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July 15, 2002

Mr. Marcus Johnson
USAID/CAR
Office of the Director, Contracts
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20521-7030

RE: Contract No. EEU-I-00-99-00015-00, TO No. 805
UI Project 06901-005, Kyrgyzstan Local Government Initiative
*Quarterly **Task** Order Progress and Cost Report, April to June 2002*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please find enclosed *Quarterly Task Order Progress and Cost Report, April to June 2002, Kyrgyzstan Local Government Initiative*. This report is required by Sections F.5 and F.6 of our Local Government Assistance Initiative Indefinite Quantity Contract.

Please direct any technical questions to Mr. Charles Undeland, CoP, at 011-996-312-66-04-28 or e-mail at cundeland@ui.kg. Questions of a contractual nature should be addressed to me at (202) 261-5396.

Sincerely,

Maria C. Andrade-Stern

Enclosures

cc: Ivan Apanasevich (CEN, ASIA/ODT)
Mike Keshishian (USAID/W)
Charles Undeland (Kyrgyzstan/UI)
USAID Development Clearinghouse
IAC Deliverables File (06901-005)
IAC Chron File

bcc: **Maria C. Andrade-Stern**
IAC Chron Notebook
IAC Staff Person

**QUARTERLY TASK ORDER
PROGRESS AND COST
REPORT**

**KYRGYZSTAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT PROJECT**

APRIL TO JUNE 2002

Prepared for



Kyrgyzstan Local Government Project
United States Agency for International Development
Contract No. EEU-I-00-99-00015-00, Task Order No. 805

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July 2002
UI Project 06901-005

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ATTACHMENT

Cost Report

**QUARTERLY TASK ORDER PROGRESS AND COST REPORT
KYRGYZSTAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT**

APRIL TO JUNE 2002

Task Order No.: EEU-I-00-99-00015-00, Task Order No. 805

Date of Issuance: October 1, 1999

Task Order Description

In October 1999, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contracted the Urban Institute (UI) to implement what became a three-year local government project in Kyrgyzstan. UI is working to improve the efficiency, responsiveness and accountability of local government in Kyrgyzstan by providing training and technical assistance in financial and asset management and democracy and governance, contributing to the development of beneficial national policies affecting local governments and disseminating good practices, both domestic and international. UI has chosen Kant, Tokmok, Naryn and Uzgen as its pilot cities for activities with local impacts.

Amount Obligated Under Task Order:	\$4,515,661
Total Potential Task Order Amount:	\$4,515,661
Dollars Expended To-date:	\$3,490,538

As required by Section **F.5** of the Local Government Contract, below is a description of progress during the last quarter under the above Task Order:

Work Performed During the Previous Quarter

Highlights

- Public budget hearings in 15 cities held to discuss the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 budget
- Bishkek city council adopts procedures for lease, use, and sale of city property, drafted by the Urban Institute (UI)
- UI/Bishkek and Mercy Corps Grants Awarded to Condominiums to build sports facilities
- Recommendations developed on registration of land parcels appurtenant to multi-unit buildings
- Tokmok adopts communal property management plan with aggressive plan to sell/lease

- Local Government Ministry to distribute UI public hearing handbook to every local government head in the country
- In part in cooperation with Eurasia Foundation, computer equipment, with financial and asset management software, and training delivered to **18** cities
- Study tour for mayors and council members from 12 cities to Poland
- Prioritized List of Investment Projects in Naryn completed

Activities

Introduction of Democratic Practices—Citizen Participation

Representatives of the community grant monitoring committees from the 9 winning cities (Balykchy, Batken, Isfana, Karakol, Kyzyk-Kiya, Osh, Uzgen, Tash-Kumyr, and Sulukta) participated in a one-day training session on procurement procedures, after which each of the cities successfully conducted a competitive procurement. Tri-partite agreements between UI, the contractor, and the city are in place except for 4 projects, are expected to be executed shortly. Work is expected to be concluded under the program by the end of August. The total value of projects under this third and final round of grants is approximately \$105,000 of which about \$67,000 is to be covered by funding from UI's grant program.

