
THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

**PROGRAM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND NGO
DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CENTRAL ASIA REGION**

Cooperative Agreement: 122-A-00-00-00010-00

Reporting Period: July 1 – September 30, 2002

Submitted to: USAID/CAR

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I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart project component is:

Increase informed citizen participation in political and economic decision-making.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

KAZAKHSTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Eco Tourist Center TEK Initiates Educational Program for Recreation and Preservation

East Kazakhstan is rich in natural and historical suburban sites. There are many recreation activities for children including out-of-city excursions, walking tours and hikes as well as health and summer camps. Schoolteachers usually conduct these activities, since tourist agencies are too expensive; however, teachers lack the requisite skills in permit registration, national park policies, sanitary regulations, and first aid. Further, ecological illiteracy results in unsafe conditions for both personal safety and the natural environment. Therefore, Eco Tourist Center *TEK* proposed system designs to promote ecological literacy and tourism organization expertise among schoolteachers and groups of students in Ust-Kamenogorsk. An initiative group of teachers was formed during the initial phase of the program. Ust-Kamenogorsk Socio-Corporative Foundation *ZUBR* conducted a number of consultations and seminars on *Project Design & Fundraising* and provided *TEK* with technical support. As a result of this cooperation, Eco Tourist Center received \$500 grant to launch and develop its educational system in eco tourism addressed to schoolteachers. This project, in which students receive consultations in safe and environmentally friendly organization of eco-tourism, lays the foundation for a long-term educational program that is the priority direction for the Center.

Sustainability through launching new services

Currently there are problems connected with sustainable development of NGO resource centers, as well as Civil Society Support Centers because of substantial investment made by international organizations. Grants of donor organizations like Counterpart are a major contribution to budget of CSSCs and very small income comes from offering services or contracting with governmental structures. But the situation is gradually changing and more and more Counterpart's partners are successfully collaborating with governmental structures by realization their own services. For instance, the Consulting Center *ZUBR* won the governmental tender of an educational program for farmers in East-Kazakhstan oblast. The center has to conduct 15 trainings the total budget of which is \$24,000. The first two pilot trainings were already conducted in Ust-Kamenogorsk and Semipalatinsk. *ZUBR* attracted resources from other Counterpart's partners *IRIS* and *SMEDA* for these trainings: *IRIS* provided logistics for the training and Abay Myrkhin, a director of *SMEDA*, was a trainer on business plan development. The Consulting Center *ZUBR* won this tender because of skills and knowledge gained at the Counterpart's trainings on Financial Sustainability and Fundraising, which allowed them to increase their capacity in business consulting and fundraising. Also an important factor in the success of *ZUBR* was consultations of Counterpart's program coordinators on strategic planning and determining the most viable strategy for organization development. This tender gave *ZUBR* an opportunity to increase the number of clients via promotion of the new service "Training for Farmers", and this can result in more sustainable development of the organization in future. By winning this tender the NGO has learned to become less dependent on large donors like USAID.

Semey CSSC Contributes to UNDP Program in the Region

A UNDP Program was launched in Semey in January 2002 to grant small funds to local NGOs in rural communities in five counties of the Semey, Qaraghandy and Pavlodar regions. However, only two project proposals were submitted to the Program. UNDP consulted with the local CSSC *IRIS* and met other NGO representatives in order to mobilize local NGOs to submit projects. *IRIS* conducted a seminar and a number of consultations in *Project Design*, which resulted in nine projects being developed and submitted to UNDP. Three projects were approved and the other six are under consideration. Further, UNDP lacks personnel in the region and has hired CSSC Iris-trained volunteers from local rural NGOs and initiative groups to support their efforts.

NGO Zharia Raised \$25,000 to Improve a Law on Domestic Violence

For the past three years, NGO *Zharia* has actively worked in cooperation with women's public organizations and state bodies to protect the rights and solve psycho-sociological problems of battered women. In fact, the NGO participated in the design of a draft law on domestic violence and proposed to include the protection of children, minors and elders in the draft. The Astana CSSC, jointly with the Eurasia Foundation, organized a round table involving NGOs from over 20 regions of Kazakhstan. *Zharia* designed and presented a project proposal, aimed at promotion of the draft law and addressed Parliament members, officials of Ministry of Internal Affairs and other state structures. As a result, Eurasia as supported this six-month effort with \$25,000.

Volunteerism

Kostanai CSSC Involves Volunteers to Assist in NGO Service

The lack of qualified specialists in NGO development is one of the key issues in the non-commercial sector. Despite efforts of Support Centers, the level of NGO organizational development does not satisfy requirements. The decision-making resulted in volunteers' involvement in consulting activity of the NGO. For this, the Kostanai partner organized and formed its Volunteer Center to train volunteers in fundraising, project design, strategic planning and financial management. The training program includes an introductory phase, then Counterpart seminars and workshops, then patronage and joint work with the CSSC staff. After completion of the training program volunteers can replenish the ranks of specialists in NGO OD consulting. As a result of Counterpart's assistance in organizational development, CSSC staff developed a thorough action plan for volunteer involvement in their activity. Due to participation in trainings on Volunteerism Management, Team Building, Fundraising provided by Counterpart, the Kostanai Support Center was able to develop its strategy in volunteerism. In addition, Counterpart associates provided the CSSC with appropriate informational supplies in the field of volunteerism development. In particular, a brochure *Motivational Strategy & Effective Management in Volunteerism*, issued by Institute of Development Cooperation, was given to the CSSC. As a result of implementation of the volunteerism strategy, local NGOs were able to strengthen their organizational capacity through qualified OD consulting service, provided by trained volunteers. In general, volunteerism appeared to be one of the main prerequisites for dynamic development of non-commercial sector in Kostanai region.

Social Partnership

Charity in Action Raises Over KZT 11,200 for Vulnerable People

Invalids, the most vulnerable people, suffer more than others in the current hard economic conditions. In most cases, a charity is the only way to relieve lives of disabled people. The Public Association of Mothers of Disabled Children *Raduga* initiated a charity action to collect funds and attract public and state attention to the problems of invalid children and their families. After seminars and consultations in Fundraising conducted by Kostanai CSSC, the Association formed its initiative group to organize the campaign on the main street of Kostanai city. The campaign raised more than KZT 11,200 (\$73) for disabled children. In addition, *Raduga* was able to set a partnership with other NGOs and many students who helped in conducting the action. In spite of the small sum collected, the society attached great importance to the campaign as local mass media thoroughly covered this tough issue.

Power in Numbers

One of the key issues in the development of Kazakhstan's third sector is the large number of autonomous service organizations as Resource Centers versus the small quantity of associated membership entities as NGO's Associations. This imbalance has a negative influence on effective NGO advocacy in cases of legislative documents and draft laws that affect living conditions. On its own, autonomous and non-associated NGOs cannot advocate its interests. The bottom line is that due to the insufficient number of associated members, the third sector cannot effectively influence the government on social matters. Currently, the situation in the non-commercial sector is changing. The inclusion of new members into NGOs is considered as one of the top priorities. For example, the Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK), as one of the clients of Counterpart, decided to expand its associate membership in order to strengthen its political significance in interaction with state bodies. Due to Counterpart seminars and consultations on Association Development and Constituency Building, the Confederation was able to increase a number of its associated organizations. As a result, the membership was expanded from 60 to 110 (near doubled) associates, including advanced NGOs such as *Zhan Sabi* and Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan that work in the sphere of social protection. Due to strengthening of the organization's political significance, CNOK was able to influence the state on a matter concerning the social sector. In fact, the Confederation has affected the approval of draft laws on *Social Insurance* and *Early Prevention of Deflection in Child Evolution*. Development of associated organizations is conducive to effective structural building of the NGO sector. It also promotes an effective advocacy for the needs of the society.

Social Partnership resulted in effective investments in social sphere of Kostanai Oblast

The local government of Kostanai Oblast has faced some problems with effective distribution of limited financial resources to solve critical social problems in the region. Kostanai Civil Society Support Center (CSSC) suggested solving the issue through reforming and optimizing the models and procedures of financing social sphere in the oblast. In this connection, the Center has taken an active part in the process of preparation of tenders on state order distribution directed to social problems solving by local non-governmental organizations. In addition, to increase the quality and quantity of project proposals designed by local NGOs, CSSC jointly with local akimat and maslikhat (regional municipal bodies) have developed an educational program for rural NGOs working in social sphere. The program includes trainings on NGO & Community and Project Design. The next step is to conduct 12 trainings in the oblast's different districts. To this, the staff of the CSSC has participated in Counterpart's trainings including Training of Trainers on Methodology. Counterpart's technical and financial support resulted in the Center's success in the development of stable contacts with state bodies and grant policy realization in the social sphere. Through this comprehensive approach, Kostanai CSSC has provided higher-level delivery of investments that allowed enlarging social programs from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 Tenge (\$32,680). As a result, the rural NGOs in Kostanai oblast have become more active and professional.

NGO Participation in State Commissions Leads to Social Partnership

The presence of qualitative information on socially significant issues is an important factor in state management. State bodies often do not have accurate data to make the best-informed decisions. Participation of CNOK in the workshop of the Interdepartmental Commission on Poverty Reduction under chairmanship of Mr. Pavlov, Deputy Prime-Minister of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, was an important contribution in improvement of the state management in social decision-making process. In June 2002, Ms. El'nara Kurmangalieva, a representative of CNOK, presented an alternative report on child nutrition issues that were included in the commission's statement with further impacts on the Government's Decree. The active participation of CNOK was a result of consultations in Social Partnership, provided by Counterpart. In addition, the Confederation took part in Counterpart trainings on Constituency Building and Social Partnership that gave the NGO advanced skills in working with state bodies. CNOK's participation in the Government's Interdepartmental commissions improved the quality of state decision-making by providing comprehensive data on important social issues. Further, constructive cooperation between NGOs and state bodies contributes to social partnership development in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Advocacy

NGO's Advocacy Campaign Decreases Monopolized Prices of Water Supply

The local company Bakhtiar Ltd drained water that had accumulated naturally in the reservoir into the farming fields. The company then presented local farmers with a bill of KZT29 per cubic meters for supplying the water. The Farmers' Association *Azamat* launched an advocacy campaign to protect the interests of its members. The NGO appealed to local state bodies, the Committee for Antimonopoly and Balkhash-Alakol Department for Water Environment and attracted mass media to cover the issue. The Association held a number of meetings and negotiations with Bakhtiar' officials. Moreover, due to thorough calculation, the NGO concluded the real dumping price for natural water supply. As a part of Counterpart's Program on Community Mobilization, *Azamat* was provided by comprehensive trainings, consultations on Advocacy & Social Partnership and technical support in *ZHALGAS – Counterpart*. As a result of this two-month campaign, the monopolist made concessions by reducing the price to 8 tiyns (KZT1 = 100 tiyns) and renovated the irrigation system targeting 139 farmers of Malovodny District.

NGO Facilitates Registration of Kazakh Repatriates

Repatriates of Kazakh origin (Oralmans) face difficulties in obtaining Kazakhstan citizenship due to their illiteracy in local legal and economic rights and even language barrier (Russian is widely spread throughout the country). Partner NGO *Salauat* designed the project *Legal Assistance to Oralmans* to provide Kazakh repatriates with legal consultations and technical aid in citizenship registration in close cooperation with the Akimat (local administration) of Shamolghan Village and Municipal and Oblast migration police departments. In June 2002, the project was granted \$2,998 from the Eurasia Foundation as a result of CSSC *ZHALGAS-Counterpart's* technical, consultative, informational and training supports. The NGO associates participated in the seminars on *Project Design, PCA* and *Fundraising* that deepened their skills in the project design and its implementation. As a result of the program, 85 Oralmans to date have been registered to obtain Kazakh citizenship.

Community Mobilization

A Community Project Results in Better Financial Management for an NGO

In 1997, an initiative group formed the non-commercial organization *Orphanage & Shelter* to address care and education of local orphans and vagrants. However, development of the NGO was extremely hard. Fundraising excluded state support, and the partner circle was limited. In spite of these difficulties, the organization continued working and developing. In the course of a *PCA* seminar in March, its participants conducted a community needs appraisal in Novodelinsk Orphanage with participation of local authorities. As a result of the *PCA*, the project proposal was designed to supply the orphanage with biogas equipment, and thereby save financial expenses in energy. Qaraghandy CSSC rendered assistance in project design, consultations in organizational development and technical aid as well. The local Grant Committee examined and approved the \$2,000 project proposal *Biogas Supply for Orphanage*, submitted by the NGO.

Grant Creates Job Opportunities for Invalids

To improve their day-to-day lives, disabled women in Kazakhstan were united into the National Association *Bibi Ana* with its regional branches. The East Kazakhstan branch created a small business, a sewing shop, which provided local invalid women with jobs. Many vulnerable people are still unemployed due to lack of information about legal rights and job opportunities in the region. In addition, the organization needed help addressing its communications issues in order to be sustainable. CSSC *ZUBR* provided the Association with a number of seminars and consultations in strategic planning and organizational development. The *PCA* process confirmed the problem of informational isolation in *Bibi Ana*. *ZUBR* assisted the NGO in fundraising and project design. As a result, the Association designed the project *Rights of Invalid Women & their Children / Jobs Placement for Disabled People* that was granted \$2,000 from *US/Kazakhstan Women's Grant Program for NGOs*. The project implementation includes procurement of office equipment, organization of three seminars, and publication of brochure *Invalids Help Themselves to Create Jobs*.

The Sarzhal Village Community Facilitates Major Repairs in the Local School

A PCA performed by the CSSC *IRIS*, revealed major issues connected with school repair in the Sarzhal Village of Abai County in the East Kazakhstan region. Through CSSC support, the community formed an initiative group and designed a Community Action Plan and project proposal entitled *Windowpane Repair & Installation*, which was examined and approved by Counterpart. Moreover, due to the community's successful fundraising and social partnership campaigns, the County Akimat allocated KZT980,000 (\$6,322.57) for additional repairs in the local school. As a result, 500 schoolchildren are prepared for severe winter period.

NGO Koktem Initiative Helps Provide Local Children with Nutrition

There are 60 children in the Atbasar boarding school in the Aqmola region. Due to lack of resources in the school, children living there do not have adequate nutrition for their healthy growth. Through trainings and consultations in PCA, Project Design & Fundraising performed by the Astana CSSC, the local NGO *Koktem* initiated the project *Life Water* aimed at building a greenhouse to cultivate and can vegetables. As a result, the NGO was able to gather harvest in September and prepare canned food for winter. As a result of this project totaling \$1,608, the NGO has canned enough food to address the issue of malnutrition among these 60 children.

