



REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECT

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2015**

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECT

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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Cover Photo: George A. Krol, U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan, delivering the welcome speech at the 5th Annual Central Asian Trade Forum

USAID Regional Economic Cooperation Project Quarterly Report

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AmCham	American Chamber of Commerce
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project
B2B	Business to Business
CATF	Central Asian Trade Forum
CAR	Central Asian Republics
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
EBRD	European Bank of Reconstruction and Development
EPG	Export Partnership Group
EU	European Union
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GOK	Government of Kazakhstan
GOU	Government of Uzbekistan
LOI	Letter of Intent
MEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MFERIT	Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investments and Trade
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PMU	Project Management Unit
REC	USAID Regional Economic Cooperation Project
RFA	Request for application
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SOW	Scope of Work
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID's Regional Economic Cooperation Project (REC) focuses on export development and trade among Central-Asian countries, Afghanistan, and larger trading partners. REC supports increased sales and export readiness for firms in several industries including textiles, organic farming, horticulture, fruits and vegetables packaging, pharmaceuticals, and transport and logistics. It assists firms in these sectors by providing information and analysis, building the capacity of exporters, empowering women entrepreneurs, and by facilitating Business to Business (B2B) networking in South and Central Asia. This quarterly report covers the period from October to December 2015.

During the reporting period, REC's main accomplishments include:

- On October 28-29, 2015, the United States hosted the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum (CATF) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, bringing together more than 1,000 entrepreneurs, traders, businessmen, and policymakers from Central and South Asia, and the broader region, in order to promote regional economic connectivity. Building on the success of previous Forums, this year's CATF resulted in signed protocols of intent and memoranda of cooperation, valued at more than \$45 million.
- This year, Uzbekistan sent its first official delegation to the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum and is looking forward to future participation in this regional forum, illustrating the growing priority Central Asian governments are placing on trade promotion activities and the connectivity agenda.
- At CATF V, Mokhir Company, of Uzbekistan and Alizada brothers LTD, an importer from Afghanistan, signed a letter of intent to supply more than 7,000 tons of mung beans, and about 12,000 tons of kidney beans (valued at around \$20 million USD) to Afghanistan.
- Sixty participating companies took part in the CATF V Trade Fair to showcase and promote their products and network with new partners, which resulted in Karaganda Mill Factory of Kazakhstan signed letters of intent with the Afghan importers to supply about 60,000 tons of Kazakhstani wheat flour to Afghanistan (valued at more than \$20 million USD).
- Thirty-eight Central Asian exporters participated in "The Best Exporter of the Central Asian Trade Forum" contest in order to present their companies' achievements.
- After the fifth annual CATF, companies from Pakistan have started to negotiate with Kazakhstani companies to establish joint ventures in Kazakhstan. As a result, MADINA STEEL WORKS, a Pakistani company specializing in roll forming, door frames, and steel roofs have decided to set up a Joint Venture with Kazakhstani business in Karaganda. Another Pakistani company, N.K CORPORATION that produces clothes and bed sheets will set up a textile joint venture with a Kazakhstani Company in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.
- During CATF V, REC's strategic partners from Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan were awarded with certificates of appreciation for their cooperation with REC in the areas of trade facilitation for better cross-border cooperation, export competitiveness and sales

increase, export promotion competitiveness, implementation of USAID's gender strategy, improving business environment for female empowerment and development of transport and logistics in Central Asia.

- As a follow-up to CATF V, REC cooperated with GIZ to facilitate a training-seminar “New Realities and Requirements on Transport and Logistics in Kazakhstan and Other Countries of the Eurasian Economic Union” in Tashkent on November 12-13, 2015. As a result, the companies are now finalizing three business contracts for transportation services to supply 1,500-2,000 tons of flour from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, 650 tons of rice from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, and 500 tons of sunflower seeds and 1,000 tons of grain from Kazakhstan to Afghanistan every month.
- On December 21-23, 2015, the REC project partnered with the ARGO Civil Society Development Association to conduct a three-day training seminar on innovative approaches to financial literacy for fifteen members of the ASIA Business Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

SECTION I TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION

SUPPORT EXPORT PARTNERSHIPS GROUPS

A. Fifth Annual Central Asian Trade Forum

On October 28-29, 2015, the United States hosted the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum (CATF) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, bringing together more than 1,000 entrepreneurs, traders, businessmen, and policymakers from Central and South Asia, and the broader region, in order to promote regional economic connectivity. This year, Uzbekistan sent its first official delegation to the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum and is looking forward to future participation in this regional forum, illustrating the growing priority Central Asian governments are placing on trade promotion activities and the connectivity agenda. As in previous years, the CATF resulted in a number of new business deals and agreements for Central Asian businesses, valued at more than \$45 million.