With UI's assistance, 14 cities conducted public budget hearings on their planned FY 2003 budgets. One planned hearing was called off at the last moment as the mayor got cold feet about presenting data. UI's assistance in holding the hearings consisted of training for different target groups on holding the hearing and the budget process. UI trained and then concluded an agreement with Initiative, a local non-government organization (NGO) to conduct citizen training on the budget process in **18** of Kyrgyzstan's 22 cities in advance of their holding public budget hearings. UI directly trained local councils in the cities on their role in the budget process and in organizing the hearing (UI purposely wanted to have kenesh chairpersons run the hearings, rather than have the hearings be dominated by the mayor). UI gave practical assistance in producing budgets-in-brief and advertising for the hearings.

The timing and substance of these hearings was significant. First, city governments are providing for public view planned figures for revenues and expenditures in 2003, offering their citizens the opportunity to learn and speak out about their local government's priorities in the future. This is a departure from past hearings, which usually focused on past execution of budgets. Second, the hearings were timed to **be** held prior to the initial submission of planned budgets through the Ministry of Finance (MoF) hierarchy. Given Kyrgyzstan's still centralized system of public finance, these planned budgets may change as MoF revises targets for revenues and ceilings on certain expenditures. However, the city governments are consulting with their citizens on priorities from the outset, rather than past practice of local finance departments submitting back-of-the-envelope projections of their planned budget with no discussion at all (often even local councils had not reviewed these figures).

In addition, the Ministry of Local Government requested additional copies of UI's Public Hearing Handbook to distribute to all local governments in the country.

UI worked closely with the team drafting the Citizen's Guide to National and Local Budgets, to be published jointly by UI, UNDP and Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan. The Guide will likely go to press at the end of July.

UI held a competition to produce a series of television programs explaining the role and operations of local governments and how citizens can get involved with their governments. Out of 4 bidders, NBT won the competition. Production will occur over 2 months and the 6 shows of 20 minutes' length) will be aired in September.

Introduction of Democratic Practices—Transparent, Fair Municipal Procedures Established

The Bishkek City Kenesh passed in May new procedures for the transfer of lease, use, economic management, and operative management rights to communal property. The new procedures signify fundamental changes in how the city manages its real estate assets, primarily through the consistent application of competitive procedures and control by the kenesh over management policies. Previously, the majority of the city's property was rented based on normative rates well below market value. UI worked heavily on these new procedures.

The implementation of the procedures has been delayed because of several blocking actions undertaken by the 'land lobby' in the Bishkek city government, led by vice mayor Kulbaev, which was promoting a document that overlapped with UI's recommended document with regard to vacant land. These actions included apparent doctoring of the stenograms of council session approving the procedure, pressure on UI and the city property department to change the text of what had been approved by council, and leaning on the legal department not to register the procedures. UI learned in July that the procedures eventually were registered basically as they had been passed by the council.

Nine cities held competitive procurements under the UI community grants program. In one case there was only one bidder (the complexity of the requested project meant that there were few qualified bidders in the country) and in another only two companies bid. In all cases the tenders were monitored by UI staff and found to have been held satisfactorily,

Introduction of Democratic Practices—Role of Elected Local Councils Increased

In Tokmok, the 2002 and 2003 Strategic Plan for Communal Property Management was discussed and adopted by the City Kenesh. At its next session, the Tokmok City Kenesh will consider the Communal Property Privatization Program for 2002 and decide whether or not to approve it.

The Bishkek lease regulations will enhance the ability of the City of Kenesh to control the process of leasing a broad range of communal property, including bus stops and car parks, which were previously controlled by the city's semi-independent architecture department. In addition, the Kenesh will now have greater control by setting clear policies towards assets and users rather than providing officials in the mayor's office with blanket discretion on what, how, and to whom property is leased.

In the complicated politics leading up to passage of the document, UI turned increasingly to kenesh deputies to try to present the substantive issues and have them take a more assertive role vis-a-vis communal property. Of course, it had been the kenesh, which requested assistance in the first place. The kenesh ended up being the primary mover for reform in the city.