The Repatriate Community Mobilizes

ZHALGAS-Counterpart and NGO *Salauat* conducted a PCA in Kazakh repatriates (Oralmans) community hostel with over 300 residents in the Shamolghan Village. The PCA revealed two major needs – lack of water supply and children's playground. Through consultations with *ZHALGAS*, the NGO designed a project proposal and raised a grant to solve the community needs, namely to build a water pipe and playground. At present, 40 preschool repatriate children are able to use the recreation ground in their hostel's territory. Ultimately, this joint action has led to the community mobilization in the unaided repairs of the hostel's front yard and roof.

KYRGYZSTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Now We Can Solve Our Own Problems

In the village of Cholpon (Kochkor Rayon), populated with 736 people, there were many problems with drinking water supply and deteriorating irrigation system. After participating in the training seminars NGO and Community, Project Design, Fundraising, and Social Partnership, conducted by the Naryn CSSC, the members of the initiative group developed a project on rehabilitating the system of daily distribution of irrigation water. This project was submitted to and supported by the UNDP in the amount of \$5,325. The community's contribution totaled \$2,340. The village government's contribution was \$570. In 2001, the system was remodelled, and more than 40 jamaats (groups of 10-15 villagers who live on the same street) were created. These jamaats formed mutual aid funds, necessary for such activities as starting businesses or implementing spring and autumn field work. A turnover of these funds was estimated at \$2,088. The members of the initiative group also participated in the development and implementation of the following projects:

- Repair of the school in Ara-Kul village, financed by the Soros Foundation at the amount of \$2,080. The community contributed \$2,370 and the village government provided \$220. As a result, 180 students enjoy better conditions in the school.
- Repair of the school in Oro Bashi village, attended by 140 children. This project was supported by the UNDP in the amount of \$3,124. The community's in-kind contribution was estimated at \$6,900, and the village government's contribution was \$1,885.
- Repair of the water supply system in Tuz village, financed by the UNDP in the amount of \$2,740. The community's in-kind contribution was \$2,900 and the local government contributed \$130. Currently, 1,010 people receive access to clean water.
- The villagers are becoming more self-reliant in addressing their needs.

CSSC – On the Road to Independence

Localization of Community Action Grant program through transferring grant-making expertise to CSSC was one of the important tasks of Counterpart Kyrgyzstan in increasing the grant making and administering capacities of CSSC. In consultations with CSSCs, the Hub Office implemented the following interventions: revised the CAG guidelines, drafted operational procedures for local Grant Review Committee (LGRC), and developed criteria for selecting members of review boards. It was planned that grant committees under CSSCs will be entrusted to make decisions on applications using clear-cut criteria, and the Grant Review Committee (GRC) under the Hub Office will be given responsibility to give final approval. Such a two-phase awarding procedures have been designed to ensure smooth and gradual transferring skills to a local level. CCK program staff provided series of consultations and coaching for all CSSCs on CAG localization procedure, establishing and functioning of Local Grant Review Committee, selection of its members, their responsibilities and functions. CSSC based in Karakol was among the first who started process of adopting a grant-making expertise. In April 2002 Karakol CSSCs formed its Local Grant Review Committee in accordance with procedures developed by Counterpart's Hub Office. The first meeting of Karakol LGRC was held in April 2002 with 8 proposals reviewed, 4 of which were recommended for funding. Representatives of Counterpart's Bishkek office were participating in the meeting and provided more recommendations. In May of 2002 the Committee reviewed the 4 selected proposals for the second time and all of them were then approved by Bishkek Grant Review Committee. Thus, as a result of extensive assistance of Counterpart Kyrgyzstan CSSC based in Karakol successfully acquired a new expertise, increased its capacity in grant administering and formed a new body in their organizational structure, which already have demonstrated good results in the practice.

Financial Reporting Meets All Standards

Due to specific activities of CSSCs mostly funded by various grant programs, financial reporting of these organizations was done according to donors' requirements and standards. No attention was paid to the local accounting standards and that derived from narrowness of CSSCs' approach to the financial issues confined to relations with donors. Moreover, active participation of NGOs in development of Complex Development Framework and National Poverty Reduction Strategy resulted in development of mechanisms of state funding of non-profit sector initiatives but such financial support implies strict compliance with local accounting standards that is why many NGOs including CSSCs were not able to provide appropriate financial reporting. At the present moment situation is completely different owing to joint and long-term efforts of Counterpart's regional and CSSC staff. Seven CSSCs initiated and successfully carried out the process of introduction of local accounting standards in terms of financial documentation maintenance. Counterpart's advanced training modules on financial accountability and social partnership promoted realization of acceptance of local accounting standards by CSSC. In the end of July there was a one-day workshop on accounting standards for CSSC staff with involvement of experienced accountants from NGOs. Moreover there was another workshop on taxation issues arranged by ICNL that also fostered the process mentioned above. Counterpart Kyrgyzstan held a series of meetings on compliance of CSSCs' financial documents with local accounting standards for the same purpose, so as far as the results of all these activities are concerned, CSSCs accepted the necessity of local accounting standards and understood advantages of their implementation. Now the acceptance of local accounting standards will make all joint CDF and NPRS projects' financial reporting feasible in terms of compatibility with state requirements. It is necessary to mention one more important result of this achievement: the point is that these seven CSSCs are ready to auditor check-ups, conducted in compliance with local accounting standards. Ultimately, the compliance with local accounting standards increased CSSCs' financial sustainability as they are now in full compliance with rules and can now participate in tenders with state funding. That way they become less dependent on foreign donors like USAID.

Refugee NGO Seeks Additional Funding to Advocate for Refugees' Rights

In order to get Kyrgyz citizenship, Tajik refugees must go through the tedious exercise of compiling a file consisting of 20 different papers. The refugee NGO *Booruker-Urmat* has been working on assisting refugees for the last several years, the NGO leader has been trained at Counterpart trainings and received consultations on how to address refugee rights violations. Together with Counterpart, refugee NGOs have hosted several roundtables and have identified key issues, with the papers as one of the priority issues. *Booruker-Urmat* took the lead in this cause and developed a proposal, funded by Soros Foundation with amount of \$1,500. One of the objectives of the proposal is to lobby Kyrgyz Parliament to ratify Kyrgyz-Tajik agreement, where the procedure of obtaining the Kyrgyz citizenship is simplified.

Focus NGO Successfully Diversify its Funding Sources

Talas Farmer Association (TFA) is one of the Counterpart's focus NGOs. Based on Organizational Assessment, one of the issues raised was the issue of financial sustainability. Counterpart was the only funding agency for the last year. The whole package of interventions was offered to the NGO, and the staff was trained at the training Project Design and Proposal Writing. For the time being, TFA was able to write several proposals and two of them were successfully funded. One is aiming at providing farmers juridical services and worth \$6,500 through TACIS support. Another project was supported by Soros Foundation in amount of \$1,905 with a goal to expand the knowledge of the farmers about the Land Law, to facilitate the process to get farmers to the land market.

Volunteerism

Lastochka Takes Flight

Counterpart's partner CSSC NGO *Chernobylians of Nookat in the XXI Century* is the newest partner in the Kyrgyzstan CSSC Network. During the last OD assessment conducted by Counterpart consultants, one of the key goals identified by consultants for building CSSC's internal capacity was establishing of a volunteer center within the organization. According to the assessment the creation of the center should improve the capacity of the CSSC in serving more clients. In January 2001, NO CSSC staff was trained at Counterpart's training workshop Volunteer Management in NGOs, where they improved their skills in attracting and working with volunteers. In the framework of organization's Action Plan for Capacity Building and Service Delivery the CSSC established a volunteer center *Lastochka*. The organization announced a competition for attracting volunteers. Fourteen volunteers were selected on the interview basis. The CSSC conducted a workshop on Project Design for these volunteers. As a follow up activity of the workshop the internal grant competition (around \$210) among those volunteers was announced. Sixteen project proposals were submitted and the internal grant committee of the NGO approved four of them. By designing and implementing these projects, the volunteers had an opportunity to put their knowledge and skills in project design and implementation in practice. Moreover, some of the volunteers were trained in Participatory Community Appraisal and Planning (PCAP) and Training of Trainers (TOT). After being trained and implementing the projects, the volunteers are now able to provide a variety of services to clients of the CSSC, including consultations on project design (for the past 2 months, 6 NGOs received consultations from volunteers), conducting PCA, community action planning (CAP), and conducting training workshop NGO and Community.

Advocacy

Farmers Fight for Their Interests

On August 16, 2002 the Tyup District Administration (Issyk-Kul Oblast) issued the decree #191 "Payment of taxes by available cash funds" on accepting land tax payments in cash only. The regulation created hard problems for the farmers of Tyup District (the population of the district is 56,200), because their income after the payment of all taxes decreased to 5-10%, which was not enough even to cover the sowing expenses for the next year. The Public Foundation "Develop-Koruk" of Toguz Bulak village, Tyup ditrich made the decision to conduct an advocacy campaign to revoke regulation #191. The initiative group, consisting of representatives of five NGOs and farmers of the district, shared the idea of an advocacy campaign among the district population. After participating in the training seminar Advocacy, conducted by Karakol CSSC, the initiative group wrote the letter of

protest with the demand to abrogate the regulation #191. The letter was sent to the President of Kyrgyz Republic, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Kyrgyz Republic, Deputies of Jogurku Kenesh, and the Akim of Tyup District. CSSC also provided technical assistance-consultations, print services, and faxes. The meetings with the Deputies of Jogurku Kenesh and keneshes of districts and oblasts were conducted. Resulting from the campaign, the regulation was revoked on September 25, and farmers are allowed to pay land taxes in-kind, as they have only crops at their disposal. Today the land tax is being covered by wheat at the price of 5 soms per kg.

Successful Advocacy Campaign In Kyrgyzstan

On January 14 2002, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic issued Resolution #20 on Certain Issues Concerning Publishing Activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. This Resolution restricted freedom of speech and religion conscience as well as a right of private publishing activities. In November 2001, Counterpart conducted an Advocacy training workshop for representatives of all 11 CSSCs where they received knowledge and skills in organizing and conducting effective advocacy campaigns. In February 2002, the CSSCs started a national advocacy campaign to veto the Resolution #20. CSSCs elected a working group of 5 people who coordinated the campaign. In all 7 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan the CSSCs conducted a series of round tables with local NGOs, government, and media representatives to discuss the Resolution. Participants of each round table worked out and signed appeals to the President and Parliament requesting to veto the Resolution and expressing the reasons why it violated people's rights for freedom of speech. During the campaign the CSSCs actively used modern communication to establish network relations within the framework of the campaign. The Working Group actively used Counterpart-hosted listserve SCNEWS (designed specially for CSSCs) to exchange news, ideas, successes and obstacles of the campaign. Talas CSSC created a web site where it placed the text of the Resolution and ICNL's comments on it, as well as an opinion poll on the document. In April 2002, several CSSCs organized a web conference for their clients to discuss the Resolution and possible impact it may have. On the Constitution Day (May 5) CSSCs organized a 'fax attack' of the Government and Parliament with fax appeals to veto the Resolution. The campaign involved all 11 CSSCs and more than 120 NGOs and partners throughout the country. The immediate result of this advocacy campaign was that in May 2002 the President vetoed the Resolution #20. Moreover, the campaign was a good example of networking relations and a big step towards building a truly working CSSC network in Kyrgyzstan. It also increased capacity of the network networking in implementing advocacy campaigns and enlarged the constituency by outreaching local communities.

Community Mobilization

Children Are Our Future

The village of Kara-Bulak with the population of 3,067 people is located in the mountainous area 18 km away from the district center. Social infrastructure of the village consists of the school, the post office and the medical-obstetrical point. In the school, 674 students are being taught in two shifts. Every year the number of students has increased and the administration of the school has to deal with the problem of classroom deficiency. According to the data of school administration, in 2002-2003 academic year, the number of students will increase up to 850. Therefore, the school needs to build an additional (supplementary) building for the elementary school, which should include at least eight classrooms, an assembly hall, a library and a buffet. The Initiative Group of 15 members, recently registered as Social Fund *Ospurum Umutu*, was created by the community members to solve the problem in question with the support of the CSSC. The members of Community Initiative Group regularly participate in the training seminars such as Project Development and Fundraising. The following plans of action were developed and conducted:

- According to the appeals of the Initiative Group a village council transferred an administrative building to the balance of the school.
- The village population was organized to repair a new building and to build an annex.
- On March 3, 2002 the Charity Marathon was carried out and more than \$1000 USD was received.
- Project for reconstruction of the new building was developed by the members of the Social Fund *Ospurum Umutu* and approved by the ADB for \$2,500 USD.

To date a considerable amount of construction work has been completed: the foundation of the annex has been laid, wooden building frame and clay bricks were made by the students and employees of the school in their free time. Thus, one of the most important problems of Kara-Bulak village has been addressed. As a result, in 2002-2003 school year 850 students will enjoy new classrooms.

Community Works to Preserve Education Funds

550 students in the village of Chech-Dobo, population 2,386, have to attend school in a building that is badly in need of repairs. The leaky roof was causing severe water damage inside the building, leading to numerous and expensive repairs. Two teachers from the school participated in the training workshop Project Development, which was conducted in the village of Chech-Dobo. Afterwards, they developed a project amounted to \$2,000 and submitted it to the ADB. The Bank approved the project under their program of rehabilitation of social infrastructure. The community's contribution was estimated at \$2,350. To date, the repair of the roof is almost finished. After the roof is renovated, the administration of the school is going to buy 2 computers using the money, which was previously earmarked by the local government for school repair.

New Bridges, New Confidence

The village of Chech-Dobo is divided into two parts by a canal. During the rain seasons, the villagers faced the problem of crossing the canal. After participating in PCA and CAP exercises conducted by the Nookat CSSC, the community members developed the project titled "Clean water means good health", which was successfully implemented. The most important result of this project was that the community became confident in its ability to make positive changes. Inspired community members have constructed two big bridges and six small ones spanning the canal using their own resources. The total contribution of the community, excluding labor, is \$4,180.

Learning from Neighbors

In Jar-Korgon Village, population 4,070, which is located next to Chech-Dobo Village, the road was in a very bad condition. Heavy rains have deteriorated the roads to the point of being impassable by motorists and pedestrians. While this has long been a problem for the community, the population of the village lacked the confidence to address this clear need. Recent experiences of their neighboring community, Chech-Dobo, encouraged the residents of Jar-Korgon to take action. After participating in PCA exercises conducted by the Nookat CSSC, the community successfully implemented their first project with funding support from Counterpart. To date, the community of the Jar-Korgon village has already reconstructed 8 km of the road. The contribution of the Jar-Korgon community to the project accounted for \$400 plus labor costs.

