
THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

**PROGRAM FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND NGO SUPPORT
FOR THE CENTRAL ASIA REGION**

QUARTERLY REPORT
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I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

Identify and empower a broad array of Central Asian non-governmental organizations in both rural and urban areas, regardless of sectoral focus.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

KAZAKHSTAN

Building Non Government Organization (NGO) Capacity

NGO Civil Society Support Centers Assist in Supporting Women's Initiatives

An organization's ability to secure financial support for new initiatives is a key contributor to the success and sustainability of that organization. This is especially the case for newly-organized NGOs that often have their projects discarded by potential funders due to their lack the experience in developing and writing grant proposals. Through training and follow-up consultations in Program Design provided by Counterpart's Civil Society Support Centers, six established and ten newly-organized women's NGOs throughout Kazakhstan received funding through the US/Kazakhstan Women's Leadership Training Grant Program for NGOs. This program is a partnership project between the EcoCenter of Karaganda and the American organization, Center for Safe Energy.

NGO Leads Education on Labor Law

As of January 1, 2000 a new labor law went into effect that introduced several changes in the relationship between employers and employees in Kazakhstan. Despite increased interests, the government made no attempts to educate people about it. The NGO *Legal Initiative* was the first in Almaty to offer a seminar on the law, in which the people could get the necessary information delivered in an understandable and comprehensive way. The seminar, funded by Counterpart Consortium- women's grant program was targeted primarily towards women's NGOs. It was highly successful and popular prompting several government institutions, including the Kazakhstan State National University to requested the seminar, covering all associated expenses.

The Network of Civil Society Support Centers Contributes to Development of the Third Sector

Counterpart Consortium's endeavor to support civic initiatives through a network of Civil Society Support Centers has shown significant results in development of sustainability and capacity to not only the Resource Centers themselves, but to also their principal clients – local NGOs. Over the last year and a half, the Centers assisted 27 new NGOs in obtaining registration and 42 NGOs throughout Kazakhstan receive grants totaling \$140,000 (through consultations and training in Project Design, Strategic Planning and legal issues). Amongst the numerous achievements, the most successful Civil Society Support Centers included Astana Support Center, the Eco-Center of Karaganda and the Consulting Center *Zubr* (Ust-Kamenogorsk).

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

The Association of Libraries Develops Fundraising Skills of its Members

The Association of Libraries of the Republic of Kazakhstan (ALRK) has been suffering from a very low level of membership dues' payment. This is largely in part due to vast state cuts in funding to ALRK member libraries in different regions of Kazakhstan. Compounding to the problem is their lack of appropriate fundraising techniques, thus further decreasing their ability to attract new sources of funding.

In response, the Association, funded by a Counterpart grant, developed a program, using Counterpart trainers, to increase knowledge and capacity of their staff in latest fundraising techniques. As a result, 26 local companies now provide the Association with financial assistance totaling over 400,000 tenge for purchases and updating of equipment. Examples include: the publishing house *Economics*- provided the Association with literature estimating \$410 in value; Chevron- sponsored the Association with a total of \$1,500; and USIS- assisted in publishing materials. Today, the Association is poised to enter the international market and identify partners abroad.

Government Relations

The Association of Pension Funds Recognized as Key Player in Pension Reform

Kazakhstan is the first country in the NIS to implement a comprehensive reform of the pension system. During the first two years of reform, 14 non-governmental pension funds were opened, 11 of which became members of the Association of Pension Funds. Regardless, because of their lack of knowledge of the new pension system, the reforms suffered from various pitfalls with the first new pension legislation having lots of drawbacks (unclear definitions of the role of pension system participants and inconsistency of the reform's steps). To address these challenges, Counterpart Consortium awarded the Association with a grant to establish a close working relationship between the NGO, Parliament and other parties. As a result of successful implementation of grant activities, the NGO is now recognized as one of the key players of pension reform. In addition, the Chairman of the Council of the Association of Pension Funds has now been recently included in two state structures: the Interdepartmental State Board for Implementation of Activities for Program Loans from the World Bank for Supporting of the Pension Reform; and the Working Group for Developing the Concept of the Future Development of the Pension System under the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

NGOs Have Equal Voice on National Commission for Children's Rights

Kazakhstan has failed to provide a timely report on the Implementation of the UN Convention on Children's Rights that was ratified by Parliament in 1994. To address this, the Government of Kazakhstan organized a professional commission to prepare a report that addresses the seven-year period since its ratification. Members to this commission, include four leaders of NGOs working in the area of implementation and dissemination of the convention – with equal ranking to Parliament and Government representatives. Three of the NGOs – *League Ak Bota*, *Kids' Time Center*, and *the Information Research Center for Civic Education* –are Counterpart target organizations, that have both received and participated in Counterpart grants and trainings.

Social Partnership

Legislative and Executive Authorities and NGO Sector Unite to Combat Ecological Crisis

For the first time in Kazakhstan, representatives of two government authorities: the Legislative (the Committee for Ecology and Wildlife Management of the Majilis from the Kazakhstan Parliament) and the Executive (the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection) along with a working group of seven NGOs have signed an agreement of cooperation to address the increasing ecological crisis in Kazakhstan. This agreement was a result of international environmental policies and conventions that aimed to address problems of ecology and human health through public education, information, public participation in decision-making of ecological issues, implementation of programs, and improvement of the current legislation. Three of the seven organizations that signed the agreement are Counterpart's long-term partners and grantees: Belovodie (Leninogorsk), Kiwanis (Taraz), and Kaspiy Tabigaty (Atyrau).

Community Outreach

NGO's Access to Partner Increases its Ability to Detect Disabilities

Science has proven that early intervention is key to achieving normal development of children with mental and physical disabilities, yet there has never been a tradition of preventative care in Kazakhstan. In response, local NGO Center SATR in partnership with the Elwyn Institute of Philadelphia, funded by a Counterpart partnership grant, was able to develop a unique early intervention program. For children referred to the SATR, the program has been highly effective in increasing the diagnose capture rate of the children (ages 0-3) with delays in development up from 8% in 1993 to 64% in 1998. Recently SATR started accepting applications for interns from organizations around the NIS, and continues to attract more attention of specialists.

NGO Actively Addresses the Problem of Women's Unemployment

The city of Uralsk, in Western Kazakhstan, was one of the largest defense industry towns under the Soviet system. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, this town continues to face growing unemployment issues, particularly women's unemployment. The local NGO, *Union of Priuralye Women – Umit* developed a three-month training course for unemployed women. Upon completion of the course, participants received a certificate in small enterprise development. With funding from the Counterpart Women's Grant Program, the Union has successfully trained two groups of women, with 30 participants per group in January and April, with women from the first group already generating results: of the 30 women, 5 started their own businesses and 16 found a job within three months after completion of the course. These promising results have enabled the organization to win a tender announced by the local government and receive \$4200 to continue delivering training.

KYRGYZSTAN

Partnership and Coalition Building

Kyrgyz NGO Opens a Door to Montana Partner

In order to replicate and construct a training and teaching center for 200 developmentally disabled young people, the *Educational Center for Professional Training of Disabled Children* (ECPTDC) needed a partner organization. Through assistance from Counterpart Consortium and the Montana Army National Guard the NGO was partnered with the Farm-in-the Dell Foundation (Rural Opportunities Project). The leader of the Kyrgyz ECPTDC was invited to visit Montana at the expense of the US partner, which covered all travel and accommodation costs. As a result, the leader of the ECPTDC signed a 5-year partnership agreement with the US Foundation and received an initial \$5,000 contribution for construction of the Center in Kyrgyzstan. The Ministry of Emergencies in Kyrgyzstan contributed \$4,750 and the Mayor's Office allocated a 1.3-hectare plot of land for construction. The Montana National Guard continues to oversee the delivery of funds for the project, participates in the delivery of materials and supplies, and help transport volunteers from Montana to Kyrgyzstan.

Women's Support Center Expands the Network of Rural Women's NGOs

The network of women's organizations in Naryn and Talas regions is underdeveloped. There are only four women's NGOs operating the Talas region. These few organizations are making an effective contribution to poverty alleviation, legal literacy and social protection of low-income groups of the population. Through training and counseling services at Counterpart Consortium, the *Women's Support Center*, a nonprofit organization, received a \$14,568 grant to build capacity and expand the network of women's NGOs in the Talas region. As a result of the project targeting rural women, two women's nonprofit groups were established – Sheker and Ak-Totu. The latter initiated the opening of a maternity home in the village of Kok-Sai. A database on women working with micro credits was created for three regions.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

Women's Congress Raises Additional Resources to Increase Legal Awareness of Regional Population

In order to meet the growing demand for legal education in the Osh and Jalal-Abad regions, the *Women's Congress* needed to open two more Legal Information Center branches. Using skills and knowledge acquired through Counterpart trainings and consultations, the leader of the Women's Congress made efficient changes to the NGO's strategic plan to ensure its financial sustainability. The NGO successfully submitted an application to the Eurasia Foundation and was awarded a \$15,000 grant. As a result of the project the NGO opened two centers that are staffed with competent lawyers and equipped with modern office equipment. In the two months since its establishment, the Centers offered counseling services to 211 low-income people, organized a meeting for 500 women to inform them on their rights and disability allowances, and made two field visits to local colleges. All activities have been widely covered by mass media. Both Centers have established strong partnership relations with local governing bodies and governmental agencies.

NGO Increases Rural Women's Activeness Through Financial Sustainability

In response to the growing demand for services related to women's rights and professional development for rural women, including training to preserve traditional crafts and develop new marketing skills, the NGO *Jez-Oimok* successfully leveraged funds in excess of \$20,000 from Soros, Mercy Corps, UNDP and UNHCR to purchase wool processing equipments and trained 74 women including 18 refugees. More than 40% of trained women were offered jobs in crafts making workshops. Some funding was used to open an affiliated training center in the village of Voznesenovka. The success of the projects resulted from the NGO's skills in program design, obtained through Counterpart training and consultations.

Advocacy of Human Rights in Remote Areas of Kyrgyzstan

Advocacy of citizens' rights and interests is an integral part of the development of democratic society in Kyrgyzstan. The population in rural areas in the southern part of the country is most vulnerable because of their lack of access to information. They also do not have access to legal counseling services not could they afford to pay for the services if they were available. Through consultations and training at Counterpart Consortium, the leader and members of the Human Rights and Democracy Center received a \$25,000 grant from the Soros Foundation to service the high demand for legal consulting services to the low-income groups in the Osh region. As a result of this successful fundraising effort the Center is making considerable strides in advocating for human rights in the southern region of Kyrgyzstan.

NGO Addresses Community-Based Issues Through Fundraising

In order to promote comprehensive development of rural children and improve the social and economic status of orphans and children from low-income families, the NGO *Protection of Rural Children's Rights* sought additional funding. By using the skills acquired through Counterpart Consortium trainings and participation in roundtables, the NGO members designed a series of grant applications to address issues such as children's health, education and social guarantees. The NGO received funding from the Asian Development Bank, Mercy Corps International, Soros Foundation, Swiss Foundation and ICDIVOCA in excess of \$40,000 to implement nine projects in collaboration with local and regional governing bodies.

NGO Financial Sustainability

The *Students' Bar Association* needed financial resources to advocate for rights and interests of law college graduates. Through counseling support from Counterpart Consortium, the youth NGO designed several grant applications, which were submitted to donor organizations such as USIS, Global and UNHCR. Since May 1999 the Association has received nearly \$24,000 in grant funding to implement a series of projects and improve the NGO's financial sustainability. This group used money to conduct summer school courses in election law and debates in international law to train high schools students throughout the republic. In addition, the Association established a Refugee Social Assistance Center, which offers counseling services on refugee rights.

Union of Rural Women Successfully Utilizes Grant Solicitation Strategy

In order to raise the awareness of rural women and involve them more actively in the development of civil society in Kyrgyzstan, the *Alga Union of Rural Women* needed more financial resources. By using skills acquired at training workshops and roundtables sponsored by Counterpart Consortium, the NGO submitted a series of grant applications to donor organizations that were aimed at providing comprehensive support to rural women including information, training and micro-crediting. As a result of successful fundraising the NGO implemented 11 projects totaling \$64,687 granted by UNDP, HIVOS, Soros Foundation, UNHCR and the Eurasia Foundation. As a result of the NGO's programs, nine refugee families in three villages built greenhouses.

Fundraising to Increase Legal Awareness of Women

In order to provide rural women with informational, legal and counseling support the *Talas* branch of the *Women's Support Center* needed to identify more resources. By using the skills acquired at the Project Design workshop at Counterpart, the NGO wrote a series of applications to donor organizations which resulted in nearly \$12,000 in grant funding that was used to open a computer training center in *Talas*, publish a book entitled "Women's Rights," and provide women with micro credits.

Aikyn Promotes Nationwide Advocacy Campaign and Saves Consumers' Money

Advocacy of consumers' rights and interests is a very important task in building and strengthening a democratic state based on the rule of law. The *Aikyn Association of Consumer Rights' Protection* is actively working in this direction. Through skills gained at Counterpart Consortium training workshops and counseling services the Association submitted grant applications to donors and was awarded grants by the Mercy Corps International and Soros Foundation. As a result of fundraising activities the Association implemented several projects totaling \$22,800. One of the most significant impacts from the NGO projects was the cancellation of fees for distribution of energy utilization rules to consumers totaling \$3,319,094.

Association of Tax Consultants

To improve financial sustainability and implement new projects, the *Association of Tax Consultants* sought new sources of funding, by using skills and knowledge acquired at Counterpart workshops, and achieved the following results:

- The Association applied to ARD/CHECCHI, a USAID-funded project, to carry out the project "Comments on the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic." The Tax Code was designed by tax specialists and contained specific terminology without any case studies. Therefore the general public was denied access to it. With a \$14,280 grant the Association will be able to provide the taxpayers with a printed copy of comments on the Tax Code, which will present the Code in a more simple and accessible manner, using explanations and examples.
- The Association also received support from ARD/CHECCHI to implement a six-month televised project entitled "The Right to Create," which is aimed at developing tax awareness of citizens. The project will promote the dialogue and mutual understanding between tax inspectors and taxpayers. A \$960 grant will help the NGO develop materials for TV programs.

Public Policy/Advocacy

NGO Advocates Refugee Right to Residence Permit

In 12 villages of the Jaiyl region in Kyrgyzstan there are 376 families of refugees and migrants from Tajikistan. 151 families do not have a residence permit and therefore not entitled to housing, jobs or health care services. On March 14, 2000 the NGO *Hirenso* initiated a meeting of refugees, migrants with representatives from the State Agency on Migration and Demography, deputy governor, department of interior affairs and village administrations. Counterpart Consortium provided consulting and logistics support for the meeting. As a result of the negotiations 12 families (52 people) have received residence permits.

Community Outreach

NGO Integrates Rural Children in Educational Process

In the village of Kaldyk in the Chui region the local elementary school building was deteriorating and unsuitable for conducting classes. The children in this village, many of whom migrated from Tajikistan and are ethnic Kyrgyz, were denied the opportunity to attend school. By using skills gained in Social Partnership workshops at Counterpart, *Hirensa* received a \$4,500 grant from a donor organization, \$1,600 from a local governing body and \$1,700 from the local education department to refurbish the school. As a result of this partnership a new heating system was installed and school classrooms were repaired. Now 36 refugee children are able to get elementary education.

Archa-Beshik Public Association of Women-Constructors Advocates for Children's Rights

The population in the new residential area of Archa-Beshik has been steadily increasing, developing a need for additional educational facilities, including an elementary school. With skills developed in a number of Counterpart trainings and as a former Counterpart grantee, the *Archa-Beshik Association of Women Constructors* appealed to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Mayor's office. The latter allocated 20,000 soms (\$1,200) and the Ministry of Emergent Situations provided the group with pre-fabricated houses. The Mayor also paid salaries to the builders for five months. As a result of close collaboration between the NGO and governing bodies a new school was erected and the number of school students has increased from 250 to 500 over the last two years.

Altyn-Balallyk Disseminates Basic Fundraising Skills Towards Communities

The continued economic depression in the Kyrgyz Republic is beginning to have a lasting affect on the ecological situation of the Republic. People in rural areas cannot afford to buy coal or firewood to heat their houses in winter thus prompting them to cut down the trees in forests. This deforestation has led to an increased number of mudslides, which are especially prevalent in the Ak-Sy rayon. By using skills acquired at Counterpart trainings, the NGO *Altyn-Balallyk* established a strong partnership relationship with the Swiss organization *Lesic*. With funding from *Lesic*, the NGO has planted 20 walnut, 100 apple, 100 poplar, and 100 plum trees and is providing ecological education for kindergarten children in Kerben. Further, the NGO has provided consultations to residents in Kerben (15 people) and Altyn-Balallyk (2 people) advising the best way to coordinate with *Lesic*. As a result of these consultations, these residents received a grant for 74,345 som to plant fruit trees on 5 hectares of land.

TAJIKISTAN

Building NGO Capacity

NGO in Khojand Addresses the Drug Addiction Issue in the Region

The issue of drugs has become one of the most alarming problems in Fergana Valley. Drug addicts, especially youth, do not realize the dangers associated with this disease and refuse to undergo treatment. The newly formed organization *No to Drugs* has prepared two excellent anti-drug Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for television that show the true consequences of drug addiction. With assistance from the Khojand Civil Society Support Center, both the Leninabad regional state TV and independent TV station "SM-1" aired the PSAs free of charge for two months as their contribution to address this problem. In the month after the first PSA aired, over 35 drug addicts – more than three times the normal number of clients – applied to the NGO *No to Drugs* for help. The clients received consultations from the NGO and were referred to the Khojand narco-hospital for treatment.

A Successful Civic Education Campaign Among Women Brings New Volunteers

Counterpart target NGO, *Parastor* had a number of small projects promoting the role of women in society, which were ready to be implemented in the Oktyabrsky District of Dushanbe City. The NGO, however, lacked sufficient membership to accomplish these projects. To increase membership, *Parastor* conducted a series of workshops on Civil Society for 450 women in 6 mahallas in the District. The

workshops included such topics as Women's Rights and NGO & Community. Other activities such as discussions and meetings with women NGO leaders were held. As a result of the campaign 50 women from those communities are now actively involved in *Parastor's* activities and are contributing to the NGO's projects as volunteers. This increase in membership has allowed *Parastor* to reach three times the number of beneficiaries then served previously.

Counterpart Training Promotes Organization Development

Not until NGO *Umed*, located in Kurghon-teppa, began its activities, the community was unaware of Childhood Cerebral Paralysis. The Regional Health Department was unresponsive to the needs of children with cerebral paralysis, and there were few resources available to NGOs such as this. After attending training courses conducted by Counterpart, the staff of the NGO was inspired with optimism. New ways of thinking and planning resulted in the establishment of a Rehabilitation Center for Paralyzed Children. Direct mission activities started. The group implemented a fundraising campaign that exceeded all expectations. The group discovered that their services were in high demand in the district. The initial stages of work included identification of 10,600 paralyzed children; 85 were registered for rehabilitation, including 25 children who had already been rehabilitated with good medical results. The local power now supports the NGO and has allocated 5 hectares of irrigated land to the NGO for its economic sustainability. The NGO *Umed* has also been recognized by a number of international organizations operating in Tajikistan, which provide the NGO with materials and humanitarian aid support. The future plans of the organization involve renovating and operating a bakery to generate income, as well as providing fee-for-service medical care for non-target groups of the population.