Increased Local Government Capacity—General

The Eurasia Foundation, in cooperation with UI, has awarded 7 cities with grants for office equipment including a computer. UI further is providing only computer equipment to 11 more cities, thereby ensuring that every city government in Kyrgyzstan has a computer that is more or less up-to-date and able to run UI-developed software. This equipment has been delivered effectively to almost all cities in the country. Prior to delivery of equipment, cities had to provide at least 3 employees to undergo a week of computer training on basic computer literacy and UI's two software programs: the FIS and the communal property database. Training was held every week and covered all cities except for Osh, Jalal-Abad and Uzgen, which should undergo training in the week of July 8 (though Jalal-Abad will probably be canceled and the computer will not be provided). In addition to helping the cities modernize, this equipment will allow cities to communicate with each other and the Association of Cities through the Internet.

Increased Local Government Capacity—Financial Management

Two one-week long study tours were conducted in Poland on Practical Approaches to Improve Local Government Effectiveness and Accountability. Study tour participants included newly elected heads of local self-governments and city kenesh deputies. The study tour focused on local government budgeting and local property taxation; city level strategic planning; and oversight of municipal enterprises (particularly water enterprises). UI also is working with AED to organize a study tour for mayors of oblast significant cities in mid July

A workshop on General Investment Criteria with regard to prioritizing the inventory of investment projects was conducted in Naryn. The Deputy Mayor, sectoral heads and heads of block committees participated. A prioritized list of the general investment criteria was formulated by which investment projects should be ranked. After sorting the inventory of investment projects using the general investment criteria developed by stakeholders in Naryn, the prioritized list of potential investment projects for the City of Naryn developed. The Prioritized Inventory of Projects was presented to the acting Mayor of Naryn and sectoral heads. Though reduced from the original plan to develop a comprehensive strategy owing to lack of political leadership in Naryn, the exercise was a useful, good example of involving stakeholders in setting community priorities. UI has developed a case study on the Naryn experience for dissemination.

UI is taking other elements for the development of a city strategy, originally planned in Naryn but then curtailed, to Kara-Balta. A UI-facilitated general stakeholder introductory meeting was conducted in Kara-Balta to introduce the concept of a city strategy and decide on a schedule for its development. The Kenesh deputy chairman, sectoral heads, heads of block committees and representatives of NGOs participated. The sectoral heads agreed to submit their input for the City Profile. Thanks to the active involvement of the city's mayor, UI is confident that the program will move ahead quickly. The City Profile is being prepared and a Business Attitude Survey has been conducted to assess factors of production and city government support to business community in Kara-Balta. Results will be analyzed in July.



Increased Local Government Capacity—Condominiums

In partnership with local condominium associations, UI facilitated the formation of 21 new condominiums comprising 1,896 units registered (8 in Bishkek and 13 in Osh). The Osh, Bishkek and Jalal-Abad regional associations delivered a total of 14 standard condominium governance and management training sessions. Each training session is attended by the chairperson, manager (if there is one), two board members, accountant, and a member of the audit committee from each condominium as well as members of the NGO community and local government officials into the standard training courses. Further, the Chui Konush association of condominiums, in implementing a Eurasia Foundation grant, delivered a 1-day training session in Alamedin rayon. Their training materials are basically those previously developed by UI.

The UI/Mercy Corps (MCI) grant program for installation of sports facilities and development of basketball leagues among condominiums members is being implemented well. Out of 26 applications in the competition, 5 winners were selected. All applications were reviewed by a Selection Commission and inspections carried out. A tender was organized to select contractors to build sports facilities for condominiums that won the UI/MCI competition. On June 11, 2002 representatives of UI, MCI, Osh-Konush, the winning condominiums, and competing contractors opened the sealed envelopes with bids. The committee reviewed 13 bids. The decision was made to award all 5 contracts to one construction company to ensure similarity of the sports grounds to be constructed.

Leaders of the three regional condominium associations and a UI/Bishkek staff member participated in a seminar on Housing Reform Development in Uzbekistan in Tashkent. The seminar focused on implementation of Uzbek housing reforms with a particular emphasis on development and operation of housing partnerships (associations). Kyrgyz participants made a brief presentation on condominium development in Kyrgyzstan and the LGI project. By participating in this seminar, the Kyrgyz association leaders' belief was reinforced that the Kyrgyzstani method of condominium development is the most democratic accountable multi-family management system in the Central Asian republics compared with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

UI published 200 copies of the "Answers to Questions About Condominiums in Kyrgyzstan" in the Kyrgyz language to be distributed among regional condominium associations, municipal libraries, city governments and city keneshes throughout the country.