Let's Save the Tulips

The Otagon village of Chuy Oblast is located close to the Kegety canyon, which is one of the most picturesque surroundings attractive to locals and foreign tourists. However, visits of the tourists have a negative effect on the local nature. The Kyrgyz mountain ridge (particularly Keketin and Assyk-Ata canyons) is the motherland of the mountain tulips and four species of tulips, such as Greiga, Kolpakovskii's, Ostrovskii's and Zinaida grow in Kegety. Villagers noted that the number of wild tulips has been continuously decreasing. An Initiative Group of employees of the Botanical Garden of the National Academy was formed. After participating in Counterpart training workshops in Project Development and Fundraising, the Initiative Group developed a project to protect the tulips through organizing a nursery. Global Environmental Fund funded the project with \$12,400. The money was spent to enrich the soil on 15 hectares, which has been allotted for planting tulip bulbs, to build greenhouse and develop the nursery. 789 villagers collected 250,000 bulbs. In October the villagers are going to plant the flowers. In addition to saving the existing species, the Initiative Groups has identified botanists to help create a world-class strain of tulip to make Kyrgyzstan a global player.

TAJIKISTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Hope to Disabled Children and their Parents in Khorog

The situation for disabled children and the parents of disabled children who live in Khorog is especially difficult because there are no special schools or care facilities. As a result, parents have to stay at home with children and cannot earn money outside the home. A group of concerned citizens decided to form an initiative group to help address these problems. The group asked the Khorog CSSC for training and assistance in forming an NGO. After attending the training workshop on NGO and Community and receiving consultations the members formed the NGO *Nur* (Ray of Hope). After attending the training workshop on Project Design the members of *Nur* developed a project proposal to create an educational center for disabled children. With the help of the Khorog CSSC they submitted their proposal to Save the Children (UK), who supported the project with \$8,000. The Khorog City Government donated one of the Khorog kindergartens for the educational center, demonstrating a positive social partnership in the project. Recently the *Education Center for Disabled Children* was officially opened in Khorog and now 36 children attend the Center and their parents are able to work while their children study.

Volunteerism

What's Old is New Again

Volunteerism in Tajikistan was developed hundreds of centuries ago. They call it “hashar”. But in our days not all the people follow this tradition. To renew the tradition the Khujand CSSC developed a three-month program on “Development of Volunteers movement in Soghd Region”. Twenty-five volunteers were trained and received skills at Counterpart’s and other trainings. They conducted Charity Action for 50 children of Children’s home *Rodnichok*. Six of them were taken under the Children’s home patronage. Ten were involved in implementation of the project in collaboration with NGO *Zerkalo* as paid employees. Four of them were attracted by the local NGO. This program includes the volunteer’s development in communities as well. The implemented project under NGO Support Grant and Coalition- project “Kassobon” are based the community mobilization and volunteers development. This program was highlighted in the local newspapers and attracted the attention of other international organizations as well. For instance, Mercy Corps invited the Khujand CSSC to collaborate in this area. The first step in this collaboration will be to provide trainings to the Mercy Corps’ volunteers.

Media/Outreach

First Independent Radio Starts Broadcasting in Tajikistan

Until recently there was only one radio station in Dushanbe that belonged to the City Government. In August 1998 the independent Information Agency *Asia Plus* applied the State TV and Radio Committee for a license to broadcast entertainment and information programs on the FM radio frequency. After three years of delays the License Commission of the State TV and Radio Committee officially refused *Asia Plus*’s request for a license. As a result many local and international NGOs, including NANSMIT responded by appealing the decision and supporting *Asia Plus*’s right. NANSMIT issued a public statement criticizing the License Commission’s attempt to monopolize local media outlets in the capital city. Also, NANSMIT voiced its opinion in local newspapers on the need to reform the License Commission. After intense pressure by local and international organizations and the diplomatic community, the License Commission reversed its decision and gave a broadcasting license to *Asia Plus*. The President of Tajikistan met with the Director of *Asia Plus* and assured them of his support for the creation of an independent media station in Dushanbe. Radio *Asia Plus* went on the air on September 9, Tajikistan’s Independence Day. Now over 1.2 million people living in Dushanbe can listen to this radio station everyday.

Social Partnership

Social Partnership Conference Strikes a Chord in Tajikistan

On June 11, Counterpart Tajikistan and AED conducted a national conference on social partnership. The conference was seen by all as a positive step in the development of the civil society sector in Tajikistan. It was the first time the President of Tajikistan met with such a large number of NGO representatives to discuss the benefits of the Government-NGO coordination to address social problems. After three months Counterpart has identified the following sample of concrete outcomes from the Conference:

- NGO access to government controlled media outlets has improved. The state TV now shows special programs on NGO activities. They also invite NGO representatives to participate in discussions on the role of NGOs in addressing social problems and ways to develop partnerships between NGOs and Government Offices.
- One of the problems raised in the Conference was lack of cooperation between NGOs and Government Offices at local levels. The President instructed local government officials to assist NGOs in their work. According to Counterpart's regional CSSCs and other NGOs the situation has significantly improved:
 - In GBAO the NGO registration procedure was simplified. The head of the Justice Department visited the Khorog CSSC to cooperate with them on updating the list of GBAO NGOs
 - The leadership of Khatlon Province is taking an active part in preparing the follow-up meeting in Kurghon-Teppa. They are ready to contribute \$500 for the meeting arrangements.
 - When the Director of the Dushanbe CSSC visited the Tursunzade District Government Office to collect information about NGOs in this area, the District authorities displayed strong interest in cooperating with local NGOs. They also expressed their readiness to provide office space and other assistance to local NGOs. Previously it had been very difficult to get that kind of support from the authorities of this district.
 - *Behruz* and the Kurghon-Teppa City Government, in response to the President's comment that NGOs aren't addressing drug issues, established a working group to fight drug addiction.
- The leader of the Disabled Association of Tajikistan in his speech at the Conference emphasized the need for revising the Law on Social Protection for the Disabled. Currently the Ministry of Social Welfare, in cooperation with the Tajikistan Disabled Association, is working on a draft of the new Law on Social Protection for the Disabled.
- Counterpart is planning to conduct a series of follow-up meetings in Khatlon, Sughd, Khorog, DRD (Direct Role Districts), and Dushanbe with the participation of NGOs, government institutions and businesses. The goal of these roundtables is to inform the participants about the results of the Social Partnership Conference, particularly about the recommendations adopted by Conference participants. Also in these meetings the representatives of all sectors of society will identify their priority social problems and take first steps to address those problems.

The Meeting with the President opens new ways for the successful collaboration

As a follow-up to the social partnership conference, the office of the President organized the seminar "Basic Directions of the State Policy on Providing Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women in Tajikistan" together with the UNFPA. Participants, including international organizations, governmental officials, local NGOs, and Media, discussed M&E models for evaluating the State Program. It was the first time all sectors of society were invited to participate in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation. At the seminar, participants reviewed the definitions of Monitoring and Evaluation and the difference between them. They discussed the specific issues concerning the qualitative and quantitative indicators for the program for the following sectors: Economic, labor, education, family and reproductive health and domestic violence. There were governmental officials as well as NGOs representing each sector. Each of them expressed their view and made suggestions on the potential indicators as well as the M&E report format. All reviewed materials will be sent to the Presidential Office for final approval.

Kurghan-Teppa CSSC Finds Way to Build Relations with Local Government

The Kurghan-Teppa CSSC faced problems with local Government, due to the often changes of the local officials of the region. They had close relationship with the previous officials. Not all of the new Local Government representatives demonstrated their willingness to work in partnership with local NGOs. The leader of the CSSC met several times with the representatives of the local Government and informed them on the local NGOs' activities, their achievements, obstacles, and problems. After the following event the representatives of the local Government changed their attitude to the local NGOs. The Kurghan-Teppa CSSC in partnership with the NGOs *Munisi dil/Hissor*, *Donish/Dushanbe*, and *Chashma/Shahritus* conducted the project action *Caravan of Peace* supported by Mercy Corp. Eighty children from Hissar and thirty from Dushanbe came to Khatlon Area to celebrate the public holiday "Children's Protection Day". The aim of conducting this event was tolerance education of the children from the different part of the republic. The local Government supported that event as well. They provided services of using the facilities and merry-go-round free in the Central Cultural Park. Also they assisted in preparation of the stage, decorations of the park etc. Almost all Deputies of the Local Government Departments participated in the preparations. The event was demonstrated by the TV broadcast of Khatlon area.

Advocacy

South Khatlon Coalition Helps Farmer Associations Get their Land Back

In April 2002 the leaders of three farmer associations of Beshkent District of the Khatlon Province applied to the *South Khatlon NGO Coalition* for consultations and assistance in helping them take back their land. The land had been illegally given to other people by district authorities from Beshkent, claiming that the three farmer associations were bankrupt. The three associations argued that this action by the district officials violated the *Law of Tajikistan on Farmer Associations*. According to the law, if an association goes bankrupt, the liquidation of their assets are under the jurisprudence of the Economic Court. The members of *South Khatlon NGO Coalition* referred the farmer associations to the Provincial Economic Court asking the Court to assist them with legal consultations and to help them prepare all the necessary documents for their legal defense. The Economic Court canceled the resolution by the Beshkent District authorities, declaring it illegal. The *South Khatlon NGO Coalition*, which consists of 11 NGOs from Shahrtus, Kabodiyon and Beshkent works with the communities of these districts to assist them in improving their living conditions.

Community Mobilization

Land of Solidarity

A drought in 2001 in the Sogd Oblast led to the fast deterioration of the quality of life for the rural populations in the Nau district. The joint stock company *Guliston* decided to increase the territory for the cotton planting and use the fields for wheat, which were usually given to the community members of jamoat Kurkat (25,000 people, almost 4,000 households). Naturally this caused mass discontent among the people. The increased tension required extreme actions. The Association of the Support of the Development Process *Nau* couldn't stay disengaged. The members of this organization developed and implemented the project "The land of solidarity". With the support of the WFP they cleaned 40 km. of irrigation channels in jamoat Kurkat. The work started in February-March, when many families were short of foodstuff, so total participation from community members was 3,214 people instead of the planned 500 persons. After the completion of the work they got 300 tons of the food (flour, oil and salt). Also the *Association* requested the Company donate seven hectares of the irrigation areas for one season to the vulnerable families. This land was divided among 27 vulnerable families, which yielded a rich harvest. This project helped to resolve the increasing social tension, helped the community obtain experience in problem solving by working together, and helped the families get food.

NGO Madad Assists a Khorog Community to Resolve Water Issues

Forty-two families of the village of Shokhdasht, a community near the city of Khorog, have been suffering from the lack of potable water for many years. The people have been using local river water, which has caused a number of different waterborne diseases. When the NGO *Madad*, Counterpart's Target NGO in GBAO, conducted a PCA exercises with the community and helped an Initiative Group develop a CAP to dig a trench and lay 1,750 meters of water pipe to the community. In order to get funds for the whole project, the Initiative Group, with assistance from *Madad*, developed a proposal and applied through the *Khorog CSSC* for a CAG from Counterpart, which was approved with funding of \$2,779 USD. The community members and a number of water specialists shared all the labor costs for the project. In spite of the difficulties of the mountainous location, the community managed to finish the work as scheduled. Now 252 people of the community have access to safe potable drinking water and are free from the effects of waterborne infectious diseases.

Counterpart Assists a Community in Muminabad in Resolving a Water Problem

The *Balkhobi* community is located in a remote area of the Muminabad District. Due to its remoteness the community lacks many conveniences but the priority problem has been lack of potable water. The people of the village have had to carry water from springs located far from their village making daily living very difficult. This is one of the reasons why many *Balkhobi* community members have migrated to other areas. The NGO *Anis*, one of Counterpart's target NGOs, conducted PCAP exercises with members of the community, and an Initiative Group developed a plan to connect a spring from a nearby mountain to the village by means of a 2,440-meter water pipe. The Initiative Group applied to Counterpart Tajikistan's CAG program for a project of \$4,500, 60% (\$2,750) of which was the community's contribution in either labor or materials. The grant was approved and the project was successfully completed. Now 643 members of *Balkhobi* community have access to potable water and ten families, who had left the community, returned to their homes.

TURKMENISTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Community Decision-making Insures Better Water Supply

Since Fall of 2001 the 14,000-member NGO *Sarygamysh* has identified the need to improve the system of water delivery, storage and distribution in their community. The constant and timely water provision of target communities by *Sarygamysh's* four water carters depends on the price changes for spare parts and petrol at the local market. The governing board of the NGO recommended the executive staff review the financial plan taking into account the price changes at the local market, and - as one of the possible solutions - it was suggested to increase the payment for water delivery to participating communities. Having received consultations from *Dashoguz CSSC*, the NGO developed a strategy for improving the financial management of the organization, and three types of expense calculation for water delivery service were worked out for the NGO Members' General Council to consider. In May 2002 the NGO General Meeting took place with representatives from 44 member communities participating. Participants decided on the type of calculation and agreed to introduce it gradually and start using this new calculation from August 2002. This part of the strategy for improving the financial situation and management was accomplished successfully. The monthly income increased, from 18,000,000 manats (\$ 3461) to 27,000,000 manats (\$ 5192), and the current water delivery system is improved and more sustainable now.

Media/Outreach

Information Is Power

Lack of information and limited access to information and communication resources is one of the greatest obstacles for third sector development in Turkmenistan. 90 NGOs have free access to Internet and use e-mail through Counterpart's server, which enables them to provide appropriate information to clients, find partners and donors, arrange activities and participate in seminars and conferences.

- As a result of access to Internet and e-mail, more than 60 members of the NGO *Unicum* and students of several Ashgabat schools participate annually in an international electronic intelligence tournament (15 tournaments). Collecting information from websites and communicating via email, *Unicum* found partners and donors and managed to take part in five intellectual games, where 10 different states were represented.
- NGO *Anna* using e-mail, applied for a grant to the Women Global Fund and their project was subsequently approved. Owing to this grant the NGO has managed to open the Support Center, where 5-8 refugee women receive consultations every day.
- NGO *Cheshme* maintains close contact with partners, finds and distributes ecological information for more than 30 schools and 18 NGOs, who in turn use it for educational ecological activities and publications.