CATF V highlights include:

- The Uzbek Association of International Business & Technologies (AMBIT) and the IPM Business School of Belarus became acquainted at the Forum and announced their intention to organize consulting and trainings on textiles and educational business development in Uzbekistan.
- The Central Asian Crafts Support Association (CACSA/TJ), a member of the Business ASIA Association of Women-Entrepreneurs, and SPINNA Circle LTD (UK), signed a letter of intent (LOI) to build capacity and promote sustainable trade and economic cooperation in the textiles sector for \$70,000.
- The Pakistani company Madina Steel Works (roll forming, door frames, steel roof, corrugated sheets) set up a Joint Venture with Kazakhstani business in Karaganda after visiting CATF V and World Food Exhibition in Shymkent.
- Another Pakistani company, N.K Corporation (clothes, bed sheets) will set up a textile Joint Venture with a Kazakhstani company in Shymkent.
- Mokhir Company of Uzbekistan and Alizada brothers LTD, an importer from Afghanistan, signed a letter of intent to supply more than 7,000 tons of mung beans, and about 12,000 tons of kidney beans (valued at around \$20 million USD) to Afghanistan.
- Karaganda Mill Factory, Kazakhstan signed letters of intent with Afghan importers to supply about 60,000 tons of Kazakhstani wheat flour to Afghanistan (valued at more than \$20 million USD).



Minister Aitzhanova delivers her remarks at the CATF V press-conference, October 28, 2015, Almaty

One thousand and nine people attended CATF V. These participants included 751 entrepreneurs, 72 representatives of state bodies, 82 representatives of associations and chambers of commerce and industry, and 104 representatives from international organizations. Not only was this the highest turnout in CATF's history, the geographic representation was also larger than in previous years. Representatives from twenty countries attended CATF V, including each Central Asian Republic, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lithuania, Great Britain, Russia, Belarus and other European countries.

Four hundred and fifty government representatives and leaders from the private sector took part in the plenary session on the first day of the Trade Forum to discuss the current trade situation in their respective countries. The Minister of Economic Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Zhanar Aitzhanova, shared important statistical and analytical information with CATF participants regarding export and import statistics for the Central Asian countries.

The Central Asian Trade Forum also featured a Trade Exhibition, where producers of different types of goods (foods, textiles, construction materials, healthcare products, etc.) were invited to display their products. Sixty exhibition booths were installed in the CATF exhibition hall to help businesses promote their products and network with new partners. For example, Uzbek farmers displayed their organic fruits and invited participants to sample their products.



Susan Reichle, Counselor to the US Agency for International Development, awards representative of "Domashnee s lyuboviu" LTD – winner of the "Best Exporter of the Central Asian Trade Forum" Contest

Thirty-eight Central Asian exporters participated in "The Best Exporter of the Central Asian Trade Forum" contest in order to present their companies' achievements. Contestants answered questions related to their export volumes and business deals of the previous year. Based on a comparative chart, a panel of judges analyzed responses to selected the winners. The panel of judges included the Director of the National Agency for Export and Investment «KAZNEX INVEST», the Head of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's National Business Advisory Services (BAS) project, the Deputy General Director of the Almaty Chamber of Commerce and Investments, and REC staff members.

CATF V winners:

- *Largest Export Volume* – 1) Rakhat JSC, manufacturers of confectioneries from Kazakhstan, 2) KhimPharm JSC, a pharmaceutical company from Kazakhstan, and 3) Ordabasy Kus, a poultry farm from Kazakhstan.
- *Best Exporter to Developed Markets* - Artel Company, a manufacturer of home appliances from Uzbekistan. Artel successfully exported its products to Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Russian Federation, Turkey and Central Asian countries.
- *Best Exhibition Booth Display* - Domashnee s lyuboviu LTD, a frozen food producer from Kazakhstan.