Media/Outreach

"Fourth Power" Involves State Media to NGO Issues

Tajikistan, like other Central Asian countries, has faced the problem of attracting media coverage to NGO issues. While Independent TV stations do cover NGO activities, state TV ignores them or asks for monetary compensation in exchange for coverage. Supported by the Soros Foundation, the NGO "*Fourth Power*" conducted several seminars and roundtables for media leaders in the Leninabad region. The Khojand Civil Society Support Center was actively involved in the establishment of *Fourth Power* and regularly provides a variety of assistance. As a result, the Leninabad-region State TV (LTV) and the Khojand Center (the NGO representative for the area) signed an agreement to expand TV coverage of NGO activity. Today, one million people in the Leninabad region are regularly informed about NGO activity through a monthly 40 minute TV program that is prepared and aired by LTV in association with the Khojand Center.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

NGO Madina Receives the First Social Order from the Government

The number of drug addicts in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) of Tajikistan has increased four times over the last 8 years. Two contributing factors to the rise in drug addiction are the proximity of the oblast to the drug trafficking route from Afghanistan and the high level of unemployment, especially among young people. To attract the attention of local authorities and the community to this problem, NGO *Madina* conducted a youth festival entitled "We are Against Drugs – the World is Against Drugs," which was attended by the Governor and other high level officials as well as covered by local media. The festival was such a success that the Governor allocated US\$5,000 for NGO *Madina* to implement a project on the prevention of drug addiction. *Madina* is going to use these resources to repair and equip 18 sports grounds for youth in Khorog city and conduct a series of workshops and other activities on drug awareness for more than 2000 at-risk youth and teenagers. This is the first NGO initiative in GBAO to be requested and sponsored by the local government.

Public Policy/Advocacy

NGO leaders lobby for rights in decision-Making Process on Gender Issues in Tajikistan

A task force on gender issues was established at a recent conference on gender issues which took place in Dushanbe with the support of Swiss Development Agency. The main activities of the task force are act as: an advocacy and lobbying mechanism; an “interface” between the government, NGOs and international organizations; and as a forum for the coordination of gender issues and programs in the country as well as advise on gender policies, At the conference, strategies for fulfilling these tasks were developed. The governmental representative, Bureau of “Women in Development,” proposed it to be integrated into the official government structure – a national committee under the Prime Minister, the President’s Administration or sector coordination bodies under the concerned ministries. The majority of participants, primarily NGO representatives, rejected that proposal as having the risk of being too “directive” and suggested the task force be independent from the government. Following heated and challenging discussions, it was decided to establish an independent coordination agency that would comprise the representatives of local NGOs, international NGOs and Governmental structures. There were 86 NGO representatives at the Conference, most of whom being assisted by Counterpart Consortium.

Government Relations

NGO Leader in GBAO Represents NGOs in Government Meetings

Due to the lack of true information and understanding about NGOs, government officials in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) seem to have a general mistrust of NGOs. With the support from Counterpart Consortium the NGO *Kalam* established an NGO Support Center in Khorog in January 1999. Twenty-seven new NGOs have been registered in GBAO and are dealing with a variety of social problems such as: drug addiction, income generation, women’s issues, and assistance to vulnerable people. With the expansion of NGO activities to an estimated 6,000 beneficiaries, there has been a shift in attitude by the government leadership. Further, the leader of the NGO Support Center is now a regular participant in weekly local government meetings.

Community Outreach

NGOs Promote Community Mobilization in Zarafshan Valley

Zarafshan Valley, with a population of 90,000, faces many challenges that prevent effective community mobilization. Its specific geographical location and transportation problems leave it isolated from other parts of Tajikistan for nearly five months of every year and there are few NGOs. Counterpart Consortium assisted the NGO *East Women Ecological Association* in establishing an NGO Information and Consulting Center in Panjakent City. The Center conducted a series of workshops on NGO Management for activists and community leaders and provided consultations to them. Since 1997 more than 20 new NGOs have been established as a result of the Center’s activity. These NGOs are actively involving communities in solving their problems. For example, the Tajikistan Social Investment Fund (TASIF) funded the installation of two water pipelines in the villages of Shashkat and Maikatta as a result of the community cooperation and organizational skills of these trained NGOs.

NGO Mobilizes the Community to Reconstruct the School.

Many social sector establishments, especially in rural areas, have few if any resources for maintenance and repair. This is due to lack of funds in local government budgets. The NGO *Didor* conducted a number of meetings in Sokhcharv village (population 1,500) in order to mobilize community efforts and resources to rehabilitate the village school. The group realized that the existing available resources were not enough. Through the Khorog Civil Society Support Center they learned of support available though TASIF, which helped them with project funding. The community contributed 20% of the cost of the project and 20 members of the community are working on volunteer basis. They anticipate completion of the reconstruction by the beginning of the new study year. *Didor* has participated in a number of

Counterpart's training through the Khorog Center and the knowledge gained from Counterpart helped them conduct a successful community mobilization campaign and design a good project.

TURKMENISTAN

Building NGO Capacity

Turkmen NGOs as Implementing Partners of UNHCR

Three years ago there were no NGOs in Turkmenistan working on refugee issues. Since then, 16 organizations, which have been actively involved with Counterpart as grantees, have learned how to manage projects effectively and are currently receiving financial assistance from UNHCR for follow-on projects to expand their work under their original Counterpart grants to include refugees. In the past year alone, ten local NGOs have been awarded grants totaling \$110,000 in areas of education, ecology, legal counseling, and reproductive health. Three of these NGOs have been contracted by UNHCR to conduct assessments in refugee communities for UNCHR health projects after receiving training in PRA from Counterpart. In addition, this quarter two NGOs have been accredited under the UNHCR CIS Conference (totaling 6 Turkmen NGOs with this status).

Modern Means of Communication Reach Turkmen NGOs

Technical and financial constraints as well as to the absence of strong technological skills have limited the access of most Turkmen NGOs to most modern sources of information and communications such as e-mail and Internet. For six months, Counterpart Consortium has been offering free e-mail and Internet connections to 48 Turkmen NGOs, including 17 grantees. With assistance from the Embassy of Great Britain's *DFID Small Grant's Scheme* Counterpart leased a line enabling 24-hour access to the Internet, thereby expanding NGOs' use of the Internet. Additional results include:

- Internet traffic has quadrupled since access to higher-speed connections has been set up on two Web servers.
- The number of NGOs using the Internet has doubled to 80 in a four-month period.
- As a result training sessions on e-mail and Internet use, 52 NGO representatives possess basic Internet skills.
- Through announcements on the Internet and e-mail listserves, 15 NGOs have participated in seminars and conferences abroad. Cyber-contact has also lead to the visits of 5 partners organizations from America, England, Russian and Kazakhstan and relationships have been established between Turkmen NGOs and 125 foreign groups.

Making the Most of Internet Resources

It is critical for NGOs to take advantage of any promotional and informational resources. Representatives from the NGO *UNICOM*, an organization dedicated to expanding access to trivia for intellectual competitions to teenagers in Turkmenistan, has participated in many training activities conducted by Counterpart Consortium including Information Resources of the Internet. One member became so interested that he was trained as a trainer in this module and has assisted over 30 other NGO representatives understand how to benefit from the Internet. As a result, the NGO now publishes the Web page What? Where? and When? through the *Association of Moscow Clubs* web site. This is one of the first Internet sites published by a Turkmen NGO, providing the NGO with an opportunity to share its newsletter online, to be linked with additional web sites and to be easily located by interested organizations and individuals. They are now aware of events and activities relevant to their activities, and have attracted ten more participants to the competitions of their organization. Organizations in St. Petersburg and Odessa are sending information to UNICOM for posting on their site. The web page is also one of 20 sites located on the international "webring" website located at http://www.chgk.msk.ru/history/2000/achg_press/gazeta.htm.

Media/Outreach

NGOs Reach Out Through Media

The ability to publish information regarding the activities of NGOs is a rare phenomenon in Turkmenistan, especially for non-registered organizations. Nonetheless, there is a strong effort made from the NGO sector to disseminate information on activities in order to broaden the public interest in NGO activities as well as to interest potential members and volunteers. Working under a Counterpart grant, the NGO *Green Team* has carried out an ecological education campaign that successfully utilized mass media outlets. The publications included 7 issues of informational booklets on 7 ecological themes distributed to over 1200 students; 5 issues of information bulletins distributed in Turkmen and Russian to over 500; people and a record 16 articles published in Turkmen newspapers over the course of their project. As a result of these publications the NGO experienced an:

- Increase in membership by 7 members;
- Expanded beneficiary base, which broadened to 18 schools in Ashgabad that receive the publications; and
- Expansion of the NGOs activities to include ecological events in the Koitendag and Baherden regions of the country as well as three kindergartens and one orphanage.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

Counterpart Partners with local NGO on UNICEF program

NGOs and CBOs located in the regions of Turkmenistan were largely isolated from access to financial resources prior to Counterpart's start-up in 1997. With the opening of the first regional Support Center in Dashoguz in 1998, Counterpart was able to identify several potential organizations working in rural areas of the region. Special training sessions were organized to give the NGOs in Dashoguz a head start in project management and design. The proximity to the Water User's Project enabled Counterpart staff to become directly involved in training activities and transfer of skills to those few NGOs located in the villages targeted by the WUA project. As a result, one NGO, *Uchgun*, has surfaced as a capable project implementer and fundraiser. The initiative of this NGO is evidenced in its participation in such advanced trainings as fundraising, constituency building and newsletter development which resulted in the following:

- *Uchgun* sub-contracted by Counterpart in the amount of \$1500 for the hygiene education portion of part 3 of the UNICEF Water and Sanitation Project.
- *Uchgun* was recently awarded a Peace Corps mini grant in the amount of \$2000 to carry-out a dental hygiene project

NGO Becomes More Independent and Sustainable

NGOs in Turkmenistan have expressed great demand for increased skills in fundraising, project management and design; all of which are important building blocks for institutional development. These skills become more critical as the requirement for NGOs to demonstrate their financial sustainability grows. Grantee *Annageldy* has been working with Counterpart Consortium Turkmenistan since June of 1998 and has received a package of services including training in areas such as fundraising, project design, and development of a TTAP, with a focus on financial sustainability and fundraising. Having obtained those skills, the NGO applied to several donors for a grant funding, including the British "Know How" Fund, which granted them \$9,000 for computer equipment, office furniture and some medical equipment for HIV/AIDS diagnostics. *Annageldy* used this equipment for their Ashgabad branch located in the Turkmenistan AIDS Center. As the result of this funding, the NGO has attracted three volunteers, and has expanded their constituency base by establishing a strong partnership with the Turkmenistan AIDS Center and the UNAIDS program in Turkmenistan.

Public Policy/Advocacy

Defending the Right to Be Like Others

At the end of 1998, the Orthopedic Factory of Ashgabad, which is the only institution to produce artificial limbs in Turkmenistan, reduced its capacity by 50%. Production was ceased in mid 1999 leaving 8,000 disabled people in Turkmenistan to seek alternative solutions for prosthetics. The Disabled Union, a grantee of Counterpart Consortium, received hundreds of visits and letters requesting assistance to locate sources for purchasing artificial limbs. The NGO began an advocacy campaign by writing letters to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry as well as the Orthopedic Factory on behalf of its beneficiaries. The leaders met regularly with representatives from government agencies to lobby for reinstating the production of prosthetics. As a result of six months of campaigning, the Ministry of Health identified a funding base to justify a directive to the Orthopedic Factory to gradually resume the production of artificial limbs. This effort resulted in 7 disabled people from across the country have received new artificial limbs, saving them 75% off of the world market price to order such a prosthetic from Moscow.

Social Partnership

Ecological NGO Wins State Trust through Promotion of Results

During the past four years the Turkmen ecological NGOs and initiative groups have gradually built positive relations with governmental structures. This was a result of the NGOs ability to continually demonstrate their comparative advantages, be well received by constituents, and their compatibility with government policies. As a result of their Counterpart Consortium funded projects, nine ecological organizations have shown a high level of potential and professionalism, enabling them to establish trust and credibility with government institutions. Various government representatives have heralded the concrete results of activities carried out by the NGOs as the foremost reason why various state structures are continually turning to NGOs to help them resolve issues. Public officials have referred to the professionalism of these NGOs, and their ability to effectively articulate the results of their work through roundtables and newsletters as the main contributor to a new "understanding" of NGO activities in the ecological sector.

- Over the past two years, ecological NGOs have executed 5 projects in partnership with governmental organizations that resulted in: two national conferences between NGOs and Government; one resolution presented to the National Curriculum Board; more than 15 roundtables and seminars; and more than 50 issues of newsletters reaching over 8,000 people.
- During a seminar on social partnership between Eco-NGOs and government, the representative of GORONO (Municipal government of national education) highly praised the activities of ecological organizations, citing specific examples of Eco-NGOs participation in the National Curriculum Development plans. She said that such interaction was unprecedented, considering the NGOs involved were unregistered, and also called for more public forums to discuss relevant issues.
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources recently rewarded seven Eco NGOs with letters of acknowledgement and books on environmental issues for their outstanding public education activities on the protection of the environment.

Community Outreach

Ripples in the Lake of Civic Education

In Turkmenistan, although there is a growing public demand for civic education and information, there is yet no state program. In response, Counterpart grantee *Civil Dignity* has conducted 47 seminars on 14 civic education topics over the last 10 months. In total, the NGO conducted 20 more seminars than planned under their grant project to meet the demand from other NGOs and students to acquire information. 35 of the trainings were for youth and 12 for an adult audience, totaling 297 participants from four regions of Turkmenistan. 10 adults and 5 young trainers were trained as trainers and have already conducted 14 trainings for 196 participants. In addition, two initiative groups have formed in the cities of Dashoguz and Turkmenbashi in hopes of developing civic education in their communities. One

seminar model was translated into Turkmen for free by a teacher who decided to extend the training to her students. She has used the materials to conduct four trainings for 34 participants from the Agro-business School in Turkmenabad and remote villages of Lebap velayat. Two NGOs in Ashgabad have also incorporated elements of the *Civil Dignity* training into their own activities. As a result of excellent work and outreach to its constituency, the NGO expanded its beneficiary base to three additional regions of Turkmenistan and recruited 15 volunteers to follow-up on civic

UZBEKISTAN

Building NGO Capacity

NGO Provided Wheelchairs to 23 Disabled in Karakalpakstan

The disabled population in Karakalpakstan is estimated to be the largest of all the oblasts in Uzbekistan. Federal funds and social departments are not able to meet the growing demand. A majority of the disabled lack wheelchairs and are confined to spending all their time in one room. With training in fundraising skills from the Counterpart Nukus Support Center, the *Karakalpak Society for the Disabled* used Counterpart Consortium's donor database and wrote 17 letters of request to state institutions, embassies and donors. The action has resulted in \$2,900 donation from the German Embassy in Uzbekistan, which allowed the Society to purchase wheelchairs from a local manufacturer and distribute them to 23 physically disabled persons.

Media/Outreach

The First NGO Press Conference for the First Training and Consulting Center in Uzbekistan

Uzbek NGOs have been unable to fully utilize the media for publicity and promotion of services. *Women's Society Mekhri* conducted the first press conference to announce the opening of its Training and Consulting Center for Women and their Families. This Center is the first NGO-established, self-financing enterprise. *Mekhri* leaders applied skills learned at Counterpart's newly introduced seminar "How to Conduct a Press-Conference" and used funds from a Counterpart grant to conduct the press conference. In the two months following the press conference 11 articles about the Center were published in city and national press, which resulted in a 75% increase in calls from potential clients, women, children and makhalla representatives. Another unintended result was an increase in calls from those interested in working with the Center. The range of inquiries from potential staff is helping *Mekhri* refine the scope and demand of jobs, leading to more effective staff recruitment.

Association of Journalists "Civil Society" Register in Uzbekistan

To eliminate the deficit of analytical and conceptual information about non-profit activities in Uzbekistan, journalist members of the Association of Journalists *Civil Society* are dedicated to increasing public awareness of the non-profit sector. The NGO encountered continuous impediments when registering the organization, since a GONGO association of journalists had already been in existence. The NGO started an aggressive public education campaign by writing articles about various issues of public concern and NGOs that dealt with them. Counterparts support to the Association included conducting: seminars in "NGO & Community" for potential members, a TTAP for the organization, and facilitating meetings for members to discuss the charter. As a result, the Association has registered and its members-journalists are able to represent the Third Sector, writing about NGOs in national and local papers and advocating for journalists' rights on the governmental level. Official standing also allows the Association to seek diverse funding sources, recruit new members and develop journalists' professional skills.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

KRIDI – A Skillful Fundraiser

KRIDI, Counterpart target NGO, has greatly expanded its funding base beyond the typical grant process by receiving in-kind contributions and discounts from local and international sources. The access and affordability of *KRIDI* services attract new clients and ensure a larger NGO constituency. The examples below demonstrate only few fundraising successes of NGO:

- World Concern is providing school accessories, garments, bed clothes, home-attendants for disabled children, and at-home training for children;
- *Engrach International Charity Foundation* is providing medical support, including dental treatments for disabled children and informational-training programs for disabled children and their parents; and
- The Institute of Asian Culture and Development is providing concessionary diagnostics, consultations and speech therapy for children, massage training for parents, and medicine.

Government Relations

Department of Justice Becomes More Responsive to NGOs

The NGO registration procedure is officially limited to a two-month period, but usually takes five to six months. This delay is a result of lengthy review process of the NGO's funding documentation by officials from the Ministry of Justice. In December 1999 Counterpart Consortium and GTD/USAID conducted a workshop entitled "NGO Accounting and Transparency" to which NGOs of Fergana Valley and officials from tax committees and departments of justice were invited. At the workshop NGO leaders and state executives talked face-to-face and learned from each other their concerns and problems, including the registration process. In the six months following the workshop three new NGOs were registered and three others have applied for registration to the Department of Justice of the Fergana Region. All the documents were reviewed and applications were considered within the two-month period as outlined in the law.

Social Partnership

Karakalpak Disabled Benefit from NGO and Ministry Partnership

The Economic crisis has had a deplorable impact on the population of Karakalpakstan, and the disabled are among the most vulnerable. *The Vocational School of the Karakalpak Society of the Disabled* has been training disabled youth and adults in computer skills. At the Counterpart Consortium seminar "Social Partnership" the NGO became acquainted with a Ministry of Labor official. As a result of this partnership with the *Society*, the Labor Ministry of Karakalpakstan provided job placement in the second half of 1999 for 17 of the NGO's trainees.