MP Pronenko requested UI to comment on the proposed changes to the existing condominium law. UI provided comments and further proposals on changes to the law. The proposed changes focus on simplification of condominium formation and registration processes, and the elaboration of two terms: 1) condominium—a form of housing management; and 2) housing association (partnership of homeowners)—a non commercial organization, voluntary union of units owners in a multiunit building. The summer recess should likely pass these changes.

In response to a request from the Antimonopoly Committee and the State Committee for Architecture and Construction, UI commented on a model contract for a multi-unit residential building maintenance contract.

UI, in cooperation with Gosregister, conducted a roundtable devoted to issues of registering rights to land parcels around multi-unit buildings. The goal was to develop recommendations for a standard, implemental procedure to determine borders and then assign ownership of these parcels. There were approximately 25 participants, including representatives of Bishkek and Osh city governments and architecture departments, local and national Gosregister officials, and heads of regional condominium associations.

Participants developed draft recommendations for further guidance during the process of registration. Recommendations focused on the unified understanding of the existing Kyrgyz legislation in terms of common shared ownership rights to land parcels attached to the buildings:

- First, participants agreed that land attached to multi-unit buildings in no circumstances could be considered as communal property.
- Second, they recommended that it was unnecessary to separate/identify boundaries of land parcels for each building in a block of buildings.
- Third, they illustrated the difficulty of identifying borders for land parcels attached to multi-unit buildings (because in most cases there is inadequate documentation) despite the Architecture Department's assurance that it was possible.

UI co-sponsored a roundtable in June organized by the "Aikyn" consumers' rights protection Association. The meeting agenda was to examine and make recommendations concerning the relationships between residents and associations of residents (essentially condominiums and cooperatives). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current status of housing maintenance in Bishkek and try to develop recommendations on improvement of the situation. The meeting was attended residents, representatives of housing maintenance companies from Bishkek, a number of NGOs, and MP Pronenko. The discussion brought to light the continuing passiveness of residents with regard to their contractual rights to pay and receive maintenance services, and again reiterated that there are no hidden accumulation funds for maintenance. Pronenko also urged consumers to seek to protect their rights through use of the court system, in particular calling on all who believe their rights to land have been violated to file cases on the same day at some point this summer.

Increased Local Government Capacity—Asset Management

Bishkek city deputies adopted Regulation "On procedures for granting immovable property objects in communal property of Bishkek city in use, lease and ownership" at the last kenesh session on May 22, 2002. (See section above on institutionalizing transparent procedures.)

The Tokmok Communal Property Department (CPD), with some assistance from UI developed the 2002 and 2003 Strategic Plan for Communal Property Management. This document includes a short description of the current situation and a plan for necessary improvements in asset management including classification of communal property. The Strategic Plan was discussed and adopted by the City Kenesh on April 29. The revised financial analysis of Tokmok's communal property was completed. Following review of the initial analysis, the Tokmok CPD decided to reconsider their calculation method of communal



property rent rates as it was apparent that current rent rates are three times lower than market rates. Tokmok is also developing a Privatization Program for 2002 in accordance with the communal property law. This document will include a list of communal assets to be sold in 2002. The Privatization Program will be discussed and approved by the City Kenesh at its next session in the summer.

UI distributed the Asset Management Toolkit to all Kyrgyz cities for initial familiarization. Follow up presentations will be made to city officials in July. The Association of Villages requested an additional 500 copies of the toolkit, which it would then distribute to all village governments. UI is still awaiting approval from USAID to expand the scope of dissemination of the materials to include the villages.

Increased Local Government Capacity—Development of Effective Local Government Training

In addition to training related to budgets and the public hearings referenced above, the Association of Cities delivered UI's training module on Principles of Local Self-Government to city administration officials and kenesh members in three cities: Batken, Sulukta, and Isfana, all in remote Batken Oblast.

UI has signed a Statement of Cooperation with the Institute for State and Municipal Service of the Academy of Sciences on transferring our training materials and working together for their further use in the Institute's curriculum.

Increased Local Government Capacity-Information Sharing Increased/Association of Cities

The Association of Cities (ACKR) appears to be securely independent of Local Government Minister Omuraliev. There were no instances of overt pressure. The Association continues to be very close to the Presidential Administration, which, while potentially calling into question its independence, provides it with political protection from the Minister.