All materials and the list of participants from CATF V are available on the website (<http://eng.catradeforum.org/> in English and <http://www.catradeforum.org/> in Russian).

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D. Upcoming Activities

- Horticultural Exports Forum (seminar on implementation of Global Gap international standard at Uzbekistani horticultural enterprises and round table on diversification of export from Uzbekistan), Uzbekistan, February 24-26, 2016
- Seminar on GMP Certification, Kazakhstan, March 2016.

SUPPORT WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM (WES) FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES

A. Business Association of Women-Entrepreneurs "ASIA" grant

The REC Project, in collaboration with its grantee- the Business Association of Women-Entrepreneurs "ASIA" held a roundtable on women entrepreneurship in October that was attended by 50 participants, within the framework of the CATF V. Roundtable participants included representatives of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund (Kazakhstan), EBRD, women NGOs and organizations from Central Asia and Afghanistan, members of the Business Association of Women-Entrepreneurs "ASIA", and SPINNA Circle, among others. Participants discussed issues related to the economic dimension of gender equity, development of women entrepreneurship in the textile industry, and social entrepreneurship.



Meruert Kazbekova, President of the ASIA Association delivers a speech during the roundtable, CATF V, October 29, 2015, Almaty

As a result of this roundtable on women's entrepreneurship, participating women-entrepreneurs established business connections that resulted in increased sales. They signed Memoranda of Cooperation and letters of intent totaling more than \$300,000. For example, Best Woman LLP from Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with Mokhir Company to assist in obtaining a wholesale license to sell dietary food supplements and supplying horticultural products totaling \$2,300. Two other members of the "ASIA" Association— Ardak Travel LLP based in Kazakhstan, and Yayra Tour Agency based in Uzbekistan—signed a memorandum of cooperation to organize study tours to Tashkent and Samarkand for 18 schoolchildren from Kazakhstan, totaling \$3,600. SPINNA Circle LTD/UK and Humanitarian Organization for Local Development (HOLD)/ Afghanistan, signed a letter of intent for \$70,000 to organize training workshops and to further the work of empowering women entrepreneurs in the textiles and fashion industries while bringing their products into global market places.

On December 21-23, 2015, the REC project partnered with the ARGO Civil Society Development Association to conduct a three-day training seminar on innovative approaches to financial literacy for fifteen members of the ASIA Business Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Training topics included issues related to credit market,

stock market, insurance, developing a strategy for financial sustainability, and social entrepreneurship to enhance business opportunities. As a result of this training, members of the ASIA Association improved their financial literacy knowledge and developed a strategic plan for the Association's financial sustainability.

B. SPINNA Circle Grant

At the CATF V, REC's grantee SPINNA made a presentation at the Roundtable on Women Entrepreneurship, highlighting their concept development, and how the organization works with women from Central Asia to take their skills into international markets. SPINNA Circle also took part in the CATF V Trade Exhibition, where it had a booth to showcase textiles products produced by women-artisans from all five Central Asian republics. REC worked in close collaboration with SPINNA Circle on organizing the Fashion Show within the CATF V. SPINNA Circle brought women designers with their ethno fashion collection from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.



Rupa Ganguli, founder of SPINNA Circle, negotiates possible future cooperation with Mukarama Kayumova, President of CACSA, CATF V Trade Fair, October 29, 2015, Almaty

C. Upcoming Activities

- Women entrepreneurship roundtable including training seminar and participation in a trade fair to be organized by the ASIA Association as part of the Horticulture Forum, February 2016 in Tashkent (UZ)
- Training workshops on “Product development and market trends” and “Business development and market access” Khujand (TJ) and Margelan, Uzbekistan, February 2016
- Master Class on market trends in textiles, March 2016 in Astana (KZ)

HELP CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES IMPLEMENT PRO-TRADE POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND PROCESSES

A. Develop and manage trade facilitation efforts

Approximately 80 participants of this session discussed foreign trade challenges, how international and donor organizations may support trade facilitation and development in the region, and reviewed Central Asian projects. The session offered participants the chance to share opinions on defining the role of countries, international and donor organizations in trade development within the Central Asian region, and estimate to what extent their activities meet the needs of the countries in the region.