Partnership, Coalition-Building and Association Development

Working Together Means Working Better

Receiving organizational development consulting through Counterpart, the *Economic Educational Center* identified a number of projects to be implemented and recognized the need to establish a network of organizations focused on economic education. After identifying interested organizations, the *EEC* united 14 commercial, state and public organizations in a coalition to review economics curriculum, with partial involvement of advisers from *Junior Achievement Kazakhstan*. As a result of the coalition's six-month working group sessions, the *EEC* piloted six economics classes in Turkmenabat, Dashoguz and Ashgabat and trained more than 60 young people. Additionally, thirteen coalition members were trained using an innovative economy-to-youth teaching technique. The *EEC* presented the new curriculum at a national forum of 80 young entrepreneurs and economists. The representative from the School Reforms Department of the Ministry of Education noted the professional quality of the materials developed by organizations and indicated that they will be the basis for the development of new school programs. The national forum and the achievements of the *EEC*-led coalition were covered in the newspaper *Neutral Turkmenistan*.

Pensioners are a Force

Many urban pensioners are single and have limitations that preclude them from engaging in many activities. While able to contribute intellectually, there are few opportunities for them to do so, as there are few NGOs focusing on pensioners' needs. One NGO, *Arma*, has been focused on pensioners' needs. With targeted support from Counterpart, *Arma* has focused on organizational development. In order to expand the number of beneficiaries, *Arma* developed a strategic plan and identified a strong partner, the National Red Crescent Society. After participating in several partnership meetings, the Society founded *Arma* clubs in all five velayats to unite pensioners, provide them with consultations, and encourage them to participate in different activities for themselves and for other people. The clubs arrange regular roundtable discussions with interesting people and organize seminars on specific topics (pensioners' rights, pensions benefits, and medical insurance). Very often schools recruit the pensioners as volunteers to conduct classes on ethics and first aid. 15-30 pensioners a week visit each club; 30-70 pensioners participate in the clubs' activities every month. This active involvement of pensioners in society makes them feel deeply satisfied as they realize that they are needed and can still contribute to society.

Advocacy

NGO and Clients Make Change Together

The low level of legal education and lack of information on legal issues are the main reasons people are not aware of their rights and cannot protect them. The situation is aggravated by the fact that legal services are expensive and people with average or low income cannot afford it. Having been trained at such Counterpart seminars as Advocacy, Team Building, and Conflict Resolution, the NGO *Khemmayat* learned about lobbying and ways to promote rights. In addition to providing juridical consultations to clients, *Khemmayat* assists and guides clients in ways to advocate for their rights and interests. As a result of these efforts:

- One mother of five lost her husband, the sole provider for the family, in a work-related accident. The organization for which he worked provided no support to her and her family. She turned to *Khemmayat* and with their help managed to receive compensation at the rate of 105 million manat (20,000 US Dollars); moreover, the Ministry of Social Security and Ministry of Defense are now paying monthly allowance for her children.
- As a result of an industrial accident, one gentleman experienced a 70% decrease in his eyesight. However, the administration refused to meet his legal right for benefit payments. He appealed to *Khemmayat* and together they succeeded in getting the employment injury acknowledged and compensation was paid. Further, the gentleman was re-hired by his organization and given a job that corresponded to his physical abilities.
- One woman was forced to quit her job at an industrial plant when she became pregnant. She applied to *Khemmayat* and was reinstated to her previous position.

NGO Advocates the Rights of Businessmen

The development of small business in Turkmenistan started from the first days of independence. Since this is a new field of activity in the country, the early businessmen confronted numerous problems. The NGO *Informational and Educational Center Zemin Lyalesi* provides technical support for Balkan velayat entrepreneurs. A group of entrepreneurs turned to the Center for help and support – the Housing and Communal Bureau (GEK) closed fifteen shops owned by the members. The negotiations of the businessmen with GEK representatives and local authorities didn't yield any positive results. Owing to Counterpart technical support and participation in such trainings as Small Business Development, Advocacy, and Conflict Resolution, the members of *Zemin Lyalesi* managed to put skills into practice. *Zemin Lyalesi* consulted with the entrepreneurs on their rights, arranged several meetings with hyakimlik and Public Prosecution Office representatives, and finally succeeded in getting all the shops reopened. As a result more than 700 people have access to food and goods.

Community Mobilization

Community Gains Control Over the Irrigation Water.

The irrigation system in Central Asia requires water pumps and check-gates to control and manage water delivery to the fields. Construction and maintenance of such facilities is a problematic issue for land renters in rural communities of Turkmenistan. Counterpart grantee the WUA *Bereket*, founded to support 163 land renters, has constructed four check-gates along the water canal, thereby improving the existing water distribution system and making water delivery possible for larger territory.

- The new system has been functioning for two years as a result of active involvement of all members of the farmers' community to manage the pumps and check-gates and to clean the canal.
- This new irrigation system enabled the farmers to extend the square of cultivated land from 200 to 400 hectares, thereby helping the 163 member-families increase their income.
- Having joined efforts, the farmers arranged the negotiation with the head of local authority - *Archin*, who granted them the permission to use the edge plots of the fields for their own benefits.

Communities Work Together and Reach Higher and Higher

Involvement of citizens' participation and initiative development as well as community mobilization in identifying its own needs and the ways to meet them was and remains one of the top priority issues in Turkmenistan. After receiving training and consultations from the Ashgabat CSSC on community outreach and PCA facilitation, the NGO *Meyletinchi*, which focuses on volunteer development, initiated and carried out PCA exercises with 565 inhabitants on Navoi Street. As the result, the residents designed and received funding from Counterpart for a project to refurbish the adjacent land and maintain it with an emphasis on proper sanitary conditions. The participatory methods used promoted community mobilization and joined representatives from different sectors of society. Each group made significant contributions to the project -- \$2,000 from the community, \$4,800 from the local khakimlik and \$3,200 from *Meyletinchi*. The experience of the community led to the creation of a community action plan aimed at solving other problems and meeting other needs of the community.

UZBEKISTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Businesswomen Use Strategic Planning for Stronger Programs

The *Businesswomen's Association in Kokand (BWA)* has been working under Counterpart's Focus Grant Program since 2001. In addition to a Focus Grant, Counterpart provides OD consultancy to the NGO every six months. During the initial OD assessment, it was clear that *BWA* has many programs and directions, which aren't linked to a clear mission. Also, the NGO staff was not working effectively in absence of leader. After getting recommendations from Hub consultants, *BWA* developed a system for monitoring each program. The staff is able to work without the leader; they analyze work performance and plan activities independently. Now each program includes organizational development stakeholder involvement. Each program implemented by *BWA* is now clearly linked to a strategy or vision. As the result, the *BWA* has developed programs for next year that are their priority, not those of donor organizations.

New Direction for Development

The Interregional Rehabilitation Center *Umid* in Samarkand has been a Focus grantee of Counterpart since 2001. This NGO helps and focuses on battered and suicidal women. As with other Focus NGOs, Counterpart provides OD consultations to *Umid Center*. The NGO was implementing programs designed mostly for adults. OD consultants developed new directions and goals for development with NGO staff. One of the priority areas was to work on youth programming. The NGO planned and has taken necessary actions in order to develop this category. As the result, the following positive changes were identified at the last OD consultancy:

- The Internet Access Center for NGOs and youth was created within the Karshi Branch of *Umid Center* with support of IREX;
- The School of Life for young ladies was created within *Umid Center* in Samarkand; and
- The Center *Nekuz*, which is a partner of *Umid Center* in Karshi, has refocused its activity to the youth issues and started actively work on it.

Avitsena Evaluates Pediatric Care in Bukhara

Reforms in the health protection system are under way in the Republic. However, there are still quite many problems to be solved. The Departments of the Health Ministry in the regions regularly conduct evaluations of institutional performance, but since there are no independent experts, these evaluations tend to lack impartiality. Therefore, the Bukhara regional Department of Health requested the *Association of Children's Doctors Avitsena*, with its strong and impartial image, to evaluate the state of pediatric services in Bukhara region. In May 2002 *Avitsena*, Counterpart's focus grantee, collected data from more than 100 pediatric institutions. *The Association* presented findings of the collected data analyses at a roundtable with participation of representatives of various health organizations. The roundtable examined causes of the poor state of pediatric services and developed an action plan seeking solutions for identified problems. In accordance with the action plan:

- The working space for providing medical services to the population in Gijduvan children's hospital has been expanded from 60 person/days to 120 person/days.
- A training/medical center is being set up in the district of Peshku in collaboration with Project Health (Ministry of Health), the Bukhara regional Department of Health, the Bukhara Medical Institute and the World Bank. The Center will provide medical services to 1500-2000 patients and trainings to 70-80 doctors, enhancing their knowledge and skills. *Avitsena* is entrusted with coordinating and monitoring this process.
- *The Association*, in cooperation with Project Hope, has developed curriculum for medical staff retraining (about 6,000 persons), to be conducted in October 2002. *Avitsena* will do this training.
- The regional Department of Health appreciates the professionalism of the work done by *Avitsena* and invited *Manzura Klycheva* of the Association to fill the position of Principal Pediatrician for the Bukhara region. This is sure to strengthen the Association's status and promote pediatric services in Bukhara region.

The NGO Istikbolli Avlod Conducts Anti-trafficking Campaign.

Mass media and the authorities in Uzbekistan do not pay much attention to the problem of prostitution and the very real issues of trafficking of women and children. The population, namely young women, is not aware of the mechanisms of trafficking and its consequences. These problems have been identified to be of priority after the NGO *Istikbolli Avlod* conducted PCA exercises in the Chilanar district of Tashkent. Based on the results of PCA the NGO has developed a program of activities with young people. The NGO is now actively engaged in fighting trafficking.

- With the support of Internews-Uzbekistan *Istikbolli Avlod* is conducting an information campaign aimed at preventing trafficking. Since August 2002 the organization has been airing weekly 20-minute broadcasts on the governmental radio channel *Radio Eshlar* (Youth Radio). The NGO collects the information relating to cases of trafficking from people, prosecutors' offices and governmental institutions in the five cities of Uzbekistan. The NGO also analyzes citizens' and authority's attitudes toward the problem.
- In the other project, supported by the Embassy of the United States of America, the NGO is conducting 40 workshops in local schools explaining the causes and consequences of trafficking.
- The NGO's reputation is growing as a result of their successes. Consequently, the Migration Center in Tajikistan informed *Istikbolli Avlod* about three girls who escaped Bangkok and fled to Tajikistan. The girls did not have any documents and couldn't get back to Uzbekistan. The NGO contacted Uzbekistan's customs office, obtained all the necessary documentation and helped the girls to return to their homeland.

Client's Satisfaction Is Our Success

The Kokand Support Center one of the oldest and most experienced Centers. It was established four years ago with support of Counterpart. Over the years the number of clients (NGOs, Mahallas, Initiative Groups, etc) has increased greatly. The previous OD assessment of the CSSC revealed that clients were not satisfied with the system of consultation. Since the CSSC only has three staff, they were not able to meet the needs of clients in a timely way. Some clients started to complain that they couldn't approach CSSC staff, since they seemed to be very busy. The OD consultants gave this feedback to the Center and recommended they develop an appointment or registration system for consultations of clients. At the recent OD assessment, discussions with clients revealed that the situation has positively changed. Clients are calling the CSSC and making appointments to meet with CSSC staff, who are now able to plan their time more effectively.

Volunteerism

Umidvorlik Center Is Actively Involving Volunteers

The Center for support of disabled children *Umidvorlik*, Counterpart's focus grantee, couldn't effectively implement its programs on rehabilitation and integration of disabled children using only its own staff. Therefore the *Center* developed its activity in order to involve the community in its work.

To address this:

- The *Center* has spoken on air four times in the last six months informing the public of its activity. These broadcasts have brought people with offers of help to the organization. For example, Wilhelm Sabelfeld, the owner of a small shoe workshop, offered help and started training five disabled teenagers in shoes repair and cobbling. Two of these children have learned this trade.
- The *Center* trained disabled children's parents in mini-trainings on NGO and Community and Fundraising. After that five parents have become volunteer-fundraisers. They have already been able to raise 300,000 soums (about 270US) and to get contributions of various goods costing about the same.
- Twenty volunteers from communities actively work at *Umidvorlik Center*.

Media/Outreach

Ecological ABC Published by Contact Recommended for Higher Education

Children's low level of knowledge of environmental protection and the lack of appropriate information resources and courses on ecology have led children to be irresponsible with respect to the environment. The environmental public organization *Contact* prepared, with funding support from Counterpart, a publication of ecological ABCs for children and parents entitled The Environment and Safe Life. 580 copies of the ABCs were published with financial support from the Tashkent City Committee on Environment Protection, Counterpart and the State Fund on Scientific and Technical Information. The Ministry of Public Education has approved pilot testing of these books in fifteen schools in Tashkent. The textbook received good evaluations from ecologists, pupils, teachers and parents. After the Expert Council of the Ministry of Public Education approved the publication it was recommended to be used as a textbook for facultative studies in all schools. The State Committee on Environment Protection and the International Fund *Ecosan* expressed their willingness to pay for the translation of the book into Uzbek. UNDP has included publishing 5,000 copies of the book in Uzbek in its plan for the fourth quarter of 2002. By 2003, 6000 children will be using this book.

Initiative Contributes to the Development of the Third Sector

There is a significant lack of information in Uzbekistan on third sector activities both in the country and around the world. The majority of NGOs do not have access to global information resources. Since July 1998 the only available publication was *Initiative*, a monthly bulletin issued by Counterpart in Uzbek, Russian and English and distributed all over the country. The circulation is 1050 copies, distributed through CSSCs and at various workshops. The number of electronic version subscribers has grown eight-fold in the last two years and has reached 120. The publication of the bulletin influences the lives of ordinary people. Only a year ago Raisa Makhmudova, resident of Khorezm region, worked as Chairperson of the Defense Support Society and at the same time owned a private business fixing diesel engines. She had no idea of what NGOs were. It was quite by chance that she read *Initiative*, which encouraged her to contact the Urgench CSSC and participate in Counterpart trainings. Her life changed radically. She passed her business on to her children so that she could work full time in the third sector with her organization, *Women's Center Ikhlos*. The Center's projects aim at solving unemployment issues. As a result of a Counterpart funded program, 60 young women were trained by the Center, 51 of whom are working and make regular earnings. *Ikhlos* Center has become one of the most active NGOs operating in Khorezm region thanks to the outreach of *Initiative*.

Media as Catalyst for Sustainability

During regular OD consultations with the Focus NGO *Umid Rehabilitation Center* in Samarkand, challenges in the development of the organization were identified. One of the weaknesses was less work with media through which the NGO could promote and develop its activities. OD consultants reviewed and recommended possible directions for development with Focus NGO. One of these options was to develop PR activity, which includes working with media. *Umid Center* has taken actions to activate its engagement of the media. As the result, the number of publications and programs on TV about the NGO has increased. As a result of media coverage, the number of clients of *Umid Center* and in its branches has increased and ordinary people have started making donations (goods & clothes) to the NGO's shelters.