ACKR conducted a round table discussion on current issues of LSG legislation attended by mayors and deputies of cities, MPs, and representatives of Presidential administration, Prime Minister's office and the Local Government Ministry. Discussion focused primarily on the issue of clarifying functional assignments and tying intergovernmental budgetary transfers to expenditure responsibilities. Despite the fact that many of the persons responsible for drafting the current local government law were present, the mayors were particularly critical of its vague provisions. The Association drafted a set of recommendations, which was then approved by the Association's Board meeting, held at the end of June.

ACKR held regular media briefings and printed a monthly bulletin with useful information for city governments.

There are growing pains with the Association of Cities as it becomes more prominent in communicating recommendations to its constituents and the general public. Unto itself this prominence is positive; however, at times the staff has acted more like a group of experts than a constituency-based organization, choosing to promote their individual views on items rather than building a consensus among cities on issues. In general, the Association is sensitive to the opportunities to provide services and receive substantial funding from sources outside of the framework of cooperation with UI or directly working with

city governments. For instance, the Soros Foundation recently gave the Association a \$24,000 6-month grant for work on communal property issues, which is largely the personal exercise of the Association's Executive Director.

UI is working to manage these differences and focus debate on the substance of what is being proposed by Association of Cities staff. Collaboration continues in other areas and is increasing with regard to work on the local finance and economic basis law and functional assignments. The networking and media work supported by our current agreement are valuable and should be continued.

In order to gain from each other's experience and learn from example (both pros and cons) UI sponsored officials from city finance departments to travel to public budget hearings in other cities. Staff from Tokmok attended the Kara-Balta hearing, staff from Batken, Kyzyl-Kia, and Kara-Suu attended Uzgen's, Kyzyl-Kia and Uzgen attended Kara-Suu's, and Isfana and Sulukta attended each other's hearings. To reinforce the lessons learned, UI sends a write-up of the hearings to not only the city administration and the finance department that held the hearing, but also to *those* guest finance departments that attended.

UI's monthly information bulletins continue to be produced and may be viewed at www.ui.kg.

Increased Local Government Authority—Intergovernmental Roles Clarified

Spurred by the example of other cities and the more public scrutiny of the planned 2003 budget, the cities of Kara-Balta and Tokmok have taken a pro-active stance in clarifying responsibilities between the city and the rayon with the corresponding assignment of revenues.

Officials at the Association of Villages are compiling information from the questionnaires that were sent earlier for review and comments to the pilot ail okmotus participating in the UNDP project on decentralization and some ail okmotus in Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken oblasts. They are expected to provide an electronic version of the completed questionnaire to UI. UI will travel with experts from the Association of the Cities to conduct the same survey on functional assignments in 8 cities which will represent a cross section of places where there is a clear informal assignment of functions and where there is not, as well as between the north and the south.

UI provided lists of proposed changes to normative-legal acts in order to bring them into compliance with the local government and communal property laws to the Ministry of Justice, the Presidential Administration, and the Prime Minister's Office, which respectively would amend laws, decrees, and resolutions. Unfortunately, this exercise did not yield clear contradictions, which could then be addressed quickly on legal grounds. Instead, most laws indicate that all levels of sub-national government are responsible generally for almost all services, thereby requiring a pro-active decision to clarify and specify powers, not merely a 'clean-up' based on the law itself. UI is promoting such work through its assistance to the decentralization strategy formulation and the facilitation of establishing a common position among cities and villages on functional assignments through the matrix questionnaire.



Increased Local Government Authority—Local Governments Have Greater Control over Revenues

Estimated budgets for FY 2003 in cities that have already held PBHs suggest that cities are starting to be more realistic about the local revenues they will collect and that they are performing better analysis on the actual tax bases. In many cases, there is only a marginal increase in planned taxes and in some cases the tax is expected to go down. For instance, in Kara-Balta the expected revenues in FY 2003 from garbage fees, transport fees, and the land-tax on physical entities are all expected to be less than in FY 2002. Where there are increases in the taxes, the city financial departments are able to justify it. In Kant, the chief accountant explained that the retail tax is expected to increase in FY 2003 because based on analysis of the current situation, current collection rates are extremely low and the city administration will put an emphasis on increasing revenues from this tax next year.