Bukhara NGOs Use Social Partnership Skills to Work Together

As a result of a Social Partnership seminar conducted for NGOs and government officials at the Bukhara Civil Society Support Center the following efforts of government institutions and NGOs have been consolidated:

- *Oidin Crisis Center* established connections with the Rayon Deputy Hokim. One of the first results of this relationship was to solve the problem of a disabled woman who had not receive her stipend from the makhalla committee;
- *German Cultural Center*, jointly with Bukhara State University, secondary school #4, and a German volunteer, organized a national holiday for German families. The leader of the Center remarked after the seminar: "... how effective it is to work with various non-profit and government institutions";
- *Bukhara Information and Cultural Center (BICC)*, *Youth Club*, *Teenagers' Club*, *German Cultural Center*, and a Jewish school have united with the State Committee on Nature Protection, Children's Fund, and the *Ecosan* Environmental Fund to celebrate the Earth Day 2000. About 250 participants took part in races, a poll on environmental issues, and "subbotniks" (voluntary city clean-up days). Organizers were successful in their goal to create awareness of environmental problems in the region

to the general public and local government. Zaynab Sali the leader of *BICC*, indicated the joint planning was collegial and easy, attributing success due to the strength of the Counterpart training.

Community Outreach

NGO Seminars Boost Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Bukhara Region

Low economic literacy of businesswomen in the Bukhara Region, as well as other parts of Uzbekistan, hinders the development of small and medium businesses run by women. The *Businesswomen Association of Bukhara Region*, a Counterpart grantee, has conducted 5 seminars on business education for 80 women-entrepreneurs in four districts and has provided consultations to 103 businesswomen. The monitoring and evaluation activities by the NGO showed the following results:

- 14 women have received bank credits;
- one woman organized sewing and hairdressing workshops for 24 women;
- one woman leased equipment and started construction for a agricultural product processing unit;
- ten hectares of land were obtained for farming; and
- one embroidery shop and one bakery were opened, each providing jobs to 5 women.

Health NGO Educates Remote Rural Communities

For the past 10 years Fergana Valley residents have been severely susceptible to endocrine diseases. The most vulnerable have been the populations of the rural areas, especially women of fertile age. The Association of Endocrinologists of Kokand City has completed a project on health education in five villages. The Kokand NGO Support Center has provided technical support and consultation on project design to Abt Associates/USAID. Within five months, the NGO conducted 30 seminars for 1064 villagers, which comprised 841 women of fertile age, 33 pregnant women and 190 adolescents. An impact assessment poll conducted by the Center, revealed that 64% of those trained showed a marked increased in awareness of preventive measures, use of modern medicines and methods of treatment for endocrine illnesses.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

This quarter was marked by the launching of Phase III – Counterpart Consortium’s Program of Civil Society and NGO Development in the Central Asia Region – our main objective was to make a significant shift in Counterpart’s activities as Civil Society Support Centers across the region. Work plans are being refined to make the Phase III program as effective as possible.

In June Ms. Arlene Lear – Counterpart International’s Senior Vice President for Programs in the Washington DC office – visited Counterpart Consortium offices in Almaty, Bishkek and Tashkent, as well as meet representatives of other offices at the regional meeting in Tashkent. This visit was an important part of the Phase III kick off activities.

Two regional meetings were held to support regional planning activities. The first meeting took place on May 10-13 in Almaty and was devoted to reviewing the new goals and strategies for Phase III and the OD process, which is key to Phase III activities. Jay Cooper was officially announced as the Regional Director, replacing David Smith. Five regional working groups were formed around the following topics: training, grants, community mobilization, support centers/OD, and reporting. Representatives from each country are participants of each working group. During the first meeting groups identified major issues that need to be resolved and outlined the following roles for the working groups:

- To provide timely tools and guidance for Phase III implementation;
- To ensure regional consistency and quality;
- To benefit from everyone’s experience and knowledge/to use our internal resources;
- To build our staff’s capacity in key management for localization; and
- To build network relationships across the region.

The second regional meeting was held in Tashkent from June 27-30 and was dedicated to refining the working group process and discussing several concrete proposals prepared by the Training, Grant, Community Mobilization, and Support Centers/OD working groups.

Regional Director, Jay Cooper, Kyrgyzstan Country Director, Erkin Kasybekov and USAID representative Sean Roberts visited Turkmenistan in response to a letter to the American Ambassador. Counterpart now is implementing some new procedures in Turkmenistan to respond to specific concerns described in the letter. Some of the concerns were already addressed in Phase III proposal, e.g. external participation in grant review committees.

At the beginning of May Jay Cooper and Marat Aitmagambetov, Kazakhstan Country Director, participated in the 7th annual Democracy Network meeting in Croatia. The goal of this meeting was to exchange ideas about Third Sector Development in CEE/NIS countries and get some new ideas and concepts how to develop it in future. For Counterpart, this meeting provided a forum for learning more about how other democracy program staff and organizations can be used in our training program. For example, the Slovak organization *Citizen’s Action* has a depth of experience working in the community mobilization field and was suggested as training providers for our GTD/Global program in 2000/2001.

Regional and Kazakhstan country offices were restructured with assistance of the Regional Organizational Development Specialist, Beth Comolli. New organizational charts were developed, and job descriptions were revised to meet the needs of Phase III. The interviewing and hiring process for country and regional positions was started this quarter. Beth Comolli conducted a training in project management and planning for the Kazakhstan team.

In June, George Ingram, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Europe and Eurasia, USAID Washington DC, and Glenn Anders, Head of the USAID Central Asia Mission, visited Counterpart's Tashkent office and met with NGOs and makhallas in the Fergana Valley region.

KAZAKHSTAN

U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright visited Kazakhstan in April and Counterpart Consortium was responsible for preparing a list of NGO participants for a meeting she had in Astana.

During the entire first quarter of the new program Counterpart's staff was involved in the process of planning. We developed a work plan and budget for year one. The spending plans for the Support Centers were developed as well. This is the first time that participatory approach was used in Counterpart to develop such documents. It was very important and useful in terms of improving the skills of the local staff and will be essential for eventual localization.

The staffing process was completed. The organizational development consultant, Beth Comolli, helped Kazakhstan office to develop an organizational chart that reflects the new goal and objectives of Phase III, job responsibilities for current and new staff positions and questionnaires and evaluation forms for hiring new staff members.

The video film for UNHCR about NGOs assisting refugees in Central Asia region was completed. At the beginning of this project we had faced some organizational problems. The Regional Media Coordinator had left our organization and we had to hire some consultants to finish it. It took some time and additional financial resources. So, this video was finished at the end of June instead of middle of May as originally planned.

Counterpart has been contracted to facilitate logistics for a training session for the Environmental Protection Agency. Initial plans were made for the MARSIMM workshop will be held in Almaty in September. We have had previous meetings with people from Nuclear Safety Center (NSC) and agreed about responsibilities and duties to prepare and conduct this training. Counterpart has prepared the budget for this workshop and will play the leading role in this process. The negotiations with NSC will be continued during the rest of months.

We have chosen a preferable space for the Regional and Kazakhstan Country offices and started the process of negotiation with the owner of this building. Negotiations will continue in the next quarter.

Staff Development

Jamila Asanova, Program Coordinator, participated in a training from June 1-4 held in Moscow by the international organization of trainers and consultants *InterTraining*. The training was devoted to a new method of conducting conferences and other public events called Open Space Technology. She was admitted to this organization as a member and took part in the annual conference of *InterTraining*.

Training Highlights

For the first time in Counterpart Consortium's experience in Kazakhstan, all training courses held within the quarter were ordered and paid for by the inviting parties. The sum total of training expenses, including the trainers' compensation, costs of meals, stationery, copying, etc. amounted to US \$8000. This achievement was a manifestation of the successful completion of Phase II activities and served as a motivator for planning of Phase III activities. Phase III training activities are scheduled to begin mid-late quarter of the next quarter, with the launching of the Civil Society Support Centers throughout Kazakhstan.

It is worth special mention that 3 of the 16 training courses provided this quarter were ordered by state institutions (Kazakh National University and the Kazakh Architectural-Construction Academy). The 67 people trained represented a combination of university graduates and professors. Interest in training programs on the part of the state agencies attests to a high demand for such kind of services. Counterpart Zhalgas may develop a special training program for state agencies in public administration and management (these institutions have a special budget for personnel training programs).

By conducting training on a request basis, Counterpart can analyze the marketing situation and determine the training supply and demand in Kazakhstan. High demand for organizational development training among international organizations is evident. More often than not it is a demand not for an isolated training but for a series of strategically devised training programs. 6 training programs have been ordered by international organizations: Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation, UNHCR, ACCELS and IREX.

Counterpart's expertise in designing and implementing training programs can be best exemplified by the recent experience working with Mott McDonald and an Association of Water Users. In the first quarter of 2000, Counterpart designed a 2-3 day training course customized for the needs of southern Kazakhstan associations. This program included training in public relations and bookkeeping/accounting. Counterpart designed specialized modules on bookkeeping/accounting and PR, based on its vast experience working with associations and organizations, attuned to the needs of water-users. As estimated by the clients, the training courses were quite successful.

Building on this experience, Counterpart is implementing a program, through funding by AED/Global, to develop training for associations of water-users in Almaty oblast. In June 2000 Counterpart implemented the second stage of this program, which included 3 one-day trainings in 3 rural areas of Almaty oblast. In all 85 farmers representing 57 organizations were trained. This project was implemented with the expert support of the EPIC/USAID project. The program and the module were developed by Counterpart and adapted to reflect the peculiarities of farming and farmers' organizations in Almaty oblast.

Information Network

At present database contains information on 773 Kazakhstan NGOs. Information on 41 new NGOs was entered and 42 old questionnaires were updated. We received information on 63 NGOs that had changed their addresses or do not exist anymore. Our volunteers are correcting and updating the list of organizations. All training data for Phase II was corrected and updated: total number of workshops - 690, trained organizations - 8,674, trained participants -12,296.

KYRGYZSTAN

Seven key staff persons took part in the Regional Staff Meeting held in Almaty on May 9-13. The goal of the meeting was to engage a core group of staff throughout Central Asia in the process of planning of Phase III, to ensure that all Counterpart staff is familiar with what needs to be accomplished during the next 3 years. Regional working groups were formed and key program staff are members of the working groups.

Training Highlights

Training activities were greatly reduced this quarter as budget resources were allocated for other activities. Counterpart program staff and one contract-trainer conducted a workshop on facilitation skills for 17 local Peace Corps Language and Cross-Cultural facilitators, who provide Peace Corps volunteers with trainings on language and cross-cultural issues, on June 2, 2000.

The Counterpart Program Coordinators, UNHCR Program Assistant, Refugee Coordinator of Kara-Balta Center, Assistants of Jalal-Abad, Naryn, and Karakol Civil Society Support Centers (CSSC) took part in a TOT held from June 15-20, 2000. The Counterpart Contract Trainers conducted the TOT in line with the project "Capacity Building Support for NGOs/CBOs in Social Sector," which was funded by UNDP's Bureau of Gender in Development. The TOT covered following topics: Social Partnership, Project Design, Organizational Development, Finance Development, Fundraising, Team Building, Advocacy, and Monitoring and Evaluation. In addition, participants were introduced to the general principles of Adult Learning Methodology.

Counterpart staff conducted a session on Organizational Development for the Jalal-Abad CSSC on April 25. The staff and representatives of two refugee and three local NGOs took part in this session, the main goal of which was to identify three most important strengths and three priority areas for improvement in order to compile an initial plan to increase organizational efficiency. The same session for Kara-Balta CSSC was conducted on May 3-4, for Naryn CSSC on May 23, and Karakol CSSC – on May 25. From May 25-26 action plans of interventions were designed for Jalal-Abad and Kara-Balta CSSCs on the basis of OD process findings as identified with the assistance of Beth Comolli, Regional OD Specialist.

Information Network

14,280 user sessions (English version- 6,909, Russian- 7,371) were registered in the log file since April 1, 2000 in CANGO.NET. The average user session length was 14 minutes. Users from USA accounted for 15% of the sessions, while other international users accounted for 25% of the sessions. The NGO Database (NGODB), NGO Homepages, Links, Listserve and Bulletin Board, and NGO Electronic Library are available on the Web Site.

To date, there are 153 homepages (115 for Kyrgyzstan) in Russian and 77 homepages (48 for Kyrgyzstan) in English on Web Site. Nine homepages of Central Asian NGOs (including 6 for Kyrgyzstani NGOs) in Russian and 16 homepages (16 for Kyrgyzstan) in English were added. 20 NGO homepages were updated. Information on donor agencies and their projects were removed from the Web Site. Electronic Library sections on Environment and Human Rights were updated. The web page for ICNL (<http://icnl.cango.net.kg>) has been developed. The Web Site was registered in YAHOO. Three CD versions of CANGO.NET were recorded and sent to Support Centers.

Internet/Email Services: 97 visitors from 67 NGOs (624 visits) used the Internet Center's facilities working with e-mail, Internet and document processing. 44% of the visitors used e-mail, 27% used the Internet and 29% worked with documents. 1,200 consultations for NGOs were provided. Currently, 180 e-mail boxes are being maintained for NGOs, 15 new e-mail boxes for NGOs and 7 dial-up accounts were opened. To date, 67 local NGOs use dial-up access. The IT staff trained four volunteers, who worked in the Center under the supervision of the Database Manager during the month of June. Volunteers made 297 phone calls to NGOs in order to update Database and Web Site information.

Documentation/Publications: During the reporting period, Counterpart Contract Trainers designed three manuals in Russian, translated them into Kyrgyz and published them in a bilingual edition. Materials of eleven modules of Counterpart were adapted and incorporated into these manuals: NGO & Community, NGO Management, Project Design, Strategic Planning, Fundraising, Financial Management, Financial Sustainability, Human Resources Management, Team Building/Conflict Resolution, Social Partnership and Constituency Development.

Database: The NGO Database contains information on 2,362 Central Asian NGOs, including 1,069 Kyrgyzstani NGOs, which have been active. 52 new questionnaires were added, and information on 152 local NGOs was updated during the reporting period. The regional policy on the Regional Database was revised. It was originally envisioned that the Regional Database would only contain the following information: NGOs information, training information, data collected to enable reporting on the indicators contained in Counterpart’s proposal to USAID, and data collected to enable reporting to USAID on its own performance indicators. This quarter, however, it was determined that country offices are free to create and maintain other databases at the country level.

TAJIKISTAN

Security Situation

Program activities continued without interruption during this quarter despite high rates of violent crime in Tajikistan and poor security conditions in Dushanbe. There were murders of high ranking officials, including the head of the National TV & Radio Committee and the head of the local executive power in Garm district (one of the districts in Karategeen valley). The main highway to Garm remains closed due to security.

There were increased incidents of explosions. In Dushanbe, law-enforcement raids continued against illegally armed units, groups and people illicitly keeping arms. There has been a reduction of armed individuals and groups seen roaming the streets of Dushanbe. Many weekly occurrences of violent crimes (including murder, robbery, bombings and hijacking) continue in Dushanbe and throughout the country.

Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan’s Country Director, John Barbee, left for extended leave in April. Deputy Director Farhod Bokiev, was appointed Acting Country Director.

The program staff of Counterpart Consortium office in Dushanbe attended Counterpart regional meetings in Almaty and Tashkent. All five program staff participated in planning activities for implementation of USAID NGO Development Phase III. Tajikistan staff are represented in the working groups for Reporting, Training, OD/Support Centers, Grants, and Community Mobilization.

Counterpart Tajikistan began the process of reviewing and revising program staff job descriptions and evaluating training needs of program staff for implementation of Phase III.

Deputy Regional Financial Director Yana Dobronravova visited Dushanbe Office to conduct a financial audit of the grants allocated during Phase I and II.

The issue of high NGO registration fees has been an ongoing concern, discussed in many meetings, at many levels. Counterpart Consortium, along with NGO Intelcon, conducted a roundtable entitled “Legal and Financial Aspects of NGO Registration in Tajikistan.” The participants of the roundtable represented NGOs, Government, Parliament, and the Constitution Court. There was agreement that the Governmental Decree from 1991, which governs registration of NGOs, contradicts the Constitution of Tajikistan. The group decided to apply to the Constitution Court and the Government of Tajikistan for revisions to the existing regulations. Follow up actions are: First, gather appeals/letters from NGOs which did not attend the roundtable, then review their comments and submit the appeal to the Constitution Court. At the same time Intelcon has developed a proposal on revisions to the NGO registration procedure that will be presented to the Government.

Training Highlights

Counterpart training activities included 47 training workshops for 716 participants from 583 NGOs conducted in all parts of the country. A complete list of training activities can be found in Attachment # 3.

A number of specific training needs of target NGOs were identified during TTAP sessions. Training workshops addressing these needs were the primary activities in training this quarter. Trainee groups were complemented with representatives from other non-target NGOs. In addition, there were regular training workshops to address the growing needs of NGOs. Those were scheduled according to availability of the trainers and other resources.

Counterpart is expanding its pool of qualified trainers in an effort to reach the growing number of NGOs in the northern areas of Tajikistan. In Khojand, there was a TOT on “Adult Learning Styles” for ten participants from areas within the Leninabad Viloyat. These ten will be conducting Counterpart training workshops in the districts.

Counterpart and AED/Global Training Project conducted a TOT on Team Building and Personnel Management for 16 Counterpart contract trainers. Two trainers from Golubka Center from Russia facilitated the TOT, which included training on general Team Building and Personnel Management Skills, TOT on Effective Team Work and Personnel Management and two trainings on Teambuilding and Personnel Management Skills for two Dushanbe based NGOs.

During these workshops, contract trainers gained new knowledge on team building and management as well as new skills, techniques and tools in conducting training. A new four day training module on Effective Team Work and Personnel Management was developed. The participants agreed that this module requires continuous adaptation based on situational needs. Therefore, the success of this training module depends on trainer’s skills, knowledge, and ability to adapt to diverse needs of the participants. This training can be conducted in organizations as well as for groups of organization leaders.

NGO Associations

Counterpart Tajikistan has facilitated two meetings of Tajik crafts NGOs and held a number of consultations with them, first to assist them in establishing an association of Tajik crafts NGOs, then to inform them about the Regional Crafts Association and how to select the NGO to represent them in this association. Six primary artisans NGOs from Dushanbe, which have branches in the regions, took part in the meetings. In the last meeting all NGOs agreed to create an association of crafts NGOs in Tajikistan and worked out the first steps to be taken to develop the association. One of the steps will be informing other crafts NGOs, especially those who are located in the regions, about the association and involving them in association activities. The Association is open for membership to all artisans NGOs. The two NGO leaders who had participated in the Regional Crafts Association's meeting presented the goals of the regional association. All participants expressed interest in having good links with the regional association.