Social Partnership

Government as Donor

NGO *Umid Center* is receiving intense OD consulting from Counterpart in addition to the Focus Grant they have been implementing since 2001. Every six months, OD consultants visit the NGO, analyzing the current situation, and giving feedback and recommendations for capacity building. During one of the OD sessions, consultants identified the challenge that the NGO was not putting much effort on partnership with government organizations. Consultants recommended the NGO actively involve the government in their activities and establish partnerships with them. *Umid Center* has planned the necessary action steps in order to work on this issue along with coming six months. As a result:

- Khokimiyat (Mayor) of the Samarkand Oblast has offered a new office for the NGO;
- Khokimiyat of Surkhandarya Oblast has offered office space for *Umid Center's* branch;
- The Samarkand Department of Ministry of Justice to register *Umid Center* at the National (Republican) level;
- The Surkhandarya Department of Ministry of Justice provided office space, registration of a Branch, and lawyers on voluntary basis.

Summer Camp for Homeless Children

There are about three hundred homeless children in Samarkand not going to school and begging in the streets. These children are potential criminals. The Samarkand Crisis Center *Source* with a target group of 75 homeless children conducts public campaigns to raise awareness about the problem. Having conducted a charity action in the spring of 2002 *Source* organized a summer camp for 25 homeless children in August. A businessman provided his country house in the village of Khishrow of Samarkand district. Samarkand region's Ombudsman arranged medical examinations of the children and a volunteer nurse cared for them and dispensed free medication. The Red Cross Society and the Samarkand Hosiery Factory provided the children with clothes. Samarkand's regional commerce administration and the Samarkand bread-baking plant supplied the summer camp with foodstuff. Counterpart's Focus Grantee *Umid Center* and Samarkand region's Ombudsman provided one-time humanitarian assistance in the form of food products. Psychologists from the Tashkent Crisis Center on Rehabilitation of convicts returned from juvenile institutions in cooperation with the Association of Sociologists and Psychologists of the Samarkand region organized a course on psychological rehabilitation of the children. The International Management Training Center treated the children with sweets and fruits. Volunteers from *Source* regularly gave their time to the children. As a result of this activity the children's behavior and attitudes have started changing. Four of the parents observing the changes happening to their children gave up drinking and got involved in the camp life. This summer twelve children received IREX certificates on computer literacy. *Source* gained valuable experience in establishing partnerships for seeking solutions of social problems. This experience is the necessary prerequisite for the *Center's* further successful activity as well as for setting up a permanent rehabilitation center for homeless children. The leaders of the Center participated in Counterpart's trainings, including workshops on advocacy, fundraising and others. They regularly get consultations and technical support.

Partnership, Coalition –Building and Association Development

The Network Builds ...

Since establishing the Uzbek network of CSSCs, most of the key decisions and communications have flown up and through the Hub Office in Tashkent. All consultations and recommendations for the Centers were made by Tashkent. There has been little direct contact between the Centers themselves. During the April network meeting the Hub Office suggested the CSSCs exchange experience more frequently among each other and plan their activity according to the needs and possibilities of the partners working on the adjacent territories. This makes the most sense as CSSCs can provide each other with more practical information. Since that time the Support Centers, having full confidence in one another, have been in more frequent communication with each other. They discuss things such as problem solving, support for meeting program indicators, and regional issues. By maintaining close relationship with the partners of the network and performing the joint activity, the efficiency of the partners in the network in their organizational development increases. For example, Urgench and Nukus Centers have united their trainers in one team and jointly carry on their development.

C. Hub Center Activity Overview

KAZAKHSTAN

Activity Overview

- Due to results in OD consulting in the Hub office, Counterpart Kazakhstan defined its strategic goals, program directions and designed action plan on the basis of external & internal feedback. Counterpart Kazakhstan resumed development of its strategic plan. To facilitate this, working groups were formed to conduct market research in the following seven directions:
 1. Training Programs
 2. Professional Network Development
 3. Building of Common Informational Environment
 4. Community Mobilization & Development, including:
 - Eco Tourism
 - Strengthening a Multiethnic Society
 - Research & Analysis
 - Micro credit
 - Community Outreach;
 5. Social Technologies Development
 6. Corporative Charity Development
 7. Improvement in Personnel Professional Expertise

- The reported period included a number of meetings concerning Counterpart Kazakhstan's localization issues. In conjunction, *Zhalgas'* organizational structure, membership, regulations and program on new marketing approach are under development by the working groups.
- One of the major events of the quarter was a joint Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan staff retreat held at the guest house *Agate* at Lake Issyk-Kul' in July, which resulted in: the design of a number of projects, using logical frameworks; the development of joint strategic and interactive plans; and information exchange on various program issues. Eleven of 22 participants represented Counterpart Kazakhstan.
- The country staff led by the Zhalgas Director completed project design *Fighting Xenophobia* to be submitted to the European Union's TACIS program. The project proposal was developed jointly with European partners within the framework of localization plan and financial sustainability.
- In the reported period, the Country staff meetings included considerations of Counterpart's localization models. Three models of Zhalgas' reorganization were discussed and proposed to the regional office. As a result, both parties agreed to the following: According to new Law on non-commercial organizations there are no founders of the Association but its members. To this, the membership may be changed. Now, it is intended to include additional new members to the Association *Zhalgas – Counterpart, Sheriktesh* (Kyrgyzstan) and Regional offices.
- Counterpart launched the translation process of all key documentation. The training module NGO & Community and Counterpart's Grant Agreement were translated to Kazakh language. It is planned to translate the next four modules into Kazakh next quarter.

Training Highlights

Counterpart applied to AED-Global's program Training Activity Request Form (TARF) and received USAID approval to conduct two seminars on Network Development and Financial Sustainability under the program AED/START in January 2003. In July, ISAR applied to Counterpart with a request to provide two training seminars on Training of Trainers and Participatory Community Appraisal in Atyrau. A correspondence with Carrie O'Rourke (ISAR Program Coordinator) covered organizational issues of TOT & PCA trainings. Natal'ya Bakhmutova and Oleg Bakhmutov conducted the TOT for 22 participants from September 9-13. From September 23-27, Galym Zhukupbayev (Zhalgas Program Coordinator) and Kairat Kunshashev (Manager of Aqtobe CSSC) conducted PCA training seminar for 20 NGO' associates.

Organizational Development

On July 30 and September 12, regular Case Management meetings were aimed at design of recommendations for organizational and institutional development in partner NGOs. The meetings also included discussions of ideas for OD impacts. Marat Aitmagambetov (Country Director), Jamila Asanova (Senior Program Officer), Dana Amanova (Grant Manager), Nurlan Zhumabekov (Community Outreach Coordinator) and Timur Chalobaev (Training Program Coordinator) participated in the meeting. As a result of the workshops, OD Program Coordinator - Nurlan Sakhanov, performed a general analysis of the OD database.

General Analysis of the Organizational Development Process

In terms of OD the most dynamic organizations are the focus NGOs. The OD dynamics of focus NGOs according to their own estimate is 28.45%, while according to Counterpart consultants it is 25.89%. As for the CSSCs, the analogous figures are 9.07% and 5.69% respectively. The more dynamic OD of focus NGOs may be explained by the following reasons:

- The CSSCs have been more engaged in the Counterpart program of community mobilization and in the provision of services to NGOs, while the focus NGOs can spend more time on their OD. For example, some have obtained institutional grants supporting country-wide meetings with their regional representative offices and branches.
- On average, the first assessment of focus NGOs was lower than that of CSSCs, (compare 2.9 and 3.1 points respectively).
- The CSSCs were assessed earlier than the focus NGOs. That is why, at the first stage of streamlining the assessment procedures there might have been committed some errors that might have affected the assessment results.

Assessment of the actual OD level (points) by Counterpart consultants is generally lower than that given by the partnership organizations' staff members. Thus, for instance, according to the results of the third assessment of the actual OD level the average assessment made by the CSSC staff is 3.4 points as opposed to 3.1 points given by the consultants. The same holds true of the focus NGOs: their OD has been assessed by the staff at 3.7 points, and by the consultants – at 3.5 points. The prevalent hypothesis explaining this discrepancy is the fact that outside consultants (in this case the Counterpart personnel) on the whole are more critical in their assessment of the partners' OD.

In many individual cases the OD indices (%) given by the Counterpart consultants are much higher than those given by the partnership organizations' staff. But, overall, the former tend to be lower than the latter. Such a situation is largely explained by the fact that with lower initial points the subsequent growth dynamics are much higher. For instance, with an initial assessment of 2 points, 100 per cent growth is theoretically feasible.

The Counterpart consultants think that four CSSCs (*ZHALGAS*, *IRIS*, *ZUBR*, *ECOCENTER*) have not shown any OD changes in between the first and the second OD assessments.

- This is explained by the fact that during the period under review the CSSC staff and Counterpart consultants concentrated on the community mobilization program rather than on OD.
- Besides, much of the CSSC staff efforts were focused on coping with the intensive training program of the Counterpart, while the stage of practical implementation of the acquired knowledge and skills will follow up later.
- Overall, the share of these 4 CSSCs constitutes about 45% of the total amount of the CSSCs that is why they have significantly affected the general OD dynamics of the CSSCs.

Overall, the OD level of all partners of Counterpart Kazakhstan was assessed at 3.43 points and the OD dynamics from December 2000 through August 2002 equals 17.28%. The actual OD of CSSCs is assessed at 3.25 points and of focus NGOs - at 3.60 points. Correspondingly, the CSSCs' OD change is 7.38%, and the focus NGOs is 27.17%.

The forecasts of the partner organizations' OD dynamics made on the basis of analysis of the available data suggest that the CSSCs' OD dynamics may reach 17% by February 2003, and that of the focus NGOs may exceed 33%. Given accomplishment of the forecast results, the general OD dynamics of all the partners of Counterpart Kazakhstan by February 2003 will presumably reach 25%, and as a result the planned OD parameters will be achieved.

Community Outreach

During the reported period, Counterpart Kazakhstan implemented the following tasks within the framework of Community Outreach program development:

1. Skills strengthening in monitoring & evaluation of community projects

Localization of the Centers' Grant Committees is one of the strategic goals of Counterpart Kazakhstan. Therefore, a great deal of attention is paid to CSSC capacity strengthening in consulting and expertise of its community projects. Nurlan Zhumabekov, Community Outreach Program Coordinator conducted a number of thorough consultations in over 30 project designs, including issues of CAP and budget developments, in the Support Centers of Kostanai, Qaraghandy, Aqtobe and Ust-Kamenogorsk.

1. Aqtobe CSSC *SMEDA* was provided with consultations in 5 project proposals:
 - *Reservoir for Drinking Water Storage*, submitted by Public Association *Kamkorshy*;
 - *Overhaul of the Roof*, submitted by Consumers' Cooperative *Natasha*;
 - *Roof Repairs in Living House*, submitted by Consumers' Cooperative *Lidia*;
 - *Building of Sport & Playground*, submitted by Consumers' Cooperative *Kamkor Ltd.*;
 - *Passage Maintenance*, submitted by International Ecologic Association of Women of the East.

2. Qaraghandy CSSC *ECOCENTER* was consulted in project design on:
 - *Women's Club*, submitted by Public Association Women' Initiatives;
 - *Strengthening & Development of Resource Center*, submitted by the Secondary School of Shashubai Village of Aqtoghai County.

3. Ust-Kamenogorsk CSSC *ZUBR* received recommendations in the following project proposals:
 - *Legal Info Service for Disabled Women*, submitted by East Kazakhstan branch of Disabled Women's Society;
 - *Hospital – Levoberezhnaya*, submitted by NGO with the same name;
 - *Building of Crisis Center for Women*, submitted by *Nezabudka* Center for Women Support of Leninogorsk;
 - *Parents Community' Initiative Support in Decision Making in Teens' Education*, submitted by Rehabilitation Center – *Pyramid*;
 - *Organization of Joint Actions in Consumers' Cooperative "Geolog"*, submitted by Children & Teens' Club – *Ellada*;
 - *Creation of Socio-Ecologic Environment in the Community of Qarayryq*, submitted by Public Ecologic Organization Savers of Altai.

2. CSSC's capacity building in administration of Local Grant Committees

On the 3rd of July, the program staff meeting covered strategic design and organizational issues to conduct Local Grant Committees (LGC). In addition, LGC and site visits schedule and community program description were compiled during the meeting. One of the major steps in CSSC' capacity buildings concerning LGC administration are:

- Skills improvement in informing members of Grant Committees on community targeted programs and consultations in project designs; and
- Community program training for Grant Committee members, training in LGC administration addressed to CSSC' coordinators.

The reported period included the following results:

- 8 LGC meetings in the Support Centers of Aqtobe, Qaraghandy, Kostanai, Semey and Ust-Kamenogorsk;
- Examination of 36 project proposals and subsequent approval of 23 projects (6 in Aqtobe, 4 in Qaraghandy, 5 in Kostanai, 4 in Semey, and 4 in Ust-Kamenogorsk);
- An up-to-date qualitative indicator on CAG has been accomplished by all Support Centers with a total of 55 Community Action Grants, exceeding the goal of 52 projects for the seven CSSCs – Almaty/11; Astana/5; Qaraghandy/4; Kostanai/10; Semey/8; Aqtobe/9; and Ust-Kamenogorsk/8.

3. Assisting CSSCs in organization of program activity through conducting site visits, consultations, and quarterly meetings

The regional site visits included direct monitoring of the program activity in CSSC, consulting of coordinators and meetings with representatives of NGOs and communities. A great attention was paid on M&E skills improvement, particularly in the Kostanai CSSC.

- On July 25 – 27, Nurlan Zhumabekov (Community Outreach Coordinator) jointly with Kostanai CSSC coordinators conducted *Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation* of Kostanai projects – *Building of Special Library & Infrastructure for Sight-Impaired People, Community Mobilization for Improvement of its Living Conditions, and Overhaul of Dairy Shop*. Participants analyzed the projects' documents and stakeholders, designed plan of implementation of participatory monitoring & evaluation, developed goals and indicators.
- On the 30th of September, a quarterly CSSC & Program staff meeting covered the discussions of past period of the Support Centers' activity, particularly community outreach process and organization of Local Grant Committees.