As part of the tax amendments that were passed in December 2001, there is a new patent tax, which covers such business enterprises as saunas, billiards, and casinos. The tax is a shared tax with 65 percent going to the republican budget and 35 percent going to the local budgets. Accordingly, city administrations are including revenue from this tax into their budget estimates for the year 2003. It should be noted however, that this will probably not represent a large increase in revenues for the local budgets as it really is just shifting the classification of some revenue from profit tax to patent tax; although the purpose of creating this new tax is to make tax payment easier for small businesses and therefore increase overall collections.

Increased Local Government Authority—Local Governments Inform National Policy Dialogue

The draft law “*On Financial and Economic Basis of Local Self-Government*” drafted by UIB specialists was given for consideration to all cities of the Kyrgyz Republic, via the Association of Cities, in order to make their comments and recommendations.

The roundtable discussions organized by the Association of Cities provided a good opportunity for city officials to air their concerns with the new local government law and the need for amendments. These discussions were then formulated at the Association’s board meeting and will be presented to Minister Omuraliev and officials in the Presidential Administration. There likely will be the submission of amendments to the law to parliament this fall.

Significant Findings, Delays, Events and Trends

There has been a hiatus in activity on several policy and legislative matters related to local government. Although there is reason for confidence that the national government, including parliament, will return to these documents in late summer, there nonetheless was unfortunately little movement in the past quarter. In all cases, this appears to indicate the lack of a real champion pushing the reforms through, despite demonstrated understanding by many national officials of decentralization issues. In most cases, the putative champion should be Minister Omuraliev; however, he was out of the country for much of the time and in any case is primarily occupied with directing the state property rights registry. Thus, there was little to no movement on: passage of the decentralization strategy; completion of the draft law on local financial and economic basis for local self-government and its submission to parliament; implementation of

a property tax (parliament rejected the cabinet of ministers' declarative bill); and the budget code (though this looks like it will pick up in July).

The project is entering into the final quarter of its contract, which necessarily forces us to finish up the array of activities already undertaken. There remain many good opportunities for promoting more accountable local government in Kyrgyzstan, and the team hopes that it will be able to seize those opportunities after the current contract.

The breadth of UI's activities has helped to achieve the policy goals. Staff finds that the goodwill and practices associated with one component help it to establish bona fides for cities to accept advice on other components. In addition, the project's national reach has helped make cities more receptive to new practices. Cities are learning from each other and often taking such practices, originally developed by UI, and implementing them on their own. This has been seen with the budget hearings, but also with regard to several aspects of asset management.

Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

- Complete the cycle of FY 2003 budget hearings for cities, which have not held hearings (3 in July, and then a decision must be made for Bishkek and Osh)
- Monitoring and completion of projects under the third round of the community grants program
- Follow-up assistance to cities in implementing the asset management toolkit
- Follow up assistance in using UI software for financial and asset management
- Study tour to Poland On Practical Approaches to Improve Local Government Effectiveness and Accountability for cities of oblast significance
- Meetings of Working Group on Law on the Financial and Economic Basis of Local Self Governments and submission to Parliament
- Commentary and recommendations on legislation concerning housing and its relationship to condominiums to be submitted to parliament (amendments to condominium law, housing code)
- Broader dissemination and further revision on the discussion draft of the functional assignments table
- Publication and distribution of the Citizen's Guide to National and Local Budgets
- Production and broadcast of television programs explaining the role of local governments
- Roundtable discussion of ongoing problems with cities' communal property



- Continued organizational development of the Association of Cities
- On-going collaboration with Barents on development of a property tax and developing a concept for local government finance, working on the Budget Code being developed in parliament.
- On-going collaboration with Chemonics on urban land issues

Specific Action Requested

No specific actions are requested this quarter.

Up-To-Date Schedule of Work

Work is continuing in accordance with the approved workplan. Justification for the no-cost extension was granted through September 30, 2002.

Key Personnel

Mr. Charles Undeland, Chief of Party, Kyrgyzstan Local Government Project, 011-996-312-66-04-82, E-mail at cundeland@ui.kg; Mr. William Kugler, Resident Advisor, UI/Bishkek, and Ms. Hilary Smith, Resident Advisor, Kyrgyzstan Local Government Project.