Women’s Initiative is currently the only member of the regional association from Tajikistan. The Tajikistan association would like to add another NGO member to the regional association, *Haft Paikar*. This NGO was selected as the coordinator of Tajikistan Crafts NGO Association, and will represent Tajikistan crafts NGOs in the regional association. The leader of this NGO, Mrs. Mukarrama Kayumova, participated in the meeting of the Regional Crafts Association but wasn’t accepted as an individual member.

The Tajikistan Association is planning to organize a fair in Dushanbe in November and to invite members of the regional association. *Haft Paikar* has a safe and comfortable office with good equipment available where other NGOs can meet with each other and use the equipment.

The following is the list of Tajikistan Crafts NGO Association Founders:

Name of NGO	Leader
Shafkat	Maksuda Kholova
Center of Young Artisans	Mahwash Kadirova
NGO Haft Paikar	Mukarrama Kayumova
Women's Initiative	Safargul Davliyorova
Arts Foundation	Olga Shemelina
Association of Small Business of Tajikistan	Matluba Uljabaeva

TURKMENISTAN

This quarter marked the transition from Phase II programming to Phase III programming. The shift in program emphasis was addressed by treating the month of April as a strategic planning month for the staff of the Ashgabad and Dashoguz offices as well as the WUA office in Turkmenbashi etrap. 11 full days were spent in planning exercises with staff including: Review and familiarization of the new proposal for all programming staff; review of new concepts such as community development, outreach, OD, etc.; workplan design; OD follow-up; review and revision of office roles and responsibilities; review of indicators; CANGO.net training; and financial training using new spreadsheets.

Emphasis was placed on how to balance the ongoing broad NGO Support in Turkmenistan (which has been operating for only 21/2 years as opposed to almost 5 years in other Central Asian countries) with the new objectives and regional network goals under Phase III. The planning activities were lead by both expatriate and local staff and were especially helpful for new staff in support center positions.

Following the intensive internal Turkmenistan planning period in April, May and June activities were influenced by the priorities of the Regional Working groups established during the May Regional Staff Meeting in Almaty. An in-country working group was formed for each of the regional working group themes including staff from the Ashgabad and Dashoguz Support Centers. These working groups, though time-consuming, have served as the first experiment using the computer as a medium for large-scale regional planning. After the initial month of troubleshooting computer glitches, the working group process became a more streamlined information planning, sharing and feedback-generating tool which serves as a model for successful regional communication through the Internet. This result is a catalyst for the effective use of a Regional Support Center Network. It has also enhanced the staff's confidence in using e-mail feedback and virtual meetings for internal Turkmenistan programming.

Office Programming in Turkmenistan was thrown slightly off course after a critical and unsubstantiated letter written by an anonymous author was signed by 11 individuals who are members of Turkmen NGOs and published in an online newsletter. Although the allegations were not corroborated by any factual examples, Counterpart felt that it was important to respond by coordinating with USAID's Regional Office to conduct an internal programmatic audit of activities in Turkmenistan. As a result, Jay Cooper, Regional Director and Erkin Kasybekov, Country Director in Kyrgyzstan conducted meetings and site visits with Turkmen NGOs from June 6-10. In conjunction with Sean Roberts, Democracy Specialist, Office of Democratic Transition, USAID Almaty, Murl Baker, Country Representative, USAID Turkmenistan, and Jens Wendel, UNDP Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan, a focus group meeting was called at the UN Building on June 8th in which the all signatories were invited to discuss the issues raised in the letter. The result of the meeting was that allegations remained largely unsubstantiated by fact. The review team assessed that, for the most part, the accusations were unjustified and reflected a lack of understanding/respect for Counterpart's Mission and requirements under our USAID grant. Those NGO representatives who signed the letter were explained that Counterpart encourages dialogue

regarding our program, but urged the group to use more constructive and fact-based means of dialogue with USAID and Counterpart in the future. Likewise, Counterpart was encouraged to review the issues raised and attempt to make procedures and policies more transparent in order to avoid potential for such misunderstandings in the future.

Despite the psychological disruption to staff resulting from the accusations and the practical disruption to scheduling caused by the visit, the Office continued to operate fully during the visit. Counterpart has taken the following steps to address issues raised in the letter:

- Country Director maintains Office Hours for the public for two hours each Thursday
- Weekly discussion groups with NGOs in Dashoguz City are organized by the Dashoguz Support Center
- More prominent display in Support Centers of criteria and procedures
- Increased frequency of NGO feedback sessions related to training modules
- Efforts to include more input from NGOs into module revision

As the anonymous letter attracted the attention of other local NGOs, local government and other organizations who have expressed curiosity and concern regarding the outcome of the visit, it is planned that a public letter will be drafted by the US Embassy in Turkmenistan as well as one by Counterpart International in order to clarify the results of the visit and the position of the American government and Counterpart International in support of the work of the Counterpart Consortium Office and staff in Turkmenistan.

Staff Development

- A staff development retreat was conducted in Chuly, on April 4th for 22 members of the Ashgabad and Dashoguz staff. Training interventions covered: time management, stress management tools, conflict resolution, ethics, and the inter-relationship of various jobs/understanding of roles and responsibilities. The Country Director and Jeren Khakhieva, Program Coordinator, conducted the sessions. The WUA Director/Training and Outreach Coordinator conducted one session.
- The Financial Manager, Andrey Rodionov, carried-out a financial management training for programming staff on June 5th based on the model developed by the Regional Financial Manager
- A detailed CANGOnet training session was conducted by the Ashgabad staff and the Dashoguz Support Center Manager by the Information Systems Specialist, Pavel Kharitonov on April 26
- On May 25, Jemal Orazvalieva, Project Coordinator on the UNICEF sub-contract "Watsan 2 Project" conducted a presentation of Phase II results for the Ashgabad staff
- A conceptual session on "Outreach Activities for Phase III" was conducted for staff on April 20th by the Training and Outreach Coordinator, Scott Yetter and Jeren Khakhieva, Program Coordinator
- Aina Dovodova, Ashgabad Resource Center Manager, participated in the "Women in Politics" seminar conducted by consultants with the British Know-How Fund on April 25th
- Workplan/Performance Plan development workshops took place over a period of 6 days in April, May and June
- The Regional Staff/Working Group Meeting in Almaty May 8-12 was attended by 3 PCs, the Grant Manager, the Financial Manager, the Country Director and the WUA Director/Training and Outreach Coordinator
- The Regional Staff/Working Group Meeting in Tashkent June 27-30 was attended by 2 PCs, the Grant Manager, Country Director and WUA Director/Training and Outreach Coordinator
- On May 4-6 the Ashgabad Resource Center Manager attended the OSCE conference on: "The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters"
- On April 16-18 in Moscow, Information Systems Specialist, Pavel Kharitonov and WUA Director/Training and Outreach Coordinator, Scott Yetter, participated in the "UNHCR NGO

Working Group on Refugee Integration, Repatriation and Resettlement" in the framework of the CIS Conference

Training Highlights

An increased number of outside training sessions continued this quarter in an effort to build the skills of the contract trainer pool and respond to the growing need for training in remote areas. As a result, five NGO and Community, one NGO Management, and one Association Development training sessions were held in oblasts with fledgling NGO/CBO communities. Association Development training was conducted in Turkmenbashi etrap in the Turkmen language through the efforts of local trainers. During this period, sixteen modules were conducted for 210 participants.

As a result of the *Connectivity Grants* small grant program conducted this quarter and the growing number of NGOs with access to e-mail and Internet through Counterpart's office, Pavel Kharitonov, the Information Systems Specialist, designed an NGO Web Page Development module which was conducted for the first time this quarter. 10 participants from 9 NGOs designed homepages for their organizations during the two-day workshop. Follow-up will be carried out in July. Also in response to the high demand by NGOs for training on Internet use, How to Use the Internet was added to the schedule at the end of May for 22 participants from 15 NGOs. This training continues to be in high demand.

The following events and activities have resulted from Targeted Assistance through TTAPs and the OD process:

- Eight members of target NGOs attended training courses at SMEDA as the result of an agreement between SMEDA and Counterpart to strengthen NGOs with activities that encourage the development of Small Business in Turkmenistan. The training courses covered the following topics: English, Financial Management, Accountancy, Women's Enterprise Development, and Computer Skills.
- Six target NGOs were given e-mail accounts and 24-hour access to the Internet via the Counterpart server. Staff from these NGOs received training on basic Internet use. Other members were enrolled in Internet training sessions next quarter.
- Technical Assistance in conducting and organizing a Roundtable on Civic Education was given to the NGO *Civic Dignity*.
- The NGO *Cheshme* was assisted in the preparation for a seminar on Ecological Education and Curriculum Development.
- The NGO *Arma* received technical support in planning the agenda, topics, and handouts for their roundtable.
- The NGO *Uchgun* was assisted in the preparation of a proposal to Peace Corps and subsequently received a small grant in the amount of \$2000.

Information Network

The beginning of Phase III activities provided the incentive for a large-scale update of the existing NGO database in Turkmenistan. Currently, there are 210 NGOs listed in the database, another 25 are being reviewed and will be added in the coming quarter. The Information Systems Specialist and Resource Center Manager in Ashgabad reviewed the existing questionnaires and contacted all organizations whose information was included in CANGOnet during Phase II. As a result of this, more than 30 organizations were removed from the database either because they no longer operate or they merged activities with another NGO. In addition, the contact information was updated in approximately 75% of the NGOs as many have moved out of private residences and into office space as the result of their institutional development. The Internet issues in Turkmenistan also resulted in the need for 27 NGOs to change e-mail accounts, all which were updated in the database.

Roundtables

- On May 19 Counterpart hosted a roundtable on *Civic Education in Turkmenistan* to provide space for the NGO *Civic Dignity* to share the results of its grant activity. Members of NGOs, international organizations and businesses considered jointly the prospects of development of civic education in Turkmenistan. After a brief but very fruitful report of the results of the project “Basis of civic education” students who participated in the seminars and their parents shared their thoughts and impressions of the impact of the training on themselves and their peers. The second part of the roundtable was devoted to the exchange of ideas on how to better collaborate on such projects in the future. At the end of the meeting a decision was made to create a working group on Civic Education that will coordinate work in this field. Five participants volunteered as members of this working group. The first meeting is planned for July.
- On May 25, a focus group on *The NGO environment in Turkmenistan* was organized by Counterpart between Mr. David Morris – U.S. Department of State Desk Officer for Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan – and representatives of 6 NGOs to provide an overview of conditions for public organizations and NGO activities in Turkmenistan. Discussion topics included: The integration of Governmental structures into registered organizations and initiative groups (partnership with Governmental organizations), the relationship between mass media and NGOs (the value of publishing NGO bulletins as means of sharing information), and the gap between legislative framework for NGO development and enforcement of the laws.

UZBEKISTAN

US State Secretary Madeline Albright paid a visit to Uzbekistan in April. April 19 she had a meeting with Tashkent NGOs organized by USAID. April 16 Jay Cooper, Country Director at the time, flew to Bukhara to prepare for the Secretary Albright’s visit. On April 18 Secretary Albright arrived in Bukhara, where she visited Counterpart’s partner Bukhara Informational and Cultural Center. She observed its routine work with clients and met with the employees.

From May 10-13 Uzbekistan program staff participated in the Regional Staff Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan. There, the regional program staff divided into ad-hoc working groups, which have been engaged in developing processes and procedures for implementation the Phase III. The Uzbekistan program team has representation in all working groups, providing country-specific contribution to their work.

May 14 Jay Cooper was promoted from Counterpart Uzbekistan Country Director to Regional Director Counterpart Central Asia, based in Almaty. Effective same day, Ms. Loretta Land was appointed the Country Director of Counterpart Uzbekistan. Ms. Land joined the Counterpart team bringing her vast experience in organizational development and in civil society development in CIS (Armenia and Georgia in particular).

On June 16, the Tashkent office made an informal luncheon to welcome the honorable guests George Ingram, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Europe and Eurasia, USAID, Washington DC, and Glenn Anders, Head of Office, USAID Central Asia. Short presentations of Counterpart Civil Society Support Centers and the Makhalla Initiative Program were made.

On June 27 David Smith, former Regional Director, was assigned as Acting Country Director for Counterpart Uzbekistan during Loretta Land’s two-month leave.

On June 27-30 Tashkent office hosted a Regional Staff Meeting. All regional working groups, Country Directors and regional managers participated to refine Phase III programming.

Staff Development

From June 1-7 Program Coordinator Dina Mukhamadieva was in Moscow for training and meetings. She participated in a training on Open Space Technology provided by InterTraining, the international organization of trainers and consultants. Following the training, she participated in InterTraining's three day annual conference, as she is a member of the Board of Directors.

Information Network

Counterpart Uzbekistan database now includes 462 NGOs. 40 new entries were added to the NGO database and data on inactive NGOs was eliminated. Information on 140 NGOs was updated. Counterpart's volunteer entered information on the training program for the years 1999 and 2000 into the database. Now detailed data on NGOs and individual trainees and the workshops they attended can easily be found.

D. NETWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTERS

KAZAKHSTAN

Astana Civil Society Support Center

The staff of the NGO Support Center in Astana provided 65 consultations for NGOs, received 315 visitors and made 5 business trips. Four monitoring trips were made.

On April 18, 2000, 14 NGOs from Astana hosted a meeting with the representatives of an ecological organization from Almaty *Green Salvation*. *Green Salvation* shared its experience in law-making activities and publications on the topic were presented. Also in April the Astana Support Center hosted a meeting with TACIS representatives Assiya Alzhanova and Crispin Meelboom to discuss NGO development and opportunities for cooperation.

In May Support Center Manager Galia Omarova and Program Coordinator Bibigul Salykova participated in a training held by the Akmolinsk Rural Information Center sponsored by Know-How and Soros Foundations on "The Role of Arbitration Courts". They also participated in the Center for Promotion of Democracy's training on "Development of local self-governance."

On June 19 a volunteer from Volunteers Service Organization (VSO), Claire Healing, started working for the Astana Civil Society Support Center within the framework of the project "Together we are Stronger" developed jointly by the NGO *Zharya*, the English organization VSO, and Counterpart Consortium. The project implementers devised an action plan for July-August 2000 and assisted in organizing, translating and conducting meetings with target NGOs.

In June employees of the Support Center visited the Information Center of the Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation (Karaganda), got acquainted with the coordinator Askar Bekeshev, and discussed the prospects of cooperation in the sphere of supporting the third sector in Central and Northern Kazakhstan. Also in June, the Support Center hosted a meeting with a representative from the International Organization for Migration, Gulnar Ilyusizova, to discuss prospects of cooperation between IOM and women's NGOs in Astana.

In June Support Center staff participated in several meetings and trainings including: "Determining the Customs Value" organized by the Republic of Kazakhstan Customs Committee with support from a USAID project on trade and investments; a seminar organized by the UN and participated by the parliamentary deputies on the practice of holding public hearings; a training for trainers on "Women's Rights and Gender Education" organized by OSCE and the Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; and the conference "The State and NGOs: A Step towards Each Other" organized by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord at attended by 70 representatives of Kazakhstani NGOs.

UNHCR Component

In April Support Center staff hosted the seminar entitled "International Experience of UNHCR," which was facilitated by Mr. Abdul Karim Ghoull and included Deputies of Senate and Majilis. The Center also organized meetings of UNHCR representatives with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice Minister of Justice, the Chairperson of the Agency of Migration, and the Chief of Passport and Visa Management.

In June the Center organized a meeting on Chechen refugees, a meeting of the working group on the Law for the refugees and meetings with correspondent Parliamentarians and Officials. Preparations were made for Mr. Ghoul's visit to Astana for participation in a series of meetings with members of the President's Administration including the Vice-Chairperson of the Agency of Migration, the Chairperson of the Committee of Legislation of the Senate, and the Head of the Department on Policy. Center staff gathered responses from law students in Astana from a questionnaire on a summer seminar and were instrumental in informing Astana officials about the broadcast of a film made by UNHCR and IOM, which ran on KTK TV from June 24-25, 2000.

Almaty Civil Society Support Center

Representatives of 89 NGOs (from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan) used the Resource Center's equipment and were provided with consultations (617 visits). The hard copy of the list of NGOs in Kazakhstan was updated. E-mail boxes for 2 NGOs were opened and now there are 12 e-mail boxes of NGOs at Counterpart. Information for homepages on 4 NGOs was put on CANGO.net. 7 queries of international organizations were answered.

Twenty-one representatives from seven organizations were trained in the Center's computer courses including the usage of peripherals. Based on increasing demand, the Center will provide advanced computer training on a more regular basis – four times during a two-week period.

The probationary period of work for the mass media coordinator Faizulla Dzhakushev ended on April 15. It was decided to cancel the labor contract with him due to his unsatisfactory performance of his duties and lack of further financing for this position.

Nurlan Zhumabekov started to work as a Program Coordinator of the Support Center after his internship in the Almaty office. There are three volunteers who are assisting in carrying out regular activities at the Resource Center (assistance to visitors, translation of documents and other)

The Center staff have been focused on increasing the library resources. As a result of this effort, several materials have been collected from Russia, and there are now 429 books and magazines in the library's catalogue.

In June Senior Support Center coordinator Jamila Asanova participated in an Open Space Technology Training in Moscow conducted by Michael Pannwitz & Jochen Topfer (experts from Germany) and InterTraining Training Association (Russia)

Consulting Center Zubr, Ust-Kamenogorsk

This affiliated Civil Society Support Center received two grants from the Soros Foundation. One is directly connected with the main goal of Counterpart Consortium for Phase III -- to create a network of Support Centers around Kazakhstan -- and it is aimed at creating a network of consultants in NGO Development in seven major towns of Eastern Kazakhstan Oblast. The other grant is to assist in conducting a municipal drug reduction program in cooperation with another affiliated resource center *Help* in Kustanai.

Director of Zubr, Vitaliy Kulik, was recently elected to the Council of InterTraining, which is an international professional organization of trainers and consultants. He replaces Dina Mukhamedieva (CC/Uzbekistan), who attended her final meeting as a member of the Board of Directors as the only Central Asian representative to the Council of InterTraining.

Inkar, Aktyubinsk

The NGO *Inkar*, which was identified as one of the potential Counterpart partners in Western Kazakhstan and is part of the existing network, has been negotiating the issue of raising resources for conducting a fair of NGO social projects and ideas with the local government.

As a part of an ecological network *Inkar* has been involved into providing expert survey on the ecological situation in the Caspian region around Kazakhstan.

KYRGYZSTAN

On June 22-23, all four CSSCs conducted roundtables with participation of at least 20 representatives of local NGOs to discuss issues of Governance, Reforms of Juridical and Legislative Systems. These roundtables were organized in line with third stage of developing Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF). Eight NGOs representatives were delegated to take part in National CDF workshop on Governance, Reforms of Juridical and Legislative Systems that was held in Bishkek in early June.

Jalal-Abad Civil Society Support Center

The Jalal-Abad Support Center provided 109 consultations for NGOs, received 190 visitors and made 20 field trips to outlying areas.