David Brown, Acting Regional USAID Mission Director, Tiziana Bonapace, Head of UN ESCAP Sub-regional Office for North and Central Asia; Holger Wiefel, Regional Head of SBS Program, EBRD, CATF V, October 28, 2015, Almaty

B. Develop and manage transport corridor improvement efforts

To reduce barriers to trade between Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, REC, in cooperation with the GIZ Program "Support to Regional Trade in CA," conducted a panel session "Development of economic corridors: impact on trade in Central Asia" at CATF V. Approximately 90 CATF attendees participated in this session. Parties discussed and provided recommendations for increasing trade, export and transit potential of Central Asian countries. Participants discussed the factors increasing the efficiency of transportation of goods to / from Afghanistan, transportation of fruit and vegetables. Participants noted that effective cross-border trade among Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan would promote economic growth throughout the region. Regional trade is especially important for the landlocked Central Asian states to facilitate and maintain economic growth and development. Key issues that hinder cross-border trade include bottlenecks around customs policies and inefficient road and rail infrastructure. In the transport and logistics sector, enhanced regional integration saves time and money at borders, leading to increased profits and more attractive climates for investors and trading partners. At the fifth Central Asian Trade Forum, more than \$5 million in new contracts were signed in the transport and logistics sector.



REC's manager awards a Certificate of appreciation to Mr. Abdulla Khashimov, Deputy Director General "Smart Transport System Central Asia", CATF V, October 29, 2015



Members of the Transport and Logistics Partnership Group sign a MoU, November 12, 2015, Tashkent

As follow-on to CATF V, representatives of more than forty transport and logistics companies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan came together on November 12-13 in Tashkent to work out the Action Plan for the Transport and Logistics Partnership Group which was established during the CATF V. This group unites transport and logistics associations and businesses from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding by members of the Transport and Logistics Partnership Group and to take part in the training

seminar entitled New Realities and requirements on Transport and Logistics in Kazakhstan and Other Countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, which was organized by the REC project in collaboration with the GIZ Trade Facilitation in Central Asia Program.

C. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Roundtable on development of transport and logistics for delivery of fruits and vegetables, February 24-26, in Uzbekistan.

SECTION II COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

During the reporting period, REC continued promoting awareness of its mission, objectives, activities, and initiatives. REC maintains a website (<http://car-rec.net/>) and Facebook account, posting photos from its events, press-releases, relevant regional news, and training materials. For the reporting period, targeted press releases, announcements and messages were developed to inform, promote, and increase public awareness about REC's activities including those related to CATF V. The press releases/announcements were issued and posted on the website and Facebook account. On all activities, one of the essential aspects of the REC's communications is that the team speaks with one voice. The CATF V was covered using the most effective channels including TV, print media, news agencies and Internet. To provide media and informational support, REC identified seven media partners: Kazakhstan TV Channel, Kursive.kz, Total.kz, Exclusive.kz, And.kz, Business and Vlast Newspaper, and KazTransLogistics Magazine.

The CATF V was featured in the Kazakh and CA media. Below are the links to some publications and broadcasting:

<http://dknews.kz/administrativny-e-i-netarifny-e-bar-ery-prepyatstvuyut-razvitiyu-torgovli-mezhdu-stranami-tsa/>

http://exclusive.kz/poverh_barerov.html

<http://www.adbl.uz/index.php/ru/obuchenie/konferentsii/446-5-j-tsentralno-aziatskij-torgovij-forum-28-29-oktyabrya-2015-goda-g-almaty-kazakhstan>

<http://www.namsb.tj/en/news/item/48-v-central-asian-trade-forum>

http://total.kz/economics/businessesvents/2015/09/23/v_almatyi_proydet_v_tsentralno_aziatskiy_torgoviy_forum

<http://www.inform.kz/rus/article/2833372>

<http://bnews.kz/ru/news/post/303653/>

<http://www.kursiv.kz/news/vlast/vstuplenie-kazahstana-v-vto-posluzit-uglubleniu-torgovli-so-stranami-ca-zanar-ajtzanova/>

