

Kyrgyzstan receives US\$9m grant from EFA FTI Catalytic Fund

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Kyrgyzstan received US\$9 million grant from the **Education For All Fast Track Initiative** Catalytic Fund for the period of 2007-2008. The World Bank administers the grant. In case, Kyrgyzstan successfully spends the first grant the **EFA FTI** Catalytic Fund will extend the next grant worth US\$6m, said World Bank representatives in a meeting with Finance Minister.

The Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science selected Batken, Naryn and Chui oblasts as the oblasts having problems with access to quality education. Almost 50% of the grant funds will be used for repair of 49 secondary schools in Batken, Naryn and Chui oblasts. Some 40% of the funds will be used for purchase of school furniture, learning materials, publication of children's books for 300 schools and 99 kindergartens of these three oblasts of the country, said the press office of the Kyrgyz Finance Ministry.

Finance Minister Japarov said it is necessary to consolidate efforts in construction and major repair of secondary schools. The Finance Minister believes it is necessary to develop a scheme which would clearly show the scope of funds used for repair and construction of schools, since the state and donor agencies allocate significant amount of money into this sector, the main goal is to monitor transparency and effectiveness of use of these funds. AKIpress