In April the Support Center hosted a roundtable of environmental NGOs to clarify and prioritize environmental issues, and discuss plans for joint actions to increase public awareness to key issues. All participants agreed to meet on a monthly basis, and organize a summer seminar focused on increasing public and government awareness of environmental issues in the South.

The Jalal-Abad Support Center Manager and refugee leaders took part in a roundtable meeting in Osh held by the NGO Fund of Support of Legal and Economic Reforms (FSLER) on April 20. The main topic of the meeting was a refugee citizenship. There were representatives of the Osh Passport Office, Mercy Corps, UNHCR, Regional Migration Committee, Red Crescent and local refugee groups at the roundtable. Participants decided to write a letter to Parliament and the President of Kyrgyzstan requesting easier procedures for refugees to acquire citizenship.

Kara-Balta Civil Society Support Center

Kara-Balta CSSC provided 176 consultations for NGOs and received 122 visitors.

On April 5, the staff, together with *Hireneso*, held the roundtable with participation of representatives of State Agency on Migration and Demography, local passport office and refugee leaders from 9 villages of Jayl Rayon. Participants discussed issues of providing temporary residence status and residence registration to refugees, and birth certificates. As a result of this meeting refugee leaders wrote a letter to the Parliament deputies Mr. Tolokontsev and Mr. V. Deele, in which they requested a simplification of the procedures to obtain official papers.

On May 24 the staff, together with the Kara-Balta Town Administration, held a roundtable with participation of representatives of six local NGOs. Participants discussed issues of cooperation between NGOs and the local administration. NGOs shared information about their current activities and structures and the Administration representative, Ms. E. Kim, discussed the Administration's structure, resources and opportunities for cooperation. The participants agreed to update their work plans in order to strengthen cooperation and the Administration promised to assist in providing statistic data to NGOs.

On June 30, representatives of the UNDP Poverty Alleviation Program and CARITAS visited the Support Center to discuss the possibility of creating an Information Marketing Center (IMC). The main goal of IMC is to promote the development of medium and small farms by providing information on agricultural markets, new technologies and new expertise. Parties discussed a plan for the creation of an IMC, the first step of which would be to conduct meetings with unions of local farmers to identify their needs, possibilities to address them, and create a service package to be delivered through the IMC. The Second step would be drafting a proposal to UNDP, which should be based on farmers' needs. It is envisaged, that UNDP would cover administrative costs of IMC, CARITAS would provide information support, and the Support Center would administer the project.

Naryn Civil Society Support Center

The staff of the Naryn CSSC provided 39 consultations for NGOs and received 152 visitors.

The Manager met with the Regional Coordinator of the Urban Institute in preparation of a public hearing on the Naryn Town budget to be held in summer 2000. The Urban Institute and the Support Center would facilitate creation of the public committee, which is designated to promote transparent governance of Naryn Town.

The Support Center assisted the State Committee on Investments and the World Bank in organizing a seminar on Medium and Small Business Development, held in Naryn from April 17-23. Representatives of private business, government agencies and 4 local NGOs attended this seminar.

On June 24, the Manager took part in the meeting of local NGOs, held at the Governor's Office, to discuss the issue of establishing a nationwide NGO Association. Twenty-five NGO representatives attended this meeting. Participants agreed upon further clarification of goals, mission and objectives of the Association.

Community Resource Centers in Batken and Kant:

The contracts and project descriptions with NGOs *Alga* and *Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI)* to establish Community Resource Centers (CRC) in Kant and Batken were finalized and signed this quarter. Both NGOs received their first grant installments. Staff of CRC's were identified and hired. It is expected that the Centers will begin operations in July 2000.

TAJIKISTAN

There was a planning and discussion meeting with managers of all the Civil Society Support Centers and country hub office program staff. The purpose of this discussion was to share information with the Center managers about the changing role of Support Centers in the coming three years under the Phase III program. Center managers are supportive of this evolution of role and function of the Centers. Preliminary discussions were held concerning training and capacity building needs of the existing Centers and the group identified the following needs:

- Development of Technical Assistance & Training Plans (TTAPs) for each Center
- Staff training & development
- Development of a Strategic/Business Plan in each Center
- Creation of governance structure for each Center

After the meeting, all the Center managers made a site visit to the Support Center in Kurghan-teppa. This was the first such visit by Center managers, and the group agreed to continue inter-office visitations.

Kurghan-teppa Civil Society Support Center

Nine trainings were conducted by the Kurghan-teppa Support Center. Technical assistance for NGO registration was provided to seven NGOs, all of which are not registered with the local branch of the Ministry of Justice

The Center Manager, Sohiba Rakhimova, became a member of the Committee for Establishing Women's Center on Gender Issues. This will be the first Center in the Khatlon oblast to address gender issues, thereby raising the role and status of women in society increasing awareness of reproductive health issues.

There is great demand for legal consultations with NGOs in this area. In response to this demand, the Center along with ICNL's local implementing partner *Society and Law* arranged a roundtable on the legal aspects of NGO activities. There were 18 participants representing a wide range of NGOs in the Khatlon oblast. There was particular interest in the Law on Public Organizations and other related laws, as well as procedures for NGO registration and the issue of taxation.

Khojand Civil Society Support Center

The Khojand Support Center, in the Fergana Valley, continues to provide information, training, technical assistance, and support to NGOs in the region. The Support Center hosts a monthly "NGO Club," a meeting of NGOs from Khojand and surrounding areas. This is an opportunity for NGOs to talk together, discuss common issues and problems, and make announcements. The NGO Club in June included a discussion on legal aspects of NGO activities, particularly the procedure of NGO registration. Officials of the local Ministry of Justice were invited to the meeting, and there was good discussion.

The Support Center, along with other NGOs from Khojand City participated in the International Children's Day Festival sponsored by local Government and the local Red Crescent Society.

The Support Center supported the emergence of new NGOs working to solve community problems. These include the Center of Municipal Employees, the NGO *No Drug Addiction*, the Association of Journalists called *Fourth Power* and the women's NGO *Bonuu*.

English courses through the Center continue for NGO representatives.

High-level representatives from USAID visited the Khojand Support Center in June: George Ingram from Washington, Sean Roberts from the Regional Office and Peter Downs, the Director of USAID/Tajikistan. A roundtable was held in the Khojand Center with the participation of local NGOs throughout the Leninabad oblast. The USAID delegation discussed with NGO representatives priority focuses and needs of the region, ways of cooperation and NGO-related legislation and tax policy. The guests showed great interest in the activities of the local NGOs, and visited projects of the Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia, Ittifoq Youth Initiative Center and the Khojand Business Women Association.

Khorog Civil Society Support Center

The Khorog Support Center conducted nine trainings for NGOs in Gorno-Badakhshan oblast (GBAO).

The Center, run by NGO *Kalam*, produces a monthly page in the oblast newspaper *Badakhshan*, which covers activities of both local and international NGOs and announcements and advertisements of NGOs.

In cooperation with Swiss Development Agency, the Center facilitated a gender issues meeting with 15 of the most active NGOs in GBAO. A coordinator for gender issues in Badakhshan was selected during this meeting: NGO *Madad*, a target NGO of Counterpart Consortium.

The Khorog Support Center is experiencing an increase in requests from international organizations for information about national NGOs in the area. During this quarter, the Center was visited by representatives from the Aga Khan Foundation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Eurasia Foundation, TACIF and the Swiss Development Agency.

Kulyab Civil Society Support Center

Activities began for establishing a new Civil Society Support Center in Kulyab. Two program staff visited the region to meet and gather information about current NGOs operating in the region. They also made site visits to the rayons of this remote region. A detailed trip report was prepared which contains information about the current status of local NGOs in the area. Although there are some NGOs operating in Kulyab and the surrounding area, no NGOs were identified which have the organizational structure and mission to become a Civil Society Support Center. Planning is underway for establishing a Center in Kulyab as a new organization, not as part of an existing NGO in the area. NGOs in the area will be included in the planning, and will be invited to participate and assist in the start-up plans.

Dushanbe Civil Society Support Center

In Dushanbe, the Support Center services are currently provided by country office program staff, as was established in Phases I and II. Direct support services to NGOs in Dushanbe will be transferred to a Support Center to be established in Dushanbe – separate from the country office. A new office location was found, and planning is underway for start-up of the Dushanbe Civil Society Support Center. The NGO Resource Center will also move into the Support Center in Dushanbe. This transition and separation of offices will enable country hub program staff to concentrate efforts on building the capacity of all the Support Centers, including Dushanbe.

TURKMENISTAN

Ashgabad Civil Society Support Center

228 visitors used the Ashgabad Resource Center this quarter. This number is lower than usual due to the internal strategic planning work conducted by the staff during the entire month of April. The majority of visitors come to the Center for information on Counterpart Consortium's grant support program. This quarter, three new initiative groups that formed as a result of decreasing national educational curricula, visited the Center in hopes of identifying an alternative and independent means of continuing their activities related to physical education for students. The Center is now being used more frequently by groups of NGOs needing adequate space to have large meetings. For example, three meetings of a coalition of eco-NGOs took place in the Center this quarter. In addition, usage of computer equipment is becoming more frequent now that there is training provided on e-mail and Internet use.

Dashoguz Civil Society Support Center

61 people visited the Center this quarter, leading to 39 consultations with separate initiative groups. Two training sessions were conducted in the Center, and over 10 outreach meetings were held in various governmental offices in the city. In addition, three International Organizations received assistance from the Center to facilitate meetings of local interest groups using the Center's facilities. The quarter also marked the move and expansion of the Center to a new location with considerably more space as well as a separate large in-house training facility. The first issue of the Center's newsletter was published in June and distributed to over 500 people using 10 distribution points and electronic distribution methods. As a result of improved outreach and public information distribution about the activities of Counterpart, 5 new initiative groups were identified and members of those groups participated in NGO and Community training.

Dashoguz SC Meetings and Contact Highlights

On the 5th of April there was a meeting with representative of GTZ – Joachim Langbein and GTZ's local project coordinator – Oleg Guchgeldiev. Discussion themes included: Counterpart's activities in Turkmenistan and in Dashoguz velayet and GTZ activities in Dashoguz velayet, including developing medical services and training family doctors as well as privatization of farming. GTZ showed strong interest in Counterpart's Participatory Approaches and discussed the possibility of contracting those skills from Counterpart for GTZ programs. Mr. Langbein was interested in visiting Water Users' Project in Turkmenbashi etrap.

On the 29th of May, Dashoguz NGO SC staff visited the Nukus NGO Support Center in Uzbekistan. The goal of trip was to share the experience of the Makhalla Initiative Project (MIP) activities. The trip consisted of a mixture of meetings with Support Center and NGO representatives, discussion of the MIP, and site visits to the communities implementing projects.

In early June Counterpart Regional Director, Jay Cooper, and Kyrgyzstan Country Director, Erkin Kasybekov, visited the Dashoguz Center and met with members of three Dashoguz NGOs: "ZENAN", "TRIERA" and Dashoguz Ecology-Club.

In mid-June a meeting took place with the Senior Advisor to the TACIS-funded SMEDA (Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency), the Turkmenistan representative of the Eurasia Foundation, and the Turkmenistan Representative of the International Executive Service Corps. There main topics discussed were the target activities of these organizations in Turkmenistan and the situation with the NGO sector in Dashoguz velayet.

At the initiative of the Center, the NGO "Civil Dignity" held four Civic education seminars for employees of Dashoguz School 3, and for the students of that school. The exposure has increased the constituency of NGO, as the seminars have already resulted in the identification of an initiative group of teachers interested in expanding "Civil Dignity's" work to the Dashoguz region.

UNHCR Funded Centers in Mary and Lebap Regions

In June, Counterpart and UNHCR signed an Agreement to jointly fund the start-up of two regional NGO Support Centers in the Mary and Lebap regions of Turkmenistan by the end of 2000. This agreement marks the final link in a series of regional programs between Counterpart and UNHCR in Central Asia. The first mapping exercises for the Centers have been conducted and the joint project has been presented to the Turkmen government. It is anticipated that both Centers will be operational by October of 2000. Office location and staffing priorities will begin between the cotton and wheat harvests in the upcoming summer months.

UZBEKISTAN

Bukhara Civil Society Support Center

During this period BICC has provided 254 technical services and 95 consultations to the local community stakeholders.

The Bukhara Informational and Cultural Center (BICC) has successfully encouraged and facilitated the building of partnerships and coalitions among local NGOs, governmental agencies and youth organizations.

On May 15, BICC, jointly with the Youth Club, Teenagers' Club and two universities' clubs has organized and conducted the first International Youth Day in Bukhara. The partners of the event were the City Mayor's Office, the German Cultural Center, and the Kogan District Center of English Language. The event, which aimed to attract the public and officials to the problem of youth leisure time usage, attracted 150 students from the Bukhara region.

In June, the youth clubs of the city appealed to BICC for assistance in organizing another city event for International Children's Day. BICC developed a scenario and commissioned the prizes for the holiday of intellectual games, musical performances and sport contests, which took place on June 3. About 200 children and their parents participated in the event.

Also in June, BICC initiated a coalition with the City Mayor's Office, the Kamolot Fund, the Department of Culture, and a drug-abuse clinic. The coalition developed a program, which included a contest of posters, automobile racing, development and dissemination of anti-drugs materials. About 150 teenagers participated in this event, which was dedicated the *Day against Drugs Use and Trafficking* and took place on June 26th.

In late June an NGO roundtable was convened for OSCE. BICC proposed the idea of expansion of Bukhara NGOs activities to rural areas. The Businesswomen Association, the Bukhara Committee on Human Rights' Protection, the Association of Pediatricians, and the Bukhara Artisans Center, supported this idea. These groups will travel to rural areas of the Bukhara Region to hold meetings, roundtables and seminars with local authorities and community leaders to promote the ideas of civil initiatives. The project will start immediately with the goal of developing the networks of the above NGOs throughout the Bukhara Region. The vision is to ultimately have health, human rights, artisan and other NGOs in remote areas.

During this quarter BICC conducted five debates and seven seminars on human rights. The debate program was initiated by the Open Society Institute in many parts of Uzbekistan, and is now independently sustained by BICC. Skills and knowledge acquired by BICC staff members and volunteers at the seminars of various international organizations and Uzbek NGOs have allowed them to successfully conduct this leadership educational program for young leaders in Bukhara - high school and university students, members of the youth clubs and other adolescents.

Eight young people volunteer their time to support BICC activities. Volunteer efforts include translating into English, rendering technical services to clients, and implementing various projects. The volunteers work according to collaboratively developed job responsibilities. To assure volunteer development BICC has worked out a training plan for volunteers for coming months.

Kokand Civil Society Support Center

The Kokand Support Center continues to build organizational capacity of local NGOs, initiative groups and community leaders providing information, counseling and technical support. 489 visits were logged in the Center this quarter including 56 consultations on organizational development and proposal writing. Four volunteers have helped the Center during the reported period, providing technical support to NGOs and assisting in the small library.

On June 20, USAID officials, George Ingram, Glenn Anders and Sean Roberts visited Kokand. The Support Center organized a meeting with six local NGOs and held discussions about the common problems in Fergana Valley. Two major problems were prioritized – unemployment and lack of information on human rights, especially with women. The NGO leaders came to conclusion that the problems should be combated starting at the bottom level – makhalla communities.

Save the Children Uzbekistan has been assessing NGO needs for its services in the Fergana Region. Choosing among major cities of the region, Save the Children turned to the Kokand Support Center for orientation. The Support Center provided a list of NGOs in the Fergana Valley classified by cities, provided information on particular NGOs, and consulted on the development situation in the region. Having identified the demand, and having found a proficient partner, Kokand Support Center, Save the Children opened an office in Kokand on April 27th. Counterpart program officers in Kokand have started to provide consultations in proposal writing to several NGOs in relation to a Save the Children grant program.

As a result of a meeting in February between Bakhodir Umarkhanov, the Center Coordinator, and representatives from three regional newspapers, media coverage of Counterpart and NGOs' activities in the Fergana Region has doubled during this quarter.

Muloqot television station is a long time partner of the Kokand Support Center. This quarter *Muloqot* has been engaged in ongoing discussions with the NGO Club *Plot 333*. At an April meeting of the Club, *Muloqot* presented a project entitled "Social Advertising – Motivating NGO-TV Collaboration." After the discussions, participants agreed to design a joint project to increase the public awareness of NGOs role in society and the relevant social problems they address. *Muloqot* will provide all technical facilities and filming, and the NGOs will select topics, write scenarios for non-commercial video ads and play them.

Nukus Civil Society Support Center

This quarter Nukus Support Center has logged 53 consultations and 263 technical services provided to NGOs and community leaders. One volunteer has assisted the Center during this quarter.

On April 20 a program officer from TACIS Almaty arrived at the Support Center. Galim Nogaev updated her on Counterpart activities in Karakalpakstan. TACIS is planning to provide business training to 800 people in Karakalpakstan jointly with official institutions. The Nukus Support Center will solicit the inclusion of NGOs and their stakeholders in this training program.

In May Palmurza Khojabekov assisted the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Elections expert in organizing individual meetings with the Head of Election Committee, the Minister of Public Education, the Head of a Parliament Committee, and NGO leaders that ran for offices in the parliamentary elections of winter 1999. The purpose of the meetings was to assess the transparency and democracy of the election process.

At the request of ABA/CEELI the Support Center organized a roundtable in May for the leaders of 10 women NGOs to discuss gender issues. Also, ABA made two site visits to the NGOs *Perzent* and *Renaissance*.

At the NGO Club Meeting held on May 1, the Support Center presented the MIP program to 25 representatives of 17 local NGOs. Also, at the meeting the leaders of *Aral-Dialogue*, *Farmers' Center* and *Ecological Society* reported on their participation in the seminar "Ecological NGOs and Business" in Holland. Copies of seminar materials were given to the Support Center to share with other NGOs.

In June the Nukus Support Center had several meetings with IFES program officers and provided them with thorough information on the non-profit sector and Counterpart's activities in Karakalpakstan.

Tashkent Information and Resource Center

The Tashkent Information and Resource Center continues to provide services to NGOs and initiative groups coming from different parts of Uzbekistan to receive technical support, library and electronic materials, donor information, and NGO world news. 841 visits were logged this quarter, with 244 in April, 287 in May, and 310 in June. This includes 69 consultations: 22 consultations for initiative groups and 47 consultations on organizational development for established NGOs.

Three issues of the newsletter “Initiative” were published in Uzbek and Russian and were distributed throughout Uzbekistan. An increasing number of newsletters are distributed in Russia, Mongolia, the U.S., and within the Central Asian Region. The mailing list has increased from 90 to 103 recipients. A quarterly edition of “Initiative” has been translated into English, highlighting the best analytical articles on non-profit development in Uzbekistan, and distributed to international organizations.

