

USAID Katie McDonald's Talking Points
UNECE Country Profile on Housing and Land Management of Tajikistan.
14:30 on May 14, 2013

- Good afternoon and thank you for having me.
- The U.S. Government is an active partner with the Tajik Government in implementing public administration reforms and taking measures to support stable economic development.
- USAID supports many of the recommendations in the country profile, including the need to empower local government, increase funding for water supply and sewage system rehabilitation and development projects, and that fee collection rates should be improved.
- Through USAID's Local Governance Project, we are trying to help implement some of these recommendations. USAID is assisting the Government of Tajikistan in the implementation of the Law on Local Self-Government in Towns and Townships.
- Through this project, USAID is working to improve the national-level policy and legal environment. We are also working to strengthen the capacity of sub-national government officials in budgeting, procuring and managing communal services.
- In addition, we will work with communities and civil society to increase the participation of citizens in the local decision-making process.
- USAID also supports the recommendations on land administration, and our upcoming land reform project will support their implementation.
- Building on the success of supporting the government to amend the land code, USAID will provide technical assistance for the development of a land policy to guide unified governance of land tenure and land administration.
- We will also assist in the drafting of legislation and implementing regulations which are needed to ensure that the recent land code amendments fulfill the promise of strengthened land tenure and a well-functioning market in land use rights.
- USAID will build the capacity of civil society organizations, public officials and individual farmers to understand and capitalize on changes to the land code.
- The profile's recommendation on energy-efficient heating systems is also well taken. A USAID project working with the Dushanbe-city hukumat demonstrated the potential of solar water heating, individual apartment heating systems with automated controls, and retro-fitted insulation for apartment blocks, which reduced heating costs by more than 30%.
- I am happy to be here today because, in all of our efforts, USAID cooperates closely with the Government of Tajikistan and with other key donors.
- Thank you for your time and attention.