Network Development

On the 30th of September, a quarterly CSSC & Program staff meeting covered the discussions of past period of the Support Centers' activity, including their OD indicators achievement, implementation of advocacy campaigns, community outreach process, organization of Local Grant Committees (LGC), and OD impacts development. Analysis of OD database was presented to CSSCs' associates and the issues of Counterpart's extension program were discussed during the meeting. 11 representatives of the Support Centers and 7 members of the Country office participated in the meeting.

The project *Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)*, supported by the Eurasia Foundation, is aimed at further formation of the Network of Evaluators among CSSC associates. In August, the program and financial reports on Phase I of the M&E project were completed by program staff and submitted to the Eurasia Foundation. A group of evaluators was formed to participate in the second M&E seminar. A practicum on the *Monitoring & Evaluation* project was organized from September 2-6 in Almaty. The program staff members participated in the seminar that was conducted by trainers from Process Consulting in Moscow. The workshop included an examination of M&E reports submitted by 11 evaluation groups as a result of a summer practicum. Counterpart program staff submitted an evaluation report that reflected the process, which included coordination among group members in site visits, analysis of questionnaires, interviews and documentation, and data research. The project evaluation was submitted to the donor agency and trainers by the date fixed. The fifth day of the workshop covered further formation and development of evaluators' network. Each CSSC represented two members in the process of formation of the Network of Evaluators.

KYRGYZSTAN

Activity Overview

CAGs: To date, the CSSCs have conducted 17 grant review meetings and recommended 65 proposals for funding. The Bishkek Grant Committee approved 61 projects totaling \$130,561 (Attachment #1). During the reporting period, 13 projects were successfully completed. The CSSCs have conducted participatory monitoring and evaluation visits to 46 target communities, including 20 interim monitoring visits, 21 close-out monitoring visits, and six follow-up monitoring visits.

Conflict Mitigation Grant Program: This small grants program in the Batken Oblast is funded by USAID to support peace building and conflict mitigation initiatives of local NGOs/CBOs. During the reporting period, 11 projects totaling \$20,055 have been approved. This quarter five projects closed successfully, with an additional four anticipated for completion in the next quarter.

Information Management: During the quarter, the following have been recorded in the log file of *CANGO.NET* Web Site: 247,126 successful hits (English version- 62,243, Russian version- 184,883); 18,102 visits (English version- 9,114, Russian version- 8,988); and 6,713 unique visitors (English version- 3,202, Russian version- 3,511). The NGO Database (NGODB), NGO Homepages, NGO Electronic Library, NGO-related news articles, links, listserves and bulletin boards are available on the Web Site. This quarter, the Web Developer designed a Web-interface that allows for decentralized updates of NGO Database records. This new software was installed in the Hub Office in Uzbekistan. The Web-interface will be installed in each of the CSSCs after consultations with the Regional Office. Counterpart Kyrgyzstan continues to distribute information on funding opportunities to local NGOs through the NGONEWS mailing list.

Training Highlights

In line with institutional agreements with CSSCs, the contract trainers conducted 89 training workshops on 22 modules for 1,870 representatives of 1,000 NGOs/CBOs (Attachment #2). In order to build the capacity of CSSCs to deliver at 16 basic modules, the Hub Office focused on transferring skills to local contract trainers: 10 experienced trainers from Bishkek delivered “on-the-job” coaching to 27 new trainers by conducting 38 training workshops in 9 basic modules together with them. To date, the CSSCs in Karakol and Bishkek have capacity to deliver 16 training modules; the CSSCs in Kara-Balta, Talas, Naryn, Osh, Kerben, Jalalabad, Nookat and Batken can conduct 15 training modules (all but Newsletter Development); and the Kant CSSC can train in 13 modules, with work to be done to deliver Newsletter Development, Association Development, and Constituency Building. As the process of transferring training expertise to CSSCs is drawing to an end, the Hub Office is focusing on improving the administration of the training program by the CSSCs, which included the introduction of a comprehensive monitoring system for training workshops. Based on the last monitoring exercise, the Hub Office conducted two TOTs on training methodology to increase the number of contract trainers used by each Center: one in Osh for southern CSSCs one in Bishkek for northern CSSCs. As a result, there are 19 new contract trainers in the South (4 from Osh, 4 from Kerben, 5 from Jalalabad, 4 from Nookat and 2 from Batken) and eight new contract trainers in the North (Kara-Balta- 1, Kant- 1, Karakol- 2, Talas- 3, and Naryn- 1). Next quarter the Hub Office will be working on translating the top six training modules into Kyrgyz.

Organizational Development

After registering the local organization *Counterpart Sheriktesh*, the Hub Office has been focusing on transferring “Counterpart Consoritum” responsibilities to the new, localized entity. This quarter, *Counterpart Sheriktesh* signed a four-month contract with USDA to evaluate a school assistance program in Kyrgyzstan implemented by Mercy Corps International.

Elizabeth Comolli, the Deputy Regional Director and Akmal Rustamov, OD Coordinator of Counterpart Uzbekistan, conducted an OD assessment of the Hub Office from September 8-18. As a result, goals and objectives have been identified and a change management team has been formed to facilitate the process of implementing these goals and objectives.

The third round of OD re-assessments was completed for all CSSCs and Focus NGOs. The information obtained on their progress has been summarized and analyzed and best practices and lessons learned have been documented. According to the revised action plans, the CSSCs and Focus NGOs are currently working on developing governing bodies and taking steps to ensure financial sustainability. Three case management meetings were held in the Hub Office in order to assess the progress of each organization in meeting goals, to identify gaps, patterns and trends, and to document lessons learned for future OD sessions. Key findings include:

- CSSCs and Focus NGOs are actively diversifying their funding base. This quarter, they provided training workshops on a contractual basis (CSSCs of Talas, Naryn, Karakol, Nookat), signed contracts with international organizations (Jalalabad CSSC/ADB, Osh CSSC/Eurasia, *BCSI/Program Convention Against Droughts*, *TOFU/TACIS*, *Chintamani/ISAR*, Democracy Commission, and Internews, and *Bayastan/Democracy Commission*), and introduced fee for service pay structures (TOFU consulting to farmers).
- CSSCs are able to identify their needs and challenges. Several CSSCs are implementing multiple projects, which contributes to increased capacity in resource allocation and project administration.
- CSSCs staff have expertise in conducting 14 training modules and documenting training impacts.
- CSSCs' most popular services are basic consultations on project design, taxation and accounting. A very small percentage of consultations relate to organizational development, social partnership and constituency building. For example, of the Naryn CSSC's 99 consultations in July, only 8 were on social partnership, the balance was on project design, NGO registration and taxation.
- CSSCs have made great strides in financial planning and refining internal accounting procedures to comply with local standards. They have started producing an expenditures framework, closely linked to programmatic activities, while in the past their operational budgets were mostly related to administrative costs only. CSSC accountants are involved in organizational activities to a greater extent as they deal with financial forecasting and provide consultations.
- CSSCs are conducting regular needs assessments of their clients aimed at improvement and /or expansion of their service package.
- Focus NGOs are working on forming governing bodies to increase their role. To build capacity of the new members, eight new Board members will be participating in the training workshop NGO Governance to be held in Issyk-Kul and Jalalabad next quarter.
- Focus NGOs are developing links with governments and NGO leaders are being included in working groups and ad hoc commissions of the government. For example, the leader of *Chintamani*, is a member of the City Commission on designing development strategy for Tash-Kumyr, the Manager of *TOFU* sits on the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and is on the Advisory Board of collaboration between the Taraz Oblast (KZ) and Talas Oblast (KG).
- Focus NGOs are starting to provide consultation and training to NGOs and communities not covered by NGO support organizations. *Chintamani* is providing consultations and training on project design and *TOFU* is providing consultation on business planning in Bakai- Ata Rayon.

Community Outreach

The second round of PCAs and revision of CAPs with focus on boosting economic activities in target communities has completed in most communities. The main accomplishments to date include:

- The CSSCs developed action plans on fostering social partnerships. The establishment of community development funds or community foundations has been recognized as one of the main mechanisms of nurturing social partnership on a local level.
- The analysis community action grants indicates that target communities are responsive to the concept of community foundations and are favorable to form local revolving funds as one of the possible ways. Currently, 18 communities are implementing projects aimed at creating community-driven revolving funds as a basis for community foundations.

Network Development

The process of registering the CSSC association is underway. The CSSC Association will be made up of ten organizations - CSSCs in Batken, Jalalabad, Kara-Balta, Kant, Kerben, Karakol, Nookat, Naryn, Talas and *Counterpart Sheriktesh*. According to the local legislation, the legal entities forming the association should submit all registration papers to the Ministry of Justice. To date, all registration documents have been prepared and registration is expected in late October. At a meeting held in Issyk-Kul on August 13, the CSSCs elected Coordination Council representatives, one from each member organization, to register the Association and draft the strategic plan. The Manager of the Kara-Balta CSSC was elected as Chairman of the Coordination Council. It is expected that the CSSCs in Bishkek and Osh will join the Association once the appropriate parties to prepare their registration papers are in country.

Counterpart and Soros Foundation announced small grant program for CSSCs aimed at intensifying and sharing experiences among CSSCs. According the agreement, Soros Foundation and Counterpart will share the total portfolio of \$4,000. To date, three applications have been approved. The Nookat CSSC sent four volunteers to the Hub Office, Kara-Balta and Karakol to share information and skills on volunteerism. Soros Foundation funded travel grants to Kara-Balta and Talas CSSCs for their visits to southern CSSCs in October.

TAJIKISTAN

Security Situation

This quarter the overall situation in Tajikistan remained calm, although there was a significant amount of criminal activity along the Afghan boarder and in the Karategin Valley. On the Tajik-Afghan boarder a number of Tajik border guards have been killed or wounded in skirmishes with Afghan drug dealers trying to cross the border. Reportedly several Tajik citizens were also kidnapped from Tajikistan and taken to Afghanistan for failure to pay drug related debts.

In the Karategin Valley the UNDP Security Officer reported that a prominent member of the former opposition group who was disbanded a year ago has reformed a para-military group in the Romit District. This group committed a number of crimes in the area. Also, there have been cases of armed robbery in Saghirdasht and Tavildara Districts of Karategin Valley. It was recommended that all international organizations contact the Committee of National Security before traveling to those areas.

One international organization, ORA, reported that their workshop in Dushanbe was robbed and their guard killed during the burglary. The driver of another international organization, MSDP-Aga Khan, was stopped at a police checkpoint and 10 kilograms of heroine was confiscated from his vehicle. He was immediately arrested. According to Tajik law, anyone found with more than 5 kilograms is subject to the death penalty. The Counterpart drivers and night guards were notified of these events.

Activity Overview

Staff Changes in Hub Office

There have been a number of significant staff changes in both the Hub Office and in partner CSSCs during the past quarter. Most significantly, as a result of an open search for a national Country Director, Dilorom Atabaeva was selected as the new Country Director for Counterpart Tajikistan. This appointment is in keeping with Counterpart's plan to localize country offices throughout Central Asia. Ms. Atabaeva has worked for Counterpart for five years as the Director of the Khujand CSSC, successfully developing a strong independent NGO and worked as Acting Country Director while the Country Director was on annual leave. One of her main job responsibilities will be to strengthen the network of CSSCs in Tajikistan. In order to provide support for the new Country Director, Randall Olson, the outgoing Country Director, was asked by Counterpart to stay on as the Senior Country Advisor. Mr. Olson agreed to work for Counterpart Tajikistan until the end of October, after which time he will begin working for USAID Tajikistan. Counterpart is presently conducting a search for a new Country Advisor.

In another important staff development at the Hub Office, Elena Mamadnazarova, the M&E Coordinator, was promoted to the position of Senior Program Coordinator. Ms. Mamadnazarova has been working with Counterpart since 1997 and has a very good understanding of Phase III program activities. The Community Outreach Coordinator, the Organizational Development Coordinator, the Training Coordinator, the Grants Coordinator and the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator all will be directly accountable to the Senior Program Coordinator. Nabisher Juraev, the Assistant Grant Coordinator, was subsequently promoted to the position of M&E Coordinator. Mr. Juraev has worked for Counterpart Tajikistan as the CRD Program Officer and Grant Manager for almost two years. He is trained in project management; grant administration; and has good experience monitoring community development projects. Counterpart is currently reviewing applications for a new Assistant Grant Coordinator position.

In addition, Lola Nazarova, the CO Coordinator, resigned from Counterpart in September to work for the local NGO *Razvitiye Center*. In response to an open search process, Huriniso Ghaforzoda, was selected as the new CO Coordinator. She is the leader of the local NGO *Oshti Mili* and has experience in community mobilization and peace building in the Karategin Valley of Tajikistan.

Regional Staff Members Visit Tajikistan

The Regional Office in Almaty sent a number of regional staff members to Tajikistan in order to provide support to the Hub Office during this past quarter. Jay Cooper, the Regional Director of Counterpart, Elizabeth Comolli, the Deputy Regional Director, and Ara Nazinyan, the Regional Program Manager, met with program staff members to discuss the progress and implementation of the Phase III Program components, to ensure that a workplan and budget was in place for the use of the additional USAID grant, and to assist the newly appointed national Country Director.

Ulzhan Kanzhigalina, the Regional Training Coordinator visited Counterpart Tajikistan to introduce the regional training program to the new Training Coordinator. She also discussed the training program workplan and indicators, met with Dushanbe contract trainers and visited the Dushanbe and Kurghan-Teppa CSSCs to familiarize herself with their training programs.

Raushan Amanzhanova, the Regional CO Coordinator visited Counterpart Tajikistan to conduct an orientation session with the new CO Coordinator. They discussed the implementation of community outreach components in accordance with the workplan and performance indicators. They also visited Dushanbe, Kurghon-teppa and Kulob CSSCs to assess the CO program in those Centers.

Staff Development

- Lena Mamadnazarova, the Senior Program Coordinator and Zaro Kurbanbekova, the OD Coordinator attended the OD meeting/workshop in Almaty.
- Shoiria Zuhurova, the Training Coordinator, Nargis Azizova, the Grant Coordinator and Nabisher Juraev, the M&E Coordinator participated in a TOT workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in Dushanbe.
- Huriniso Ghaforzoda, the CO Coordinator participated in TOTs on Advanced Social Partnership and Advocacy held in Dushanbe.
- Nabisher Juraev, the M&E Coordinator attended a PCA workshop in Dushanbe.

Grant Activities

This quarter Counterpart Tajikistan started implementing its newly enlarged grants program, after receiving additional funding for its Phase III Program from USAID. The supplementary funds are for three types of grants: Institutional Grants for CSSCs, NGO Support Grants for local NGOs and CAGs for communities. The CSSCs were actively involved in the decision making process for the NGO Support Grants and CAGs. The Hub staff and CSSC staff spent several sessions developing a workplan and schedule to ensure program activities could be implemented by the end of Phase III.