Following the Counterpart seminar on NGO Taxation and Accounting held in February, Center Manager, Vildana Malyan, collected recommendations from Tashkent NGOs for modification of Uzbekistan legislation on NGO taxation. A combined proposal of four NGOs was passed on to the Association of Auditors and Accountants.

E. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

KAZAKHSTAN

- Counterpart is establishing relations with different international and American organizations. In early May, David Smith, Regional Director, and Marat Aitmagambetov, Country Director, met with a representative of the PRAGMA Corporation to discuss their bid to USAID for a Small and Medium Enterprises Support project. The main goal of this project is social market development; education, training on business and auditing issues, and training of trainers in these issues. As Counterpart supports these efforts, Counterpart agreed to provide support in organizing and conducting TOTs.
- Several meetings and training courses were held in Almaty for Peace Corps volunteers. The training sessions highlighted the specifics of NGO activity, including work supporting international organizations in Kazakhstan.

KYRGYZSTAN

- On April 7, the Country Director met with the ACT Director in Central Asia and the Director of the fund Tolerance International to discuss issues related to opening a community center in Batken. It was agreed by all parties that establishing a center is a high priority.
- On May 16, the Country Director attended a focus group conducted by the IMF/Kyrgyzstan to ascertain the opinions of NGOs about the current economic situation and loan issues in Kyrgyzstan.
- On May 22-23 the Country Director took part in a Strategic Planning workshop for Peace Corps programs in Kyrgyzstan. The community mobilization aspect of Peace Corps interventions was emphasized as one of the primary strategic objectives.
- On May 24 the Country Director was invited to take part in a roundtable organized by Parliamentarians of the European Parliament. Based on the other participants, representatives from political parties and human rights NGOs were assembled to represent the “Kyrgyz opposition.” The Country Director stated clearly that Counterpart is not in opposition to the Kyrgyz Government.
- On May 26 the Country Director had preliminary discussions with Paul Norton from IOM and William Melara and Tatyana Dementieva from USAID/CAR about a project entitled “Trafficking in Women” funded through Global. The representatives from USAID were not convinced that core project activities like workshops and roundtables were effective means to address the issue. As a result of the discussion, consensus was achieved to follow a framework suggested by Counterpart and IOM, because this project is one step in overall strategy to combat trafficking in migrants and will be a pilot experience to use in other parts of Central Asia in the future.
- On June 2 two Counterpart Program Coordinators and one Contract Trainer conducted a workshop on facilitation skills for 15 Peace Corps local facilitators, who will provide training on language and cross-cultural issues to Peace Corps Volunteers.
- On June 15, the Country Director, together with 5-6 local NGOs, was invited to the office of State Property Fund to discuss preparation activities for CDF’s national conference. During the discussion, the issue was raised to dismiss Tolekan Ismailova, an Executive Director of NGO Coalition, as a moderator of the session devoted to Civil Society. The Country Director was not in a position to support the dismissal. Invitees agreed to discuss it again later with participation of more NGO representatives. Later, CDF workshop organizers dismissed Tolekan Ismailova anyway.
- As a result of a meeting of international organizations, UNDP decided to establish a selection committee to oversee UNDP grants distributed among local NGOs and CBOs. This committee consists of representatives from UNDP, the Oblast Akimiat, two local NGOs and the Jalal-Abad Support Center. In addition, international agencies decided to create small database containing basic information on their activities and have this database available for local organizations at the Jalal-Abad Center.

TAJKISTAN

- Counterpart continued negotiations with OSCE to support OSCE's Civic Education Project. In the framework of the project funded by UNDP, Counterpart will provide TOTs to support gender, youth camps and political party components of the project. Counterpart is also implementing the media component, through a local media NGO.
- The quarterly meeting of the Donor Organizations Network was held at Counterpart's office. This group, initiated by Counterpart, meets quarterly to exchange information about grants, support, and assistance to local NGOs. The group meets to update program information, avoid duplication, and coordinate activities.
- Coordination with the AED Global Project included meetings to discuss training requests and ideas, and to coordinate and implement training programs. Counterpart submitted its 2000 training request to ? ?D.
- Discussions were held with MSF (Holland) and the International Federation of the Red Cross regarding the possibility of having Counterpart conduct training for local staff and partner NGOs.

TURKMENISTAN

- In mid-May, the WUA staff presented the final results of the WatSan Hygiene Package project that was completed in March. Over 60 staff and directors from the beneficiary schools attended the 3-hour session to discuss the overall project process and exchange experiences. The successful implementation of the project led to negotiations on how to further collaborate with UNICEF in the Dashoguz region. The WUA staff put forth a proposal and budget for extending similar activities to an additional 100 schools. At the beginning of July, the contract will be finalized with work beginning on July 17. The new project will run for 8 months.
- On 25 May 4, the Regional Director of UNICEF and Representatives of UNICEF in Turkmenistan visited two schools in Turkmenbashi etrap and met with the Head of the Education Department. The Regional Director of UNICEF expressed his satisfaction with the successful implementation of the project using the new participatory management approach inserted by Counterpart's team. During the visit, school directors described the influence of this project on local residents who are replicating the UNICEF latrine design for their home latrines.
- Collaboration with Winrock continued this quarter in the form of joint support for two water users' association projects, one in the Dashoguz region and one in Mary. In both cases, Counterpart has funded small grants for irrigation system improvement and capacity building of these nascent water groups while Winrock provided expertise and technical inputs before, during and after the improvements to local irrigation infrastructure. It is hoped that such collaboration between capacity building and technical expertise will help create a synergy for change in the irrigation sector and encourage the development of independent farmers' groups.
- The WUA Director/Training and Outreach Coordinator, Scott Yetter has been appointed as the Field Coordinator for the "UNHCR NGO Working Group on Refugee Integration, Repatriation and Resettlement" in the framework of the CIS Conference. He and Information Systems Specialist, Pavel Kharitonov coordinated the logistical matters in the field for the "Working Group" meeting held in Moscow in April and attended by representatives of NGOs working with refugees in eight CIS countries.
- UNHCR and Counterpart finalized their agreement to establish two Support Centers in the Mary and Lebap regions in 2000. A joint assessment/mapping visit was conducted by staff from both organizations to begin planning the start-up schedule for the Center in Lebap. In addition, the UNHCR Representative to Turkmenistan, Françoise Muller, Country Director, Roselie Vasquez and USAID Representative, Murl Baker, jointly met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Yolbars Kepbanov, to present the project plan.

UZBEKISTAN

- The Public Affairs Agency of the US Embassy in Tashkent has contracted with Counterpart Uzbekistan to organize three 2-day seminars entitled “Economical opportunities for women in countries of transition” in Tashkent, Kokand and Samarkand. 80 women – leaders of NGOs from the Tashkent, Samarkand, Fergana and Namangan Regions convened to learn the concept and practices of women empowerment through securing economical independence. Participants presented women NGOs dealing with psychological, economical and educational issues. All participants received abundant methodological materials in Uzbek and Russian languages. (See also Leveraging section.)
- Former Counterpart grantee and target NGO *Women and Society* has been awarded a grant in excess of 200,000 ECU from TACIS to establish and maintain seven women’s centers in Uzbekistan. These Centers will be established in areas where Counterpart Civil Society Support Centers are not available, and will serve as support centers for women initiatives. The Centers will provide vocational training, educational seminars on micro-enterprise development and information. This project is jointly administered by Counterpart Germany and Counterpart Uzbekistan. The latter will assist Women & Society in delivery training on small business development through a cadre of Counterpart Consortium contract-trainers.
- Counterpart continues its tradition of working with the Peace Corps by presenting activities of the NGO sector and Counterpart programs to Peace Corps Volunteers. The volunteers have used this information to supplement their activities in the towns and villages throughout Uzbekistan where they volunteer and have become a resource to Civil Society Support Centers in NGO counseling and improving English skills.
- Counterpart contract-trainers Rahima Nazarova and Albina Sabirova have traveled to Georgia to deliver training by request of Counterpart Georgia. A 4-day workshop in small business development was conducted for 25 NGOs in Zugdidi. There, the trainers applied new skills in situational design acquired at a TOT provided by Counterpart at the end of last March. Counterpart Georgia commended Uzbekistan trainers as adequately meeting trainees’ needs and possessing extensive methodological and substance knowledge.
- Representatives from the Water Users’ Association in Dashoguz and the Dashoguz Support Center in Turkmenistan visited the Nukus Support Center to learn about MIP as a model for community mobilization and legal regulation of makhalla activities in Karakalpakstan. They also visited the site of the first joint NGO-makhalla project on water use supported by MIP.

F. LEVERAGING

KAZAKHSTAN

- \$7,900 for 16 training seminars contracted to the following organizations: Kazakh Architecture Academy; Center of Contemporary Arts, Soros Foundation; Kazakh State University; Mott MacDonald/World Bank; UNHCR; AED/EPIC/USAID; Society of Disabled Children; GTZ; ACCELS, and IREX (USIA &IATP Grants).

KYRGYZSTAN

- \$25,000 for the UNDP project “Gender in Development.” Counterpart will conduct training for NGOs and CBOs working in the social sector.
- \$4,500 from the World Bank/Bishkek to implement a project “NGO participation in Comprehensive Development Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic”.

TAJIKISTAN

- \$7,000 from AED to conduct a TOT on Team building and Personnel Management.
- \$8,063 from UNHCR to conduct peace-related activities in southern Kyrgyzstan
- \$1,455 from UNHCR to conduct 10 training workshops on NGO and Community, Project Design, NGO Management, Strategic Planning in the Khatlon Oblast
- \$90,000 from UNHCR for the “NGO Fund” project. Funds will be used to support Civil Society Support Centers and NGO development activities through 2000.
- \$30,000 from UNHCR for expansion and continuation of the Tolerance Education Program through 2000.

TURKMENISTAN

- \$40,000 from UNHCR to open up joint regional Support Centers in Mary and Lebap regions in 2000
- \$100 from Dan and Dawn Rutz for Staff Development Fundraising Campaign to send 1 program coordinator to an NGO Management Course at Galilee College, Israel
- \$200 to the Association of Journalists to Sub-contract with Counterpart on a Regional UNHCR video project.
- \$1500 to NGO Uchgun to sub-contract with Counterpart on UNICEF Watsan 3 Project
- \$110,000 in grants to 10 NGOs from UNHCR following roundtable arranged by Counterpart to introduce UNHCR to new NGOs working in their target sectors
- \$400 in free training on accounting; English and computers to members of 8 NGOs as the result of cooperation with SMEDA (Takis Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency)
- \$100 for free use of UNHCR vehicle for two-day mapping visit to Lebap region
- \$20 in donated space by Center of Economic Education for 1-Day of Newsletter Development training
- \$80 donated by the Health Treatment Center in Chardjew for 2 day NGO and Community training
- \$120 donated by School #2 in Turkmenbashi City for four days of training in NGO and Community and NGO Management modules

UZBEKISTAN

- \$8,679 from the Public Affairs Agency of the US Embassy in Tashkent for three 2-day seminars for women NGOs entitled “Economical opportunities for women in the countries of transition”.
- \$50,000 from UNHCR Tashkent for Civil Society Support Centers in Bukhara, Kokand, and Nukus and the Information and Resource Center in Tashkent.

II. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the ICNL project component is:

1. **To nourish a continuing NGO-state relationship;**
2. **In coordination, cooperation, and collaboration with USAID, its contractors and grantees, to assist in the construction of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will enable the NGO sector to thrive in the region and contribute in a meaningful way to the development of civil society.**

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

KAZAKHSTAN

Lower House of Parliament Adopts New NGO Law

On May 24th, the lower house of parliament, the Majilis, debated and adopted the new NGO law. ICNL had the rare opportunity to be present in the chamber for this historic vote. ICNL contributed to the drafting of this law and initiated the law in partnership with the Senate Legislative Committee. Although, the Majilis did not adopt all of ICNL's recommendations, the adoption of the bill is a positive development. Firstly, the law will establish real foundations and further define the appropriate organizational legal forms of NGOs. Secondly, the law creates a solid framework for additional laws on associations, foundations and institutions.

Historic Vote -- First Successful "Deputies Initiative"

Prior to this year, all laws in Kazakhstan were initiated and drafted by the Ministries. The only role for Parliament was to approve such laws. Most observers labeled this unbalanced system a "rubber-stamp". To fulfill the proper role of Parliament, the Senate Legislative Committee, along with ICNL, initiated an NGO law (mentioned-above). If successful, this law will be the first law initiated, drafted and adopted solely by deputies - the first successful 'deputies' initiative' in Kazakhstan. As stated above, on May 24th, the lower house of Parliament adopted the NGO law. The law will now go to the Senate where it stands an excellent chance of passage and then onto the President for signature.

It has already been established that the deputies would also like to draft the instructions to the law. This is usually done by the ministries but technically can be done by Parliament. So it seems that the deputies, proud of this historic achievement want to follow it to its end. The task will be charged to ICNL's current colleagues in the Senate/Majilis who have requested ICNL's continued support in the effort.

ICNL Fights for Tax Benefits and Wins

As reported last period, the Ministry of Government Revenue proposed radical changes to the Tax Code that allowed tax exemptions applicable to grant funds. These exemptions saved both local NGOs and international organizations 26% on each dollar spent on salaries. Although the magnitude of the changes is widespread, the lower levels of the tax authorities refused to implement or accept the amendments at face value and denied the benefits as applicable to various local and foreign NGOs. To combat this, ICNL met directly with the Minister of Government Revenue seeking clarification of the new exemptions to which the Ministry answered in the affirmative. That is, the benefits are applicable and the decisions of the tax authorities were reversed.

ICNL Participates in NGO Press Conference that Impacts Draft Tax Code

The governmental working group (mentioned above) finished the latest version of a new Tax Code and passed it on to the Government and public for review. This version even worsened the tax situation for NGOs. As such, the NGO community (a coalition of NGOs including the Fund for a Tax Culture) decided to organize a large-scale press conference. The press conference took place on June 28th and gathered mostly all republican and independent media.

The main speakers at the press conference were ICNL as a representative of international community and expert in NGO legislation; Sholpan Baibolova, President of “Tax Culture Formation” Foundation – an NGO dealing with tax issues; and Valentina Sevrukova, the President of Confederation of Non-Commercial Organizations. As a result, the criticisms of the NGO community were highly publicized in print media and on national TV (Russian and Kazak versions). To overcome this, the government invited ICNL and local NGOs to directly participate in drafting the provisions governing NGOs.

KYRGYZSTAN

Ministry of Justice Adopts ICNL Recommendations

As with any new law, the NGO law of Kyrgyzstan was further defined and elaborated in subsequent instructions issued by the Ministry of Justice. Such instructions usually describe in detail how the law is to be implemented. As such, the content of the instructions is critical. Last quarter, ICNL obtained the draft comments from the Ministry of Justice and provided suggested revisions. In an official answer, the Ministry announced that it adopted two of the four recommendations regarding implementation of the new NGO law. The adopted provisions will help to limit arbitrary governmental action against NGOs.

ICNL Invited by Government to Participate in Official Commission to Draft Tax Provisions Regarding NGOs

ICNL was honored this reporting period by the Government of Kyrgyzstan by becoming the second foreign entity to sit on a governmental commission on taxes. In this capacity, ICNL will make recommendations to the government on the taxation of NGOs. Final amendments are due this Fall and will be voted on sometime in December. If successful, ICNL can bring appropriate tax benefits to NGOs in accordance with international norms.

TAJIKISTAN

Draft Laws Submitted to Parliament: A Draft NGO Law —“On Non-commercial Organizations” And A New Draft Law on Charities

The government of Tajikistan and NGO community is actively pursuing NGO law reform. However, the needed expertise on such a subject is hard to find. The government formed a quasi-governmental working group to address this issue. They, in turn, approached ICNL for assistance. In addition to its local partner, ICNL also sent consultants to Tajikistan to work directly on this draft and with the quasi-governmental working group. The group finished the first version of a new draft law, “*On Non-commercial Organizations*.” This law meets international standards of NGO legislation and creates a progressive regime of NGO registration and regulation. The new draft law was submitted after April 1st, 2000, in the Parliament of Tajikistan. Adoption of this law will further improve Tajikistan's legislation on NGOs.

ICNL has already been successful in drafting and adopting of a revised law “*On Public Associations*”, new Civil Code (Parts I & II) and Tax Code. In addition, the Minister of Justice, representatives from Parliament and representatives from the President's Administration have expressed to ICNL's local partner, Muatar Khaidarova, the desire to work on further forms of legislation on foundations and unions. The desire for continued work has culminated into the creation of a quasi-governmental working group, which will include ICNL as its official consultant. This working group has begun drafting a new charity law that is expected to be adopted in Summer 2000.

UZBEKISTAN

ICNL Carries Out Implementation Training for Ministry Officials

Last year, ICNL and Counterpart carried out a training series for NGOs and government officials in the implementation of the new NGO law. This training was funded by Global Training and Development and held in four different cities (Samarkand, Bukhara, Nukus and Kokand). Although these trainings were a success, it became abundantly clear that officials from the Ministry of Justice (being those that must implement the logistics of the new law) need special attention. The Ministry officials requested further ICNL assistance in the form of a specific training. On April 8th, GTD funded a training that was held in the Parliament of Uzbekistan. This training was held by ICNL and its governmental partner, the Institute of Monitoring Legislation. The training invited over 40 persons (NGO representatives and Ministry officials from around the country) and detailed specific implementation issues regarding the NGO law. Overall, the training highlighted the importance of proper implementation and placed the issue of NGO registration in the spotlight. Hopefully, this training will be the first in a series of NGO/Ministry interactions.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

KAZAKHSTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

Kazakhstan made amendments to their law “On Registration of Legal Entities”. The changes directly target NGO registration (that is, the amendments are only applicable to NGOs). The first amendment shortens the deadline on the Ministry of Justice’s response to registration applications. The change eliminates the requirement for registration applications to contain the list (detailed information) of the Board of Directors. The amendment states that only information on the founders is required. These changes, albeit it slight, will improve the regulatory environment for NGOs.

Kazakhstan intends to write and adopt an entirely new tax Code for Kazakhstan. Unfortunately, the current form of that draft is absent of any benefits for NGOs. ICNL addressed this meeting directly with the Minister of Government Revenue and other high-ranking officials. At the meeting, the officials accepted some of ICNL’s written recommendations. Since that time, ICNL has provided them with on-going recommendations in the form of comments and suggested provisions. These comments are in both Russian and English and have been disseminated to USAID, CC, ABA, OSCE, INTRAC, UNDP, World Bank, TACIS, IMF, Barent’s Group and many others. ICNL will follow up the ongoing commentary with individual meetings (or large-scale meetings) with these groups and their representatives.

Any Tax Code will necessarily be debated and passed in Parliament. However, deputies may be unaware of the current provisions in the draft tax Code regarding NGOs or moreover, what such provisions should entail. Therefore, in conjunction with the above-mentioned activities, ICNL will attempt to train deputies of Parliament on the norms of NGO taxation by means of a daylong conference funded by Global Training and Development. GTD has already approved this training and the expenditure of the money.