<http://www.inform.kz/rus/article/2833220>

<http://and.kz/site/event/161>

<http://inform.kz/kaz/article/2833326>

http://export.gov.kz/kz/news-26471-almatida_ortalik_aziya_sauda_forumi_otip_zhatir

http://forbes.kz/news/2015/09/28/newsid_97542

<http://radiotochka.kz/17649-ssha-kritikuyut-kazahstan-za-torgovlyu.html>

<http://www.review.uz/index.php/novosti-main/item/5235-delegatsiya-uzbekskikh-predprinimatelej-prinyala-uchastie-v-tsentralnoaziatskom-torgovom-forume-v-almaty>

<http://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-26722.htm>

http://forbes.kz//finances/integration/janar_aytjanova_proizvoditeli_uspeyut_podgotovitsya_k_vt_o

<http://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-26746.htm>

http://gazeta.norma.uz/publish/doc/text118829_novye_realii_i_prioritety_torgovli?paper=ntv

TAN TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcY8XAPeBq4>

TAN TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHKwJFPCij8>

http://kaznews.kaztrk.kz/main_news_slider/348-syuzan-raykl-azastan-aryly-tetn-tranzit-orta-aziya-elder-shn-sud-zhaa-mmknkterne-zhol-ashady.html

<http://www.almaty.tv/news/news/kazakhstan-smozhet-zarabotat-na-uzbekskikh-ovoshch.html>

http://kazakh-tv.kz/en/view/business/page_131225_kazakhstan-to-increase-volumes-of-regional-trade

http://kazakh-tv.kz/ru/view/business/page_131225_kazakhstan-to-increase-volumes-of-regional-trade

http://kazakh-tv.kz/kz/view/business/page_131225_kazakhstan-to-increase-volumes-of-regional-trade

Please read below some real examples of the CATF V results:

- *Mokhir Company, Uzbekistan*, is an active participant of the REC organized events. At the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum in 2015, Mokhir Company participated in the exhibition, where they signed LOIs with their Afghan counterpart Alizada Brothers Ltd in the amount of about \$20 million to supply 7,000 tons of mung beans and 12,000 tons of kidney beans from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan. At an earlier Business-to-Business (B2B) event hosted by USAID REC in August 2015, Mokhir signed business contracts with companies from Belarus to export horticulture products totaling \$20 million. Mokhir is now advising the REC project on how to more efficiently organize the next conference in Uzbekistan on horticulture export.

- *EuroTransit Cargo, LLP (Kazakhstan)* and *TransTurkiston CO (Uzbekistan)*, two transport and logistics companies, are active participants of events organized by the USAID REC project. At the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum (CATF) in October 2015, EuroTransit Cargo, LLP and TransTurkiston CO signed a memo of cooperation to jointly manage transportation projects in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan initially valued at \$400,000 USD. As a result, the companies are now finalizing three business contracts for transportation services to supply 1) 1,500-2,000 tons of flour from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan (roughly \$660,000 per month), 2) 650 tons of rice from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan (roughly \$400,000 per month), and 3) 500 tons of sunflower seeds and 1,000 tons of grain from Kazakhstan to Afghanistan (roughly \$1,000,000 per month).
- To demonstrate the European Community’s growing interest in the transport and logistics sector in Central Asia, the fifth annual Central Asian Trade Forum helped facilitate *EuroTransit Cargo, LLP (Kazakhstan)* and *AsstrA Forwarding AG (Switzerland)* sign a Letter of Interest (LOI) to establish joint transportation in Tashkent, Fergana, and Samarkand to deliver horticultural products valued at \$500,000 USD. After on-going negotiations, the two companies have now developed a long-term strategic cooperation plan for forwarding wheat, sunflower seed, rice, flour, barley, sunflower oil, and timber from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan totaling \$1,042,000 USD.
- As a result of the women’s entrepreneurship roundtable at the CATF, members of the “ASIA” Business Association of Women Entrepreneurs established business connections generating new revenue. For example, *Best Woman LLP* from Uzbekistan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with *Mokhir Company* to assist in obtaining a wholesale license to sell dietary food supplements and supplying horticultural products totaling \$2,300. Two other members of the “ASIA” Association, *Ardak Travel LLP* based in Kazakhstan and *Yayra Tour Agency* based in Uzbekistan, signed a memorandum of cooperation to organize study tours to Tashkent and Samarkand for 18 schoolchildren from Kazakhstan totaling \$3,600.