Counterpart Tajikistan awarded five Institutional Grants (approx. \$5,000 per grant) to each of the CSSC based on individual proposals submitted from each Center. The proposals focused on capacity development of the CSSCs to implement Phase III program activities. In particular, the proposals included the additional costs associated with the monitoring and evaluation of NGO Support and Community Action Grants, the purchase of additional equipment, and the hiring of additional staff needed to support the expanded program activities.

Counterpart Tajikistan conducted three Grant Review Committee meetings during the quarter to review the new proposals submitted for the NGO Support and Community Action Grants. The Grant Review Committee meetings consisted of the representatives of Counterpart Tajikistan, USAID, the Swiss Cooperation Office, the Democracy Fund under the US Embassy, the Eurasia Foundation and Mercy Corps. In total, 26 project proposals for NGO Support Grants and 21 proposals for Community Action Grants were submitted by the CSSCs and reviewed by the Grant Review Committee. All the proposals were written and developed by local NGOs or CBOs and initially reviewed by the CSSCs. The Review Committee approved 22 NGO Support Grants and 16 CAGs, but many of the grant proposals were conditionally approved, needing additional technical assistance from the Centers. All of the approved grants were allocated during this quarter.

Counterpart is planning one more Grant Review Committee meeting in October where a number of Community Action Grants will be reviewed. Local Grant Review Committees, which have now been established in the Khatlon and the Sughd Provinces, will for the first time be able to approve CAGs locally. The Hub Office is currently working with CSSCs in Kurghan-Teppa and Khujand to assist them in establishing a functioning Grant Review Committee.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Counterpart Tajikistan, in coordination with the Regional Office, has started working on the Log Frame Matrix for both the CO Program and the Training Program. The M&E Coordinator has developed guidelines for monitoring NGO Support Grants. After approving them at Hub Center, the new guidelines and reporting formats were sent to the CSSCs. These documents will help the CSSCs monitor and evaluate the NGO Support Grant projects.

Training Highlights

There were three TOT workshops held at the Hub Officer this quarter. The four-day TOT on M&E was conducted on August 13-16. Staff members from the CSSCs and regional contract trainers participated in the workshop led by Ibragim Tsvetkov, a contract trainer from Dushanbe, and Elena Mamadnazarova, Senior Program Coordinator. They introduced the participatory tools and methods of monitoring and evaluation to the participants. The participants practiced using these tools by conducting M&E activities in two communities where the CSSCs had implemented projects.

Counterpart also conducted a Training TOT workshop on Advanced Social Partnership. Before the TOT Counterpart's contract trainers adapted the regional module on Advanced Social Partnership specifically for Tajikistan. Nineteen NGO participants, CSSC representatives and contract trainers attended the TOT and learned how to build and develop social partnerships. The Representative of ICNL Tajikistan, Muatar Khaidarova, will draft legal guidelines for social partnerships in an effort to ensure that such social partnerships are formed in accordance with Tajik legislation. These legal guidelines will be introduced to NGOs during future Social Partnership workshops.

In the TOT on Advanced Advocacy the 21 NGO participants, CSSC members and contract trainers learned new skills and methods on how to conduct advanced advocacy campaigns. The trainers adapted the latest training module from Kyrgyzstan for use in Tajikistan.

After the TOT Workshops were completed at the national level, the CSSCs immediately started conducting the same training workshops at the regional level for their local NGO partners.

Organizational Development

The OD Coordinator, Zaro Kurbanbekova, along with the other coordinators of the Hub Office developed a six-month OD Workplan for the remaining period of Phase III. Also during this quarter, two Case Management meetings were held at the Hub Office, during which the achievements and needs of each CSSC were discussed and analyzed. As a result of the Case Management meetings each of the Program Coordinators developed an individual workplan to assist the Centers.

In August the OD Coordinator, Zaro Kurbanbekova, attended an OD Workshop in Almaty, during which she learned how to analyze the information gathered during the OD assessments of the CSSCs. The assessment analyzes the capacity of each Center based on the Center's strategic management, governance structure, financial sustainability, human resources, external relations, product and services, technical resources and information and communication capacities.

The result of the analysis was significant, between the first assessment in May of 2001 and the third assessment in March of 2002, the CSSCs improved their OD scores by an average of 82%. Almost all of the CSSCs have achieved their current performance targets or exceeded them: Each of the CSSCs has shown a significant increase in the number of clients visiting the Centers, more than 60 visitations per month. Also the CSSCs now have the capacity to deliver all nine basic support services and all of the CSSCs are in the process of becoming active members of Counterpart's CSSC Network. The OD Consultant scheduled the next round of OD assessments with all the CSSCs for October.

Community Outreach

Counterpart's Community Outreach Coordinator Lola Nazarova visited the CSSCs to assess their progress in implementing the CO Program. The CSSCs and partner NGOs are actively working with their target communities assisting them in identifying priority problems, developing CAPs and designing project proposals. They also provide community members with the necessary information on how to implement the projects according to Counterpart guidelines. In all the communities where the CSSCs and partner NGOs are working, Initiative Groups are being formed. The community projects are carried out with the involvement of most of the community members. The following is the updated table of PCAs, CAPs and CAGs by region:

CSSC	Number of PCAs	Number of CAPs	Number of community projects	Number of community projects approved
Dushanbe CSSC	11	10	8	7
Khujand CSSC	8	8	11	9
Kurghon-teppa CSSC	11	7	8	6
Kulob CSSC	8	12	5	6
Khorog CSSC	15	12	7	4
Total:	53	49	39	32

A number of Counterpart's community development projects have been funded by other international organizations, a summary of which follows.

Region	Number of community projects	Donor Organization
Dushanbe	2	Mercy Corps, World Bank
Sughd Oblast	-	
Kurghon-teppa	15	UNHCR, Mercy Corps, Soros Foundation, UNDP
Kulob	-	
GBAO	5	MSDSP, WFP
Total:	22	

Social Partnership Conference Follow-Up Activities

Building on the momentum from the National Social Partnership Conference, Counterpart is planning a series of follow-up Regional Social Partnership Seminars through our CSSCs for the five major regions of Tajikistan. Counterpart Tajikistan and AED are working together with the CSSCs to draft a list of participants from local NGOs, government institutions and businesses. The goal of these one-day seminars is to inform participants about the results of the National Social Partnership Conference, and in particular, to discuss how the recommendations adopted at the national level can be implemented at the district and regional levels. Also, during these meetings it is expected that the representatives of all sectors of society will identify their priority social problems and take action steps in working together to solve those problems.

Network Development

There were three meetings of the CSSC Network held at the Hub Office this quarter. Due to supplementary funding provided by USAID for Counterpart's Phase III Program, the Network meetings were dedicated to planning options for the CSSCs to expand their program activities and enhance their workplans. As a result of the meetings the Hub Office developed an action plan to provide technical assistance to the CSSCs for the implementation of the grant program.

During the Network meeting held on August 16 the Hub Office presented a workplan that included spending additional grant funding. Each CSSC was asked to analyze their current capacities and identify the additional resources required in order to implement the new workplan. Since the new grant from USAID included Institutional Grant support for the CSSCs the Centers were advised to revise their current budgets considering the increased volume of program activities. It was agreed that the Institutional Grants would be spent for the following:

- Program activities for the Phase III Program, in particular, community mobilization activities;
- Administration expenditures resulting from the increase of program activities, including the cost of monitoring and evaluation; and
- Extra equipment, human resources or office space required to manage the additional workload.

It is hoped that the supplementary Institutional Grants and the additional responsibilities associated with an increased level of program activities will enhance the capacity of the CSSCs.

In another Network highlight, the Khujand CSSC published the first issue of the Network newsletter *TAJNET*. This issue highlighted the impact of the Social Partnership Conference and the CO program as well as volunteer development initiatives and other significant network issues.

TURKMENISTAN

Activity Overview

- The CSSC and Hub Office staff took prepared and participated in the USAID meeting on the NGO Sustainability Index for 2002.
- In September the Hub Office organized a meeting of NGOs with Ambassador William Taylor, representative of the US State Department, and George Deikun, Head of the Mission of USAID/CAR.
- The NGO Organizational Development Tribune was conducted. A local lawyer was on hand to consult on registration procedures for NGOs and commercial organizations, the advantages and disadvantages of the registration forms for NGOs, and the patent system for start up business.

Personnel and Administration

- In August the Organizational Management Advisor, Eric Blender, completed his consultancy.
- Jeren Khakyeva, Community Outreach Program Coordinator is on maternity leave from August 2002 to January 2003. The Program Manager will assume responsibility for coordination, planning and reporting on community outreach activities.

- Performance appraisals were conducted for the OD and M&E Coordinators. They demonstrated good capacity and good professional level of work performance. Goals for program advancement and professional development have been set for the next review period.
- In order to strengthen relations between the CSSCs and the Hub Office, the following staff exchanges were organized: the Ashgabat CSSC Assistant took on the responsibilities of the Dashoguz CSSC Manager from the middle of September to November; and the Dashoguz CSSC Manager will take the responsibilities of the Community Outreach Coordinator in October.

Training Highlights

During this quarter, Counterpart Turkmenistan conducted 24 trainings for 415 participants from 272 NGOs. Of the 24 trainings, 11 were conducted in Lebap and Dashoguz velayats with the remaining three in Balkan, Ahal and Mary velayats. Highlights include:

- The first Advanced training on Social Partnership was conducted in Lebap.
- The Advanced training on Advocacy was conducted in Ashgabat for 19 NGO members.
- A TOT on interactive Adult Education was conducted in Ashgabat for 18 Turkmen-speaking trainers from all regions of Turkmenistan.
- The monitoring and evaluation system for the training program was adapted with assistance from the regional office and implemented with the Lebap and Dashoguz CSSCs.
- The training module Volunteer Management was translated into Turkmen language.
- The first regional meeting of all Counterpart Turkmenistan contractor trainers was held in August. Topics discussed include: increasing the professional capacity of trainers; exchanging training experience; and improving the system for assigning new trainers to conduct Counterpart trainings.
- The training application request form for the AED Start Projects *Volunteer Forum* and *Community Members Conference* was developed and sent to regional office for review.

Staff Development

- OD Coordinator Ogulsuray Ataeva and Program manager Irina Dedova participated in regional workshop on OD held in Almaty in August. Topics discussed include: database issues; OD impacts; ending relations with OD clients; and preliminary analyses of OD client achievements. During this workshop Suray Ataeva and Irina Dedova conducted a mini-training on authority and the decision making process.
- Acting Country Director Yazgylych Charyev visited the US in July and August for the USAID conference *10 Years of Health System Transition in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia* and the AKRI workshop *Authority, Leadership and Organizational Life in a Rapidly Changing World*.
- 67 representatives from 8 target NGOs took part in Counterpart trainings.

Organizational Development

- The fourth round of OD assessments was conducted for Ashgabat, Lebap and Dashoguz CSSCs.
- The third round of OD assessments was conducted for the NGOs *Commonwealth of ECO*, *Center of Economical Education*, *My Right* and the Turkmen Association of Journalists on Social Partnership *Shamchyrag*. Using the results of the three assessments, Action Plans for OD were prepared for the period August 2002-January 2003.
- Job descriptions were developed for technical assistance needs for the for Ashagabad and Dashoguz CSSCs. The Hub Office provided consultations to the CSSCs on procedures for hiring new staff.
- Three case management meetings were held this quarter to respond to OD issues for CSSCs and target NGOs.
- Elizabeth Comolli, Regional Deputy of Director, and Chinara Camarli, Health Program Manager/Counterpart Kyrgyzstan conducted OD consultancy of the Hub Office from August 12 to August 21. As a result a change management team was formed consisting of six Counterpart Turkmenistan staff members to facilitate the process of change.
- In September the Hub Office staff began developing a country program web site and established a web-based forum for members to exchange opinions, practical skills and participate in decision making. This Forum will help Counterpart staff throughout the country to coordinate their work.

- In September a senior staff team was formed consisting of Program and CSSC Managers, Finance and Administration Managers and the Acting Country Director. The team instituted weekly meetings to develop management skills, coordinate program implementation, and improve CSSC networking, including the decision making process.

Community Outreach

- The Ashgabat CSSC organized and held Grant Committee meetings in July and September during which 14 CAG proposals were reviewed and 10 were approved, totaling \$10,627. Communities in partnership with NGOs developed nine of the funded projects.
- In Dashoguz Velayet eight PCAs were conducted in June and July, which resulted in six projects. The Grant Committee approved five of the six projects, totaling \$8,825.
- The Lebap CSSC organized a Grant Committee meeting in August to review the CAG proposal of an initiative group to build a village school. The Grant Committee in Ashgabat approved the project in September with funding of \$1,776.
- All Grant Committee meetings included participation of representatives of International Organizations located in Turkmenistan, local authorities and local NGOs.
- There were five PCAs conducted by the Lebap CSSC in the refugee communities of Hojambaz, Halach, Serdarabat, and Niyazov etrap. Four of the PCAs were conducted by local NGOs with technical support from the Lebap CSSC.
- Financial Accountability training was conducted in early September for CAG grantees, comprised of 12 NGOs and Initiative Groups.
- The quarterly Community Outreach Meeting was held in July to update the CO plans of each CSSC, with emphasis on conducting participatory M&E for CAG projects.
- The M&E Coordinator, with CSSCs staff, monitored ten CAG projects in Darganata etrap and six CAG projects in Turkmenbashy etrap.
- In July a Social Partnership roundtable was organized as a follow up to the regional training on Social Partnership. Participants included NGOs, representatives of commercial organizations, representatives of the Lebap velayat Hakimlik and Health Department, and USAID Turkmenistan.
- The Ashgabat CSSC conducted a meeting with several active groups from the Women Union of Ahal velayat to discuss the issue of Social Partnership development.

Network Development

- The quarterly network meeting was canceled as a result of vacation, business travel, and the OD assessment of Counterpart Turkmenistan by the regional office. The next network meeting will be held in October.
- Lebap and Dashoguz CSSCs Managers and the Acting Country Director participated in a network meeting organized by Counterpart Uzbekistan
- The Charter of the local network organization was distributed for discussion. A local lawyer was hired to assist in the development of the charter and analyze the different forms of registration.