Last period, on December 10, the government of Kazakhstan adopted amendments to the Tax Code that clarify the status of "grants" (amendment to Article 5, point 8). Previously, there was a very ambiguous provision that stated grants and other forms of humanitarian aid were exempt from income (former Article 34). The former provision left room for arbitrary interpretation and proved problematic for both NGOs and taxation authorities. The amendment to Article 5 mentioned above, now further clarifies what a grant is. That is, the new wording leaves no doubt that grants from international donors and grants made pursuant to international agreements are non-taxable revenue.

Secondly, as of the effective date of the amendments, January 1st, local NGOs that receive grant money from international organizations, and the international organizations themselves, are not obliged to pay the "social tax". The social tax in Kazakhstan, much like social security systems around the world, is a tax on an individual's salary by approximately 26%. This exemption applies to grant funds and therefore should apply to both the international organizations and their grantees, the local NGOs.

ICNL provided over 25 consultations on the new tax changes that effect NGOs in Kazakhstan to both local NGOs and international organizations. ICNL also provided four large-scale presentations to large audiences on these tax changes. The presentations were held at the US Embassy (Partners' Forum Meeting held with the Ambassador); two Intrac Donor Meetings held for the international donor community and lastly at an international/regional NGO law conference held by a local NGO.

It is noteworthy that ICNL wrote several articles on these most recent changes. One article appeared in the Johns Hopkins Journal, The Analyst (February 2, 2000). Other articles appeared in The Times of Central Asia, Globe, and other local papers and NGO bulletins.

KYRGYZSTAN

Consolidation within the NGO sector

The Kyrgyzstan Parliament initiated a new law, "On Humanitarian Assistance from Abroad". This law had very peculiar provisions that seemingly would hamper the development work of international organizations working within Kyrgyzstan. USAID and other international organizations requested that ICNL assist in analyzing this draft law. ICNL comments were negative and the draft was widely criticized. Even the government analysis itself showed the draft law to be deficient and not worthy of consideration. Since that time, the initiative in favor of this law was ended.

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

Consistent with the adoption of the new NGO law, Kyrgyzstan also adopted a new law on charities. ICNL assisted USAID and other international organizations that had serious concern over the law's content. ICNL provided in-depth analysis to this new law and is continuing its consultations and attempting to amend this law. Although the law has good intentions, there is still much work that needs to be done to make full use of this new law. ICNL will specifically focus on coinciding tax benefits to this law through the next quarter 2000.

ICNL began an examination of a very hot issue in Kyrgyzstan. The government, via the Ministry of Justice, is pressing for amendments to the law "On Advocates". The law was adopted in 1999. The Ministry would like to incorporate obligatory membership of advocates into the government-controlled Collegium of Advocates. This is being called "forced membership" by lawyers and associations of lawyers. They also claim that this will be used as a mechanism to strip lawyers of the license when they have run afoul of government servitude/obedience.

The Ministry, on the other hand, is claiming that this is only a mechanism that will be used to oblige lawyers to do *pro bono* work. Currently there are seemingly no obligations or duty of lawyers to engage in *pro bono* activities. Certainly, there is no incentive to do so and many lawyers do not engage in such activities. The Ministry further claims that the proposed amendments will only require membership into the Collegium to set a precedent for lawyer good will.

In any event, ICNL will analyze the law and amendments and hold several roundtables (in September) with government officials and lawyers to debate the law and amendments. This will be done in conjunction with local NGOs, namely, the Kyrgyzstan Lawyers' Association.

Like in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyzstan government is addressing tax reform. Included into this activity is the concept of tax breaks for NGOs. ICNL drafted and delivered letters to both the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Taxation requesting to assist on this project. As a result, ICNL has been invited to sit on the governmental commission on tax changes.

ICNL's Kyrgyzstan partner, Nurbek Imakeev, also wrote an article that was published regarding potential tax advantages for NGOs in Kyrgyzstan. The article was also presented to the drafters of the Tax Code amendments.

TAJIKISTAN

Consolidation within the NGO sector

A handbook on NGO legislation that has been composed by ICNL Local Partner, Muatar Khaidarova, is nearing completion. She plans to send it for publication at the beginning of June. It is called "25 Answers to 25 Questions on NGO Activity and NGO Legislation". Attorney Khaidarova is also planning to publish the second book as guidance for NGOs that work with refugees. This guidebook will help refugees to open up their NGOs on the territory of Tajikistan. These publications are sponsored by UNHCR.

Attorney Khaidarova wrote an article for a local paper regarding NGO laws. The article appeared in "Sozvezdie" and discussed the current laws and the law drafts currently before Parliament (See Impacts).

TURKMENISTAN

Consolidation within the NGO sector

ICNL and the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights tentatively agreed on a six-month mutual cooperation plan where the major focus would be drafting an NGO law. The project focus is the construction/commission of a working group and NGO law initiative. Five drafters will draft a new law for submission to Parliament. ICNL will provide technical assistance and arrange for conferences discussing the draft. Although the current environment is not so NGO friendly, the project may be used as a test/pilot program for future USAID reference. Thus far, the plan has met with USAID approval (informal) and is supported by the Turkmen government. In conjunction with this drafting, ICNL is planning to provide two big international seminars on NGO legislation for parliamentarians and Governmental officials.

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the office of Counterpart Consortium requested model NGO laws of different countries. ICNL provided such materials to both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. ICNL re-iterated its desire to work with the government on legislative improvements.

UZBEKISTAN

Consolidation within the NGO sector

This reporting period, the Oily Majilis Committee on Democratic Institutions and NGOs (parliamentary committee) discussed the project on prioritization in drafting laws by parliamentary committees and commissions in 2000-2002. In the nearest future the Committee is planning to draft the following legislative acts: "*On Public Discussions of Drafts*", "*On Appeals of Citizens*", "*On Social Foundations*" and "*On Charitable Activities*".

Also, the Committee is planning to organize monitoring of the implementation of NGO law in practice. This is partly based on the dismal attitude of the Ministry of Justice representatives at the recent training held by ICNL at the Parliament. Soon, provisions on registration of bylaws of public associations dated 1991 are going to be revised. In light of these blossoming initiatives, GTD has allocated \$14,000 for ICNL use during the remainder of the year.

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

In April 1999, Uzbekistan adopted the new law regulating non-governmental, non-commercial organizations. The new law, "*On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations*", will improve the enabling environment for NGOs by easing registration and reporting requirements.

Last Spring's adoption of the new law, "*On Non-Commercial Organizations*" was a hallmark for ICNL and the NGO sector of Uzbekistan. But additional, specific forms of legislation are still needed. In response to this need, ICNL's partner, The Institute of Monitoring Legislation, proposed that additional NGO laws be slated for the 2000-2001 legislative calendar. To this, the government responded in the positive and added the following laws for promulgation and introduction: *Law on the Registration of Legal Entities*; *Law on Foundations* and a *Law on Institutions*. These laws are to be completed by April and submitted for readings in Parliament. For 2001, the government is planning two more laws; *Law on Unions and Associations* and a *Law on Charitable Activities*. Work on the Tax Code may also be possible during the year. If adopted, these laws have the potential of creating a comprehensive and progressive legislative framework for NGOs.

D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION

REGIONAL

US and International Organizations

All ICNL activities have been coordinated with the USAID regional offices. In addition, ICNL Regional Director, Richard Remias established cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TASIC, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP. ICNL also did a presentation on the new tax changes for the quarterly donor roundtable. He also spoke on the current initiatives and outlined potential tax amendments for 2000. Those in attendance included Counterpart, UNDP, UNHCR, OSI, USAID, World Bank, INTRAC and Peace Corps.

NGOs

ICNL contributed to a large-scale international conference with the Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK). This conference invited hundreds of NGO representatives from the Central Asian Regional and even from Eastern Europe. ICNL provided several speakers from different countries to discuss their experiences with NGO law reform and provide advice for its development throughout Central Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL cooperated with the UNDP and American bar Association on a legislative training of Kazakhstani deputies on legislative processes. ICNL continues cooperation with NDI, OSCE, Intrac, World Bank, ISAR and Charity Know How Fund.

The Almaty ICNL office participated in the quarterly donor roundtable held in May 2000 and even provided the February Partner's Forum with a presentation on the new tax changes in Kazakhstan. The roundtable was attended by dozens of international organizations which include: UN organizations, USAID, Soros, Mercy Corps, ISAR, Peace Corps, Intrac, Dutch embassy, Japanese embassy, OSCE, Red Cross, and others. These roundtables are intended to coordinate activities in development. ICNL is considered the leader on NGO legislative issues.

ICNL has established contact with the OSCE representation in Kazakhstan. OSCE will rely on ICNL assistance in their assessments of NGO legislation.

NGOs

Vadim Nee, ICNL's main partner and NGO Law Expert; the Shimkent Association of Attorneys, NGO umbrella organization--ANNOK (Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan); the Association of the Invalids Organizations *Zhan*; Women and Law; the NGO *Legal Initiative*: CASDIN; The NGO *Formation of a Tax Culture*; Legal Development of Kazakhstan; Pensioners NGO *Pokoleniye*; *Roman Podoprigora*, Higher School of Law *Adilet*.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Murat Ospanov, Speaker of the Majilis; Baegeldyi, Speaker of Senate; Roza Koanshbayeva, Senator; Irak K. Elekeev, Deputy; Sabyr A. Kasimov, Deputy; Zinaida Fedotova, Chairman of Committee on Legislation and Justice-Legal Reform; Basurmanov Zhumabek, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights with the President; Vesnin Victor Nikolaevich, the Deputy of the Lower Chamber of the Parliament; Peter P. Kolesov, the Senator (the Upper Chamber) of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Yaroslav Shevtsov, Chief Specialist of the Department of Economic Legislation of the Institute of Legislation with the Ministry of Justice; Nurlan S. Moldokhmetov, Deputy Minister, and Kubasova Irina Alexandrovna, the Director of the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice; Shimkent Lawyers Association.

KYRGYZSTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL maintains a close working relationship with the officers of the OSCE and has done several analyses for OSCE use in their diplomatic dialogue with government. ICNL also has provided the US Embassy with insight regarding government policies and actions. ICNL is also developing new relations with the UK-based Intrac.

NGOs

Mirgul Smanalieva, Kyrgyz lawyer, the President of the Association Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan and ICNL's local partner; Ainura Orosolieva, Chairman of the Fund of Legal Initiatives; International Center Interbilim; the Coalition of NGOs for a Civil Society; Institute for Regional Studies; Forum of NGOs.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Akimov Batyr Muradovich, the Head of the Legislative Department and Zukhra Taranova, the Deputy Chief of the Registration Department of the Ministry of Justice; Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament Mr. Alisher Sabirov; other deputies of the Parliament: Rahat Atchilova, Jypar Jeckhsheev (the Chairman of Legislative Committee); Pamir Shentaev, Department of Education in the Kyrgyzstan Parliament.

TAJIKISTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL local partner, Muatar Khaidarova was invited and participated in open meetings of the UN in Geneva as an NGO observer. There she discussed refugee problems in Tajikistan and other human right issues such as freedom of association. Ms. Khaidarova has also been invited to the US by an American NGO called "Law and Society" for a program called "Cause Lawyering". Her invitation is based on her excellent reputation as a human right attorney.

ICNL works closely the Soros Foundation (OSI) to identify initiatives and effective assistance programs. Further cooperation and co-funding has been received from UNHCR. ICNL also maintains a cooperative relationship with the Aga Khan Foundation, the Red Cross and ARD Checchi (in their relations with the Ministry of Justice).

NGOs

Muatar Khaidarova, Chairman Society and Law ICNL's partner; Fund for Support of Civil Initiatives; Youth Ecological School; Olyi Somon; Fund of Legal Reform; Association of Intelligentsia; the Center of Youth Initiatives, Khujant, Tajikistan.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

The Minister of Justice Ismailov Shavkat Makmudovich; Davlatov Davlatali, the State Adviser of the President on Relations with the Public and National Minorities; Bakhram Ali-Zade, Director of Center of Coordination of External Assistance with the Cabinet of Ministers of Tajikistan;

TURKMENISTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL has already established working relations with USAID/Booz-Allen legislative experts and TACIS (on drafting new Law on Registration and new Tax Code). ICNL has also worked closely with USAID's office in Turkmenistan. Most recent ICNL assisted the International Planned Parenthood Foundation on an NGO law conference. Other international contacts were established with OSCE, UNDP, and UNHCR.

NGOs

The International Planned Parenthood Foundation (family planning) fund in Turkmenistan conducted a huge conference for Turkmeni NGOs on local NGO legislation. ICNL provided the matrix and ICNL legal expertise including consultations to trainers and ICNL written material (in Russian).

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Mr. Remias met with officials from the Ministry of Justice and the Minister himself, Chairman of Legislative Committee on Economics and Social Policy, and Chairman of the Legislative Committee. In addition, various deputies and representatives from the Tax Inspectorate were contacted.

UZBEKISTAN

US and International Organizations

Many groups and organizations have an active interest in ICNL's legislative project. In addition to working within the Counterpart Consortium, ICNL has established active cooperation with AED, UNHCR, ABA, Eurasia, UNDP, and OSCE. The UNHCR and OSI also held international conferences in cooperation with ICNL.

NGOs

Inna Bagdasarova, Uzbek lawyer (ICNL's main partner); Grenada Kurochkina, "Kridi" Club for Parents of Disabled Children; Association of Accountants and Auditors; Muborak Tashpulatova, Tashkent Center for Public Education; Center of Social Education in Nukus, Karpakalpakstan Region, Uzbekistan; Chairman of the Union of Museum Workers in Bukhara, Uzbekistan; "AYOL" Center for Women and Family, located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan; Samarkand Business School, located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Akmai Saidov, Deputy and Director of the Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Deputy Minister of Justice Pulat Samatov; Pulat Akhmetov -Head of the Control-Analytical Department, NGO Bureau, Ministry of Justice; Akhmat Toursunov, Director, and Kasanov Mikhail Yuryevich, Deputy-Director of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Olyi Majilis (Parliament); Bakhodir H. Umurzakov, Minister of Social Maintenance; Sayera Rashidova, the Authorized Person for Human Rights (Ombudsman). ICNL has also established a relationship with Golnara Yoldasheva Deputy from the Olyi Majilis and Director, of the "Healthy Generation" NGO in Uzbekistan. This is a high profile NGO that may actively participate in the working group.

GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

KAZAKHSTAN

The grant program of Phase II was in the process of closing during this quarter. The major emphasis was on closing all grants, checking financial and programmatic reports and conducting monitoring site-visits. The monitoring program for grants awarded by Counterpart during Phase II and within the framework of Women's Program was finished this quarter. The monitoring reports will be kept as references for future work with NGOs and will be analyzed as well as the whole package of monitoring procedures in the next quarter.

KYRGYZSTAN

- The Grant Manager monitored the Public Fund "Promotion of Development of Legal Infrastructure and Legal Education". During the reporting period he was focused on inspecting grant folders to address concerns raised by internal auditor from Tashkent office, four NGOs (*Women Support Center, Uyum, Polis, and the Association of Social Entities*) were asked to provide missing documents. Counterpart Kyrgyzstan has seven open grants that will be completed next quarter.
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- The list of current grantees includes: Mehr-Shavkat, CASCA, Public Fund "Promotion of Development of Legal Infrastructure and Legal Education," Tree of life, Spravedlivost, Association for Support of Employment, and the Association of Social Institutions. Counterpart received reports from the following organizations: Public Fund "Promotion of Development of Legal Infrastructure and Legal Education," CASCA, and the Tax consultants chamber.

According to an agreement with Counterpart, UNHCR earmarked a limited amount of funds (\$37,000) for support of a community projects focused on refugees' issues and to be developed with the assistance of the Support Centers in Kara-Balta and Jalal-Abad. Grant review guidelines and criteria have been revised. On April 26 the local grant committee, consisting of 5 members representing the local NGO community, refugee groups and Counterpart Consortium, met at the Kara-Balta Support Center. Of the seven proposals submitted by refugee communities and reviewed by the committee, three were conditionally approved for funding.

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Election Grants

The Election Grant Committee meeting was held on May 31, 2000 in order to review and revise Election Grant Committee Guidelines, the application form, contract, Grant Review Cover Page, Framework for Reviewing EGC Grant Proposal, Review Sheets, and announcement on the EGC competition selection criteria for upcoming presidential elections. All documents were sent to US Embassy in Kyrgyzstan for approval.

Counterpart organized five roundtables with participation of 50 EGC grantees in Naryn, Karakol, Talas, Jalal-Abad and Bishkek to discuss problems NGO encountered during the parliamentary elections and to make recommendations to the Counterpart as a Grant Administrator to improve an effectiveness of the grant administration. In Jalal-Abad town, George Ingram, Assistant of Deputy Administrator from USAID attended a workshop.

TAJIKISTAN

This quarter Counterpart had three grants still functioning within the Phase II program: Independent Electronic Mass Media for Positive Image of NGOs of *NANSMIT*, Newspaper for Tajik NGOs of NGO *Manizha*, and the Khorog NGO Support Center of NGO *Kalam*. All other grants were completed, monitored by Counterpart and closed.

TURKMENISTAN

Grant Program Highlights:

To date, Counterpart has funded 44 projects in Turkmenistan, 19 of which are still being implemented. During the quarter Counterpart monitored 19 grantees with projects focusing on: health; defense of legal rights; agriculture; youth; education; human rights and social welfare. Eleven of the 19 visits were final monitoring activities at the end of the project cycle. All 11 projects were successfully executed at a good professional level, according to the goals and tasks of the projects.

Through monitoring exercises, Counterpart has identified the following areas as consistently strong among the grantees:

- Organizational Development improvements expressed in the increased number of volunteers assisting these NGOs in activities related to grant implementation
- Practical use of fundraising skills learned in training to bring resources to their programs
- Ability to establish links with government structures in the form of "social partnerships" (despite the lack of skills to manage and benefit from those partnerships as listed above)

Areas of weakness or in need of improvement include:

- Lack of strong internal project/financial management skills/lack of experience
- Internal governance changes within organizations / weak division of responsibilities / task delegation
- Services not always corresponding to needs of constituents / need for better skills in market analysis and needs assessment before designing projects

External difficulties encountered by NGOs include: influence and consequences of current enabling environment, especially the difficulty of NGOs to receive official registration and conversely, the lack of follow-up by the NGOs to pursue registration over long-term. There is also a need for NGOs to better coordinate the activities that they conduct in partnership with local government organs. Finally, difficulties publicizing materials and working with mass media outlets continues to limit the broad outreach of printed public outreach materials produced by grantees.

In self-evaluations, NGOs are typically not using a critical/objective/open approach - resulting in only positive feedback (they see only the positive in their work). It is necessary to train NGOs to evaluate their problems/challenges in order to make improvements and develop internally.

