petrova) Str., 26
Tel: (993 12)36-48-10/36-48-11; Fax: (993 12) 36-48-09
E-mail: hotline@cpart.org

www.counterpart.org