UZBEKISTAN

Activity Overview

- **News Bulletin Initiative:** As a hard copy and an electronic version, 2 issues of the bulletin *Initiative* were published in Russian, 2 issues were published in Uzbek, and one issue was prepared in English. The publication totals for the quarter were 550 in Russian, 300 in Uzbek and 200 in English. The published bulletins were mailed to 143 addresses. The remaining copies were distributed by the CSSC during the visits to NGOs, consultations, seminars, and conferences. The mailing list for the electronic format increased to 133 addresses. All issues were placed on CANGO.NET. A special issue on "Foundations for NGOs: Writing Grant Proposals" has been published in Russian for distribution to CSSC and NGOs.
- **Conference Materials:** The conference "Civil Society Development in Uzbekistan" was conducted in June in Tashkent. Materials from the conference are being published with underwriting from Soros Foundation for 425 hard copies.

Training Highlights/Staff Development

- September 26-27, 2002 – The Information Manager participated in the international seminar on *Improving Women's Rights and Responsible Parenthood in Uzbekistan* organized by the Transnational Family Research Institute (USA) and World Federation for Mental Health Committee for Responsible Parenthood.
- July 29-August 1, 2002 – A TOT on Methodology was conducted in Tashkent with participation of five CSSC Coordinators, four Hub Office Coordinators and other potential trainers.
- August 26-28, 2002 – A TOT on Social Partnership was conducted in Tashkent with participation of four CSSC Coordinators, one Hub Office Coordinator and contract trainers.
- September 16-18, 2002 – A TOT on Advocacy was conducted with participation of the Namangan CSSC Manager and contract trainers.
- September 4-6, 2002 – A training on Emergency Preparedness was conducted in Tashkent under Counterpart's UNHCR project. 25 people, including 11 contract trainers, four CSSC Coordinators and one Hub Office representative, participated in the training.
- The training manual on Team Building/Conflict Mitigation was translated into Uzbek.
- The Editor of the Newsletter *Initiative* participated in the following events:
 - An ICNL conference on Social Partnership (June 31);
 - A training conducted by OSCE on *Women in the Criminal Justice System* at the Women's Detention Center (Tashkent, September 4);
 - The International Conference on *Third Avicenne Readings* (Bukhara, September 13); and
 - The International Conference on *Freedom of Mass Media and Corruption* organized by OSCE and Soros Foundation (26-27 September)

Organizational Development

The OD Consultancy conducted in this quarter by regional representatives resulted in the following:

- A joint quarterly planning process was introduced in order to improve communication among Hub Office coordinators.
- A change management team was created to work on organizational development in the areas of motivation, vision, registration, localization, staffing, and project planning.

A charter for the local NGO *Counterpart-Uzb* was prepared and discussed by the staff. A Constituent Assembly of 15 staff persons was convened on September 24. The Constituent Assembly adopted the Charter of NGO, elected the Executive Director (Bobur Turdiev) as well as the Board of Directors (Dina Mukhamadieva - Chairman, Shakhrukh Mahkamjanov, Azam Babakhojaev, Akmal Roustamov and Khamid Kashaev - members). The auditing commission was also elected. At present all documents are being prepared for submission to the Tashkent Department of Justice.

OD consultancies were conducted with the following client organizations: Association of Pediatricians *Avicenna*, Bukhara; *Ishonch* Center, Fergana; *Umidvorlik* Center, Tashkent; *FACT* Social Research Agency, Tashkent CSSC; *Businesswomen's Association*, Kokand; BICC, Bukhara CSSC; and *Umid* Rehabilitation Center.

Two Case Management meetings conducted to discuss the development of the CSSCs, Health NGOs and Focus NGOs.

The Hub Office OD Specialist participated in the OD Consultancy of Counterpart Kyrgyzstan as a consultant. The opportunity allowed the OD Specialist to gain experience in doing OD consultancy for a large organization and additional skills in OD capacity building.

Community Outreach

During this quarter two Tashkent Expert Committee (TEC) meetings were conducted. At the first meeting, 18 projects (including MIP and CAG projects) were reviewed with three funded. At the second meeting 23 projects were reviewed with 18 funded. As all grant funds were spent by August, Counterpart requested and received additional grant funding of \$130,000 from USAID.

In July, a PCAP in the Urgutskiy rayon of Samarkand was conducted. CO/MIP coordinators from the Hub Office and all of the CSSCs took part in the event. The action had the following tasks and objectives: 1) Working out a joint understanding of PCAP process; 2) exchange experience in conducting PCAPs; and 3) defining and presenting successful examples of the PCAP process. Coordinators from the Hub Office presented a Log Book developed by the Regional office. This Community Journal was subsequently introduced in all of the CSSCs.

From July 16-18 a Monitoring and Evaluation practical workshop was held in Tashkent for CO Coordinators from all of the CSSCs and Hub Office representatives. Three projects were monitored, with discussion and analysis following the site visits.

The Hub Office created an electronic database of volunteers to be used by CSSCs in order to standardize the database format, which will facilitate use and information sharing among the CSSCs.

The Hub Office prepared for a contest for the Best Social Partnership Project with key tasks including developing an action plan, identifying the conditions for participation in the contest, and developing criteria and indicators for selecting the best SP project.

The Hub Office prepared for a contest for the Best Volunteer with key tasks including creating an action plan for the contest and outlining a questionnaire for the three-step selection process.

PCA exercises for communities in the Parkentskiy rayon of the Tashkent oblast were conducted by the NGO *Center for Spirituality and Education of Women and Disabled Children* in association with the Hub Office. A comprehensive CAP was developed in mid-August for the above-mentioned communities. Further, a CAP from PCA exercises last quarter was developed in early July by the initiative group *Gender Balance*.

Network Development

A five-day network meeting was held in early July with a slightly different agenda. For the first four days participants exchanged experiences and made recommendations for further work. This was done in the context of site visits to the communities. On days three and four CSSC Managers and Coordinators met separately to develop strategic plans for the network. On the final day, a regular network meeting was held with participation of all staff. At this meeting, results from the Coordinators meeting and Managers meeting were presented and discussed, resulting in Strategic Plans for the Hub Office and all the CSSCs. Also developed at this meeting were TOT plans.

CSSCs and target NGOs were regularly provided with information about new grant programs, fellowships and upcoming events. Eight copies of book *Kyrgyzstan NGOs: Democracy from Bottom to Top* published by the International Center *Interbilim* were purchased and distributed among Uzbek CSSCs. In August the list of International Organizations located in Uzbekistan as well as potential foreign donors for NGOs was updated and distributed among CSSCs and NGOs. This list includes 78 organizations with contact data and brief descriptions of their activities.

On August 24 representatives of the Urgench CSSC visited the Nukus CSSC to develop a Strategic Plan with the Hub Office Deputy Director. These two Centers are located in adjacent territories and consider cooperation a more effective and efficient way of operating.

D. Civil Society Support Center Activity Overview

KAZAKHSTAN

1. ZHALGAS-Counterpart, Almaty Oblast, Almaty

Analysis of the OD Dynamics

CSSC ZHALGAS demonstrates a consistent, if not very high, OD dynamics. CSSC staff scored it at 7.41%, and Counterpart consultants at 3.70%. According to USAID terms and conditions, Counterpart was to localize, so it chose ZHALGAS as a key figure in this process and currently Counterpart Kazakhstan is integrating with the CSSC. This circumstance has contributed to the insignificant growth of its OD dynamics. Reduction of the OD dynamics between the second and third OD assessments by -3.33% was caused by replacement of the organization's accountant and program assistant (half the staff). Both were integrated into Counterpart's regional and country structure, which shows quite an advanced development level of the CSSC staff. Overall, it should be noted that ZHALGAS is a leader among the CSSCs in the area of implementing the Counterpart community mobilization and training programs. The low OD marks are, in general, a reflection of the tough critical stance of both the CSSC staff and the Counterpart consultants, who are soon to be ZHALGAS employees. In reality, the level of CSSC development is much higher; therefore, it is expected that the next OD scoring for ZHALGAS will be more like 15%.

Internal Capacity Building

- In July, Galym Zhukupbayev, Program Coordinator jointly with Nurlan Zhumabekov, Community Outreach Coordinator and Raushan Amanzhanova, Regional Community Outreach Coordinator, participated in design of advanced module on Social Partnership.
- Aziza Imangalieva, Program Assistant, participated in trainings on NGO & Community, Fundraising, and Mass Media Outreach & Press Conferences. As a result, she will be able participate in strategic plan design on organizational sustainability development.
- ZHALGAS staff participated in a retreat of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan office personnel and were involved in work groups to design four joint project proposals.
- Galym Zhukupbayev, Program Coordinator, performed a mini training on Effective Time Management for the NGO AIESEC in the framework of the students' conference held in KIMEP.
- In July, Galym Zhukupbayev conducted a regional PCA seminar for the Health Program.
- Upon completing his probationary period, volunteer Askar Kaliev independently conducted monitoring of a project of NGO *Asar Service*. Also after a brief orientation period, Peace Corps Volunteers Patricia Bugalo and Ted Fellow monitored some rural community projects.
- Galym Zhukupbayev met Sholpan Kairgali, ICMA Trainer, and Gul'nara Zhamankulova, INTRAC Coordinator for community development, to consult in a rural community outreach program.
- A meeting with Mr. Zhunisbekov, a Head of Internal Policy Department, was aimed at further joint actions addressed to NGO sector.
- Galina Janabaeva, Accountant, participated in the second seminar-practicum Monitoring & Evaluation initiated by the Eurasia Foundation.
- Galym Zhukupbayev discussed the CSSC program with Lem Kempf the Peace Corps Volunteer in Eco Center of Taraz.
- Nanry Takahiro, a representative of Sasakava Foundation (Japan) met with staff to set up a partnership in Kazakhstan. ZHALGAS organized a number of meetings with members of international and non-governmental organizations.
- On the 30th of September, Alibi Jangildin, Zhalgas Director and Galym Zhukupbayev, Program Coordinator, participated in the quarterly CSSC meeting and presented a localization plan.

Community Outreach

- The Center focused its activities on monitoring & evaluating community projects, consulting in project design and developing social partnership.

- In July, Alibi Jangildin participated in a media presentation of the project *Drinking Water Supply in Oralmans' Community*, developed by NGO *Salauat*.
- The monitoring process revealed successful implementation of the project *Produce of Ceramic Souvenirs in the community Nadezhda*. In fact, the first consignment of the goods has been produced and the Center is consulting the community on its project sustainability and marketing plan designs.
- *ZHALGAS* Coordinators monitored the project *Conversion of Agricultural Products in Incubator's Community*, which is almost complete. The final step is installation of a mill. Staff also monitored other community projects with subsequent recommendations – *Greenhouse Building (Aq Bota NGO)*, *Azamat Farmers' Community Development (Association of Farmers)* and *Water Supply in Besaghash micro-district (Baspana NGO)*.
- In late September, Galym Zhukupbayev, Program Coordinator conducted PCAP training in Atyrau and assisted in two PCA exercises in Balykshay Village.
- Farmers' Association *Azamat* carried out an advocacy campaign to protect the interests of its members against monopolized prices for natural water supply. As a part of Counterpart's Program on Community Mobilization, *Azamat* was provided by comprehensive trainings, consultations on Advocacy & Social Partnership and technical support in *ZHALGAS – Counterpart*. As a result of the two-month campaign, the monopolist made concessions by reducing the price from 29 KazakhT to 8 tiyns (1KazakhT = 100 tiyns) and renovated irrigation system targeting 139 farmers of Malovodny District.
- Three volunteers assisted CSSC clients in literature selection and Internet support.

2. Agency for Social Technologies & Development (ASTRa), Aqmola Oblast, Astana Analysis of the OD Dynamics of CSSC

A leader in OD, Astana CSSC *ASTRa's* dynamics figures are 17.24% according to staff and 25.00% according to Counterpart consultants. The vibrant OD dynamics of this organization can be explained both by the adequate first assessment of the actual OD level (2.9 points according to staff and 2.4 points according to Counterpart consultants) and by stable development of the organization. Specifically, it should be noted that the organization has been a Counterpart branch from 1998 and was registered as an independent organization in the Spring of 2002. This fact was a great incentive for the organization's employees as they ceased being staff and became owners. Although one of its leaders left the CSSC for UNDP, an employee transfer to a donor organization can be a confirmation of the high quality of human resources.

Within this period, the organization staff has been developing unwaveringly and has succeeded professionally in the area of supporting local NGOs. *ASTRa* has no serious competitors in this segment of the market and is building on its competitive advantages. The Counterpart consulting group is working on strengthening *ASTRa's* lobbying functions in the CSSCs' network. Given maintenance of the current development tempos, *ASTRa* can accelerate its OD dynamics up to 30%.

Internal Capacity Building

- Ulzhan Kanzhigalina, Regional Training Program Coordinator, visited the Astana CSSC in July to discuss the training program strategy and new trainers and to participate in the seminar Constituency Building.
- In July, Nurlan Sakhanov, OD Program Coordinator, evaluated the level of organizational development in Astana CSSC and facilitated a roundtable of 11 local NGOs.
- In late July, Bibigul' Salykova, CSSC Coordinator, participated in a roundtable on the Prevention of Diabetes, organized by DARK jointly with KNOK and the Ministry of Public Health.
- Effective August 1, labor agreements were compiled and signed with CSSC employees. A new member of the Astana CSSC, Elena Savelyeva, was assigned Program Coordinator duties.
- In late September, the first meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Center. Nine members of the Board were informed of the organizational regulations and rules.
- Inventory was implemented and informational brochures were designed by the CSSC Accountant and Coordinator.

- The Center organized roundtable for nine accountants of Astana NGOs in mid-August.
- In early August, the Center signed a *Memorandum on Mutual Assistance* with INTRAC to cooperate in the community mobilization program.
- On August 27, Elena Savelyeva participated in the roundtable *Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan as a Guarantor of Protection of Social Human Rights*, organized by the Municipal Akimat, Department of Information & Public Accord jointly with *Info Center of NGOs*. It is planned to include CSSC members on the Executive Body of *Info Center of NGOs*.
- CSSC staff met Ms. Zhandalinova from the NGO *Business-Initiative* to discuss training program exchange and service to be provided by the Center.
- In September, the CSSC signed an agreement with UNDP to use the Internet on a continuous basis for marketing purposes.
- Galia Omarova, CSSC Director, and Bibigul' Salykova, Program Coordinator, participated in the second seminar-practicum *Monitoring & Evaluation* initiated by the Eurasia Foundation. CSSC staff submitted a report on an evaluation of the *Public Center Nadezhda*, implemented by the *Public Association Society of Disabled Children*.
- The database of 98 local NGOs was updated to extend service delivery for CSSC' partners and clients.
- Botagoz Buralkieva participated in the Conference on *Eco Tourism in