Counterpart awarded the following support grants this quarter:

Water User's Association "Bereket", "Asir Kakabaev» peasants amalgamation, Garavul-Gala village, and Turkmenbashi etrap(Dashoguz velayat) \$5605 to improve the irrigation system of the Association's member group renters in order to tease out independence and amplify democratic decision-making independent from local collective farms. The 163 farmers-renters will foster social partnerships with local authorities, local farmers and the local water dissemination authorities by holding regular roundtables and disseminating newsletters that demonstrate the positive results of independent water groups as principal elements of democratic change. The Association's office will also serve as an information focal point for other farmers in the Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz velayat with the goal of increasing membership through the positive results of their activities. The members will also have field visits to exchange experience with other private farmer groups in the Mary region and a Winrock International volunteer will

consult on the organizational structure of the Association as well as technical specifics of efficient use of water.

Chinar (Kara Kala Settlement, Balkan region) \$5974 to build information links between 24 schools of Kara Kala etrap working with the activists identified within the project to involve local people in the process of resolving social problems. The NGO, in partnership with the local Education Department will encourage participation of teachers, students, and their parents as well as other CBOs in meetings to discuss the content of the Interschool Information stand and newsletters through which "Chinar" will share information with its constituency. NGOs together with activists will by the end of the project identify and prioritize community needs and help people to articulate and plan possible solutions to their needs, actively using a volunteer approach.

Amul Turkmenabat Regional Association of Film and Photo Arts (Turkmenabat) \$6448 to *Amul* for the project entitled "Together" to write and direct 4 films on NGO activities related to: ecology, employment, assistance to vulnerable people, and the women's movement in Turkmenistan, which will be broadcast on local TV. The films will also be shown to visitors of the *Amul Center* and copies will be distributed to other NGOs. The positive examples of social partnership highlighted in the films will help raise the image of the NGO sector and assist NGOs in gaining support from government, the business sector, and other organizations. The meetings and discussions between representative of NGOs, media, governmental and commercial organizations included in the grant will promote a free exchange of opinions, developing a new progressive view of the role of NGOs in society. Such awareness raising activities are vital in a country where Media outlets are under control of the government.

Under the Small Grant Program entitled "Connectivity Grants" Counterpart disbursed seven small grants in the amount of \$1,570 for a total of \$10,780 to the following organizations and programs:

- Women's Help Center Merjen: Turkmenabat - "Women is Always Right"
- Water User's Association Independence: Mary Region - "Independent Information Services"
- Club Koytinen Gezelery: Lebap Region - "Village 2000"
- Arzuv: Lebap Region: "Information to the Masses"
- Farmers Ecological School: Ashgabat - "Increase Information to Farmers of Magtumguly Village"
- Altyn Asyryn Hovandry: Ashgabat - "Legal Information"
- Center of Women Journalists: Ashgabat - "Ene Mehri"

A solicitation was announced to catalyze ideas from fledgling groups on how having computer/information equipment could help them to develop their organizational outreach and forge linkages with other NGOs. Of the 45 project proposals that were submitted, 7 were approved. The grants were designed to result in short-term (6 month), high impact activities demonstrating improved fundraising, networking, and public information dissemination. The amount of the grant was the same for each NGO and included only computer information equipment

UZBEKISTAN

Since all projects financed by NGO Support Initiative Program were completed the last quarter, the Grant Manager has been working closely with the Makhalla Initiative Program. Six projects have successfully started with MIP grant support. (See MIP Quarterly report for detailed information.)

TRAINING MATRIX

KAZAKHSTAN

Type of Workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
Project Design	5	51	85
Fundraising	2	19	30
Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	7	10
Social Partnership	1	1	22
Newsletter Development	1	1	26
Press Conference	1	1	28
Special PR 3-days training for WUA	1	14	14
Special Accounting 3-days training for WUA	1	14	14
Special 1-day training on organizational development for WUA	3	57	85
Total	16	165	314

KYRGYZSTAN

Type of Workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
Organizational Development for the CSSC (Jalal-Abad, Kara-Balta, Naryn and Karakol)	4	27	50
Facilitation (for Peace Corps)	1	0	17
TOT on Capacity Building Support for NGOs and CBOs in the Social Sector. Six-day session covering NGO& Community, Project Design, Fundraising, Advocacy, Financial Management, Financial Sustainability, Team Building, Human Resource Management, Social Partnership, and Constituency Development	1	6	23
Total	6	33	90

TAJIKISTAN

Type of Workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
NGO and Community	15	185	228
Project Design	9	114	146
Strategic Planning	4	51	58
NGO Management	5	70	82
Financial Management	2	19	24
Assoc-n Development	1	12	15
Human Resources Development	1	10	14
Public Education Through Media	2	27	32
Newsletter Publication	1	15	15
Team Building/ Conflict Resolution	1	11	18
Fundraising	2	31	34
Social Partnership	2	17	24
TOT on Team Building and Personnel Management	1	11	16
TOT on Adult Learning Styles	1	10	10
Total	47	583	716

Turkmenistan

Type of Workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
NGO and Community	6	36	78
NGO Management	2	27	32
Project Design	1	16	17
Association Development	1	6	12
Newsletters	1	9	10
Public Education through Media	1	14	14
Constituency Building	1	13	15
Using of Internet Resources	2	15	22
NGO home page development	1	9	10
Total	16	145	210

UZBEKISTAN

Type of workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
NGO & Community	1		19*
PRA	4	9	83*
Total	5	9	102*

*Including makhalla participants

WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

Project Activities

Over the last three months the project activities primarily focused on further staff development and continued development of the charter of the future association.

The need for further staff development arose after reviewing the staff's skills in conducting community meetings. Community development skills are more difficult to attain and practice than originally thought. For the newer members of the staff, their lack of skills and understanding of community development started to reveal itself in the following ways:

1. In the villages where they were working, attendance at community meetings was inconsistent and declining.
2. The water committees elected under their guidance resembled factions and cliques more than broadly supported groups of trusted and responsible community members.
3. They were spending on average 7 meetings per serdop built while the more experienced staff were spending only 1.5 meetings per serdop.
4. On more than one occasion, their communities failed to convince the mini-grant committee at the social partnership meetings that those communities were indeed worthy of receiving a mini-grant.
5. The new staff had begun to treat community meetings as a routine activity rather than a dynamic development process for which they were at least half responsible. They fell into the trap of blaming the community for the lack of results from the meetings.

At the heart of their lack of results was the new staff's lack of trust of the *process*, that is, they did not really treat the people at meetings as equals or truly believe that communities could collectively resolve a common problem. To remedy these short-comings, the staff designed and conducted a *flipchart* training which consisted of systematically walking through each type of flipchart that is produced during community meetings under the WUA project. Using role play and direct feedback, the staff identified all of the themes of community meetings (e.g. membership, ownership, six factors, incentives for volunteering), worked through the flipchart designs and content and then made recommendations on when and how to use each them. The resulting set of flipcharts and diagrams are being written up into a manual that can serve as a guide for other community based projects as the community action grant program comes on line. The most significant impact the flipchart training is that the new staff now feel much freer when they conduct communities because they understand the theory and purpose behind each type of community meeting and the community development process as a whole.

Charter development continued to be very "member-driven", that is, volunteers from the local water committees expressed interest in playing a direct role in drafting the charter. Therefore, over the course of three months, the staff and several water committee members met at the WUA project office for three all-day meetings. The group walked through a sample water users' association charter written in Russian, translated it verbally into Turkmen, and modified its contents to fit the Turkmenbashi etrap context and goals of the association. The staff and volunteers incorporated results of the previous volunteer' meetings at which the criteria, rights and responsibilities of membership in the association were discussed and finalized.

At the third charter development meeting, there was considerable debate regarding the actual structure of the association and role of local authorities. The volunteers from the water committees (none of whom had at that point been to Association Development training) were adamantly opposed to allowing any local authority to play any role in the future of the association. The debate arose when the idea of an "advisory board" was introduced. Even though the staff tried to explain that such a board would not have any decision-making power and local authorities could only sit on the advisory board if they were invited by the members of the association, the volunteers would not be swayed. The staff asked then if the advisory board concept could at least be presented at the next association meeting along with the rest of the structure. That way the larger group could decide on whether it would be part of the organizational structure of the association. The volunteers agreed.

This debate revealed how deeply local communities distrust local authorities. From the discussion it became clear that the only way for the association to be sustainable is to demonstrably establish, safeguard and maintain its independence. Even if the members are able to elect the management board, which would hold all of the decision-making power, they do not believe that their collective vote would stand up against being co-opted if local authorities were going to be involved in any way. It will be challenging for the staff to justify a social partnership structure and approach when it comes time to localize the project. This reaction to having an advisory board was very surprising since the project has taken a social partnership approach all along. From the start, local authorities from the water plant, health department and mayor's office have on occasion attended different project meetings. On the surface, their presence seemingly has had little influence on the quality of discussion. After these meetings with volunteers, however, the way social partnership is pursued and the degree of involvement of local authorities must be carefully weighed and delicately pursued.

Sustainability Strategies

The future of the water users' association lies with the water trucks and the services and cost-recovery they provide. Currently the WUA project truck delivers water to **3529 residents**, nearly half of the 7739 people receiving water under the project. This last quarter, however, revealed just how vulnerable the current system is. There are two primary constraints on the system. First, the association project has only one truck and driver at present so if any thing goes wrong there is not back up alternative to cover deliveries. To attempt to address these problems the staff has identified and will purchase in early July an additional water truck to be purchased with grant money from Counterpart Consortium. A third truck will follow in August so by the end of the summer three trucks should be only line. The increase in delivery capacity is critical to further community development activities and mini-grants which have slowed considerably in the last two months because the water plant has not been able to guarantee delivery to communities building new serdops. Therefore, the only other option for delivery is to use the WUA truck. The WUA truck, however, reached maximum delivery capacity at the end of last quarter.

The second constraint on the system is that the current delivery prices are not high enough to cover operating costs *and* generate an association fee so that costs affiliated with operating an office and holding community meetings are offset. Therefore the staff reviewed the costs and expenses and decided it necessary to raise prices by 51%. At the next association meeting, they will announce these adjustments and discuss the issue with the members. There is a danger of losing some villages that can barely afford the current prices. If the increase is too great for such member villages it may be necessary to develop a "solidarity" agreement or means of other villages subsidizing those less able to pay.

Sustainability strategy also includes developing the actual structure of the association. This quarter in addition to the volunteers meetings, training played an important role in building understanding for the role and purpose of NGOs in general and of associations in particular. The local staff conducted two "NGO and Community" trainings and one "Association Development" training for water committee members. Following the training, there was a noticeable difference between the level and quality of participation of those who had attended training and those who had not. Those with exposure to the concepts of NGOs and associations asked more probing questions of the staff and demanded more complete information. They also could field questions by their fellow water committee members regarding process of establishing the association. Currently three of the local staff are trainers in the "Association Development" module and carry it out in Turkmen.

This quarter also saw three issues of the WUA newsletter *Altyn Damja (Golden Drop.)* The 4 page release contains more and more articles written by local community members. The newsletter is distributed at the association meeting at the beginning of each month as well as at community meetings.

In an effort to broaden its network of contacts and possible partners for future collaboration, the WUA staff made two trips to Nukus, located in Karakalpakstan of Uzbekistan. The first visit was to attend a conference of Central Asian NGOs, international organizations and government representatives at which they developed recommendations to be put forth at the international water councils meeting later this year. The second trip was to visit a water users' group that received a grant under the Makhalla project. The visit proved useful for the

staff both from Turkmenbashi etrap and the Nukus support center as they were able to compare their experiences of working with communities and fostering the development of community-based organizations.

Community Development Programming

The programming of WUA project focuses primarily on fostering community development through meetings, roundtables, training, mini-grants and information sharing. The construction of a community-owned, community managed serdop (a concrete above-ground cistern) serves as a basic building block activity of the community organizing efforts under the WUA project. Presently the total number of people actually receiving water through participating in the project is 7739. During the quarter, there were 3 Association meetings, each meeting with a minimum of 35 water committee representatives from 25 villages attended.

Community Meetings and Consultations: During the quarter, the WUA project staff carried out 46 full community meetings and approximately 90 consultations in participating villages and at the office. A “full community meeting” is when at least 20 people attend and significant decisions are made, e.g. whether to participate as a community in the project, election of a water committee, plans and costs for building a serdop or awarding of a mini-grant. “Consultations” are smaller meetings held with committee members, the water plant management, local authorities or community members. Also, 8 NGO-related consultations took place at the WUA office between October and December.

New and Existing Water Committees: Over the three months, 3 new communities invited the WUA staff to present our activities; and 4 new water committees were formed through open election by community members. Under the project 37 water committees have been formed by participating communities.

WUA Style Social Partnership Meetings: There were 7 social partnership meetings this quarter. Under the WUA a social partnership meeting is a particular community meeting in which a water committee presents its plan to install and manage a community serdop to community members, local authorities, water plant management and health department representatives. It is a critical event in the *12 Steps to Getting Water Plant Water* because it is at this meeting that all of these different stakeholders have the opportunity to make recommendations, raise important issues and publicly state whether and how they will support the committee’s efforts. In one social partnership meeting, the water plant representative did not participate. The community and WUA staff delayed the final approval of the mini-grant until the water plant gave their consent to supply water. A delegation from the community visited the water plant themselves to get the approval directly from the plant management. A WUA staff member was asked to facilitate the discussion. After a favorable outcome to the meeting, the community received the mini-grant and was willing to move ahead with construction. This example demonstrated how important it is to go through a real social partnership process for all stakeholders, that is, for the project, for the plant, and for the community. Under social partnership, all are aware of their obligations and rights so that later on one stakeholder may not become the scapegoat for another stakeholder’s lack of follow through.

Mini-grants: The last three months brought 7 mini-grants to the participating communities allowing them install 16 serdops additional. The total number of people actually receiving water this quarter increased by 1466. In all 77 serdops have been built and are already serving 7739 of residents. During the past three months, 3 mini-grants involved inter-community transfer of money¹.

¹ Representatives of different existing water committees which borrowed money from the WUA to cover part of their 51% ownership of their community serdops pay back the money to the WUA project which then immediately included the money in a mini-grant. Such representatives of communities participating in the project are *entitled* to take part in the decision of how and where the money they pay back will be used. During the social partnership meetings the representatives of other communities give advice and talk about their experience in organizing their community and serving as committee members. This transfer of these resources takes place in an open meeting by handing the money to a WUA staff member who then hands it directly to the committee receiving the mini-grant. This deliberate procedure for handing over the money is an important demonstration that the communities are linked through the association and receive benefits from neighboring communities by participating in the association.

LEGAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY ICNL

The following legal materials (in English and Russian) were provided to all interested parties in Central Asia:

General Articles and Information

- The Checklist for NGO laws
- The World Bank's Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-commercial Organizations
- Book Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia, written by ICNL local partner-Kazakhstan, Vadim Nee
- The OSI Guidelines for Civic Organizations, written by ICNL
- Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- Development of Legislation, the Regulation of Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia: Problems and Perspectives, Vadim Nee, Director of Law and Environment Eurasia Partnership
- Bases of regulating Activities of the Non-Commercial Sector, Karla Simon, Executive Vice President ICNL
- The Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector, Leon Irish, President ICNL
- International Laws and Principles of NGO Regulation, Natalia Bourjaily, ICNL Program Director for NIS

Published Articles

- The Regulation of the NGO in Central Asia: Current Reforms and Ongoing Problems, The Harvard Asia Quarterly, Summer 2000
- Field Report: Kazakhstan Takes Step in Fiscal Reform for NGOs, The Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, Central Asia/Caucasus Analyst, February 2, 2000
- Field Report: Kyrgyzstan Adopts Most Progressive NGO Law in NIS, The Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, Central Asia/Caucasus Analyst, January 19, 2000
- President Signs Long-Awaited NGO Law: "On Non-Commercial Organizations"
- The Globe (Central Asian regional newspaper), November 2, 1999
- New Law in Uzbekistan: Law on Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations, The Times of Central Asia, May 20, 1999
- Richard Remias also writes various country-reports on legislative reforms in Central Asia available at <http://www.icnl.org> and in the International Journal for Not-for-Profit Law (IJNL)

Taxation Issues

- Article, The Tax Treatment of Not-for-profit Organizations. A Survey of Best Practices from Around the World
- Economic Activities of Non-Commercial Organizations, prepared by the ICNL, for the Regulating Civil Society Conference in Hungary (May, 1996)

Charity Laws

- ICNL Compilation of Charitable Activities Laws and ICNL Comments to these Laws
- Kazakhstan Draft Law on Charity (ICNL assisted)
- Charity Commission – purpose and principles argument sheet
- Moscow Law on Charity, 1995
- Resolution of Mayor on establishment of the Charity Commission in Moscow
- Hungarian Law CLVI on Public Benefit Organizations, 1997
- Selected Provisions of Hungarian Law IV, 1959
- Georgian Draft Law on Charitable Activity and Charitable Organizations

NGO Laws

- Article, New Legislation on Non-commercial Organizations in Russia
- Azerbaijan Draft NGO Law (ICNL assisted project)
- Yemen Draft Law on NGOs (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Memoranda: The Organizational Legal Forms of NGOs

Foundations

- Estonian Law on Non-Commercial Organizations (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Translation of the Comparative Review of Laws on Foundations, article by Tymen J. van der Ploeg, *Voluntas*, International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations, 6/3
- Slovenian Law on Foundations, 1985
- Slovakian Law on Foundations, 1996
- Finnish Law on Foundations, 1930
- Polish Law on Foundations, 1984
- Russian Draft Law on Foundation

Project Specific Analyses

- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan NGO Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Tax Code
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Analysis of Cultural Associations Law
- ICNL List--Problems with Kazakhstan Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Draft Charity Law
- ICNL Commentary and Proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code (1)
- ICNL Commentary and Proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code (2)
- ICNL Analysis and Recommendations to Kyrgyzstan Law on NGOs (ongoing with more than 8 different versions)
- ICNL Analysis of Kyrgyzstan Charity Draft Law (Summer 1999)
- ICNL Analysis of Adopted Kyrgyzstan Charity Law (Spring 2000)
- ICNL Suggested Provisions to Kyrgyzstan NGO Draft Law
- ICNL Recommendations to Uzbekistan Draft NGO Law (on-going with more than 8 different versions – Fall 1998 to Summer 1999)
- ICNL Analysis of Uzbekistan Tax Code (Summer 1998)
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Draft Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Civil Code
- ICNL Commentary to Turkmenistan Civil Code (Winter 1998-99)
- ICNL Comments to Draft Tax Code Kazakhstan (1)
- ICNL Comments to Draft Tax Code Kazakhstan (2)
- ICNL Comments to Draft Tax Code Kazakhstan (3)
- ICNL Analysis: Tax Changes of December 10, 1999
- ICNL Comments to Adopted NGO Law Kazakhstan (1)
- ICNL Comments to Adopted NGO Law Kazakhstan (2)
- ICNL Analysis of Proposed Humanitarian Aid Law, Kyrgyzstan