SECTION III PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

To track the project's progress, REC has developed indicators for impact and outcome levels that measure achievements and expected results. There are indicators for each activity objective, as well as indicators that respond to the overall program goal.

For the reporting period, REC has achieved the following results:

- The value of the signed protocols of intent and memoranda of cooperation in quarter 1 exceeded \$45 million.
- The number of firms receiving project-supported capacity-building assistance to increase exports in quarter 1 is 517.
- The number of participants in project-supported trade and investment capacity building trainings in the 1st quarter is 1,049.

Annex A. Calendar of Events

Dates	Meeting / Event	Location
February 3	CATF VI Steering Committee Meeting	Almaty, Kazakhstan
February 24-26 (tentative)	Forum on horticultural exports	Fergana, Uzbekistan
February 1-9, 15-19	SPINNA Circle (grantee) training workshops and master class for women textiles artisans	Astana, Kazakhstan; Margelan, Uzbekistan
February 24-25	ASIA Association (grantee) round table: <i>Development of Trade and Economic Relations among Women Entrepreneurs in CA countries</i>	Uzbekistan
March 29	Seminar: <i>GMP certification as a necessary component of international business</i>	Almaty

Annex B. Grants Pipeline – October – December 2015

Name of the Grantee and Grant Number	Project name and brief description of the objectives	Amount and Period of Performance	Milestone Payments
<p>Business Association of Women-Entrepreneurs “ASIA”</p> <p>Grant No. REC-2015-06</p>	<p><i>Expansion of economic opportunities and cooperation of women entrepreneurs of Central Asia and Afghanistan</i></p> <p>The objective of the proposed grant activity is to develop the Secretariat of the Association and build capacity of the Secretariat and members of the Association through organizing trainings and public events, namely: training seminars on development of women entrepreneurship and regional cooperation for the secretariat and members of the Association; breakout sessions on gender equality in Central Asia in the framework of the VIII Astana Economic Forum; Roundtable for women-entrepreneurs in Tashkent; Roundtable on supporting women entrepreneurs of Central Asia and Afghanistan in the framework of the Central Asian Trade Forum (CATF) and participate in the CATF Trade Fair; Roundtable for women entrepreneurs in Dushanbe.</p>	<p>Total Value: \$100,000</p> <p>Period of Performance: April 23, 2015 – May 23, 2016</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (\$25,000): Capacity building through preparation for and participation in Central Asia and Afghanistan Women's International Forum in Astana, in the framework of the VIII Astana Economic Forum (Kazakhstan) and holding breakout sessions, completed on April 27, 2015</p> <p>Milestone 2 (\$3,000): Capacity building through preparation to training seminars on development of women entrepreneurship and regional cooperation, completed on June 12, 2015</p> <p>Milestone 3 (\$15,000): Capacity building through training seminars on development of women entrepreneurship and regional cooperation and launching preparation to the Roundtable on supporting women entrepreneurship in the framework of Almaty CATF V, completed on July 23, 2015</p> <p>Milestone 4 (\$15,000) : Capacity building through preparation of the Roundtable on supporting women entrepreneurship in the framework of Almaty CATF V, completed on September 15, 2015</p> <p>Milestone 5 (\$16,000) Capacity building through preparation of the Roundtable on women’s entrepreneurship in Tashkent-completed on October 15, 2015</p>

<p>SPINNA Circle Ltd.</p> <p>Grant No. REC-2015-07</p>	<p><i>Strengthening networks in Central Asia and developing markets for women entrepreneurs in textiles through SPINNA Circle.</i> The overall objective of this grant is to increase the competitiveness and visibility of women in textiles and clothing from Central Asia, primarily in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan by creating sustainable business practices. The grant will also build upon existing networks created in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in 2014 by SPINNA, facilitate design collaborations between the countries and promote regional textile skills so as to enable the growth of sustainable trade regionally and internationally for women artisans.</p>	<p>Total Value: \$170,000</p> <p>Period of Performance: June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016</p>	<p>Milestone 1 (\$30,000): Work plan and needs assessment agenda, completed on June 30, 2015</p> <p>Milestone 2 (\$ 25,000): Training and capacity building (preparation), completed on August 15,2015</p> <p>Milestone 3 (\$30,000) Market linkages events, completed on December 15, 2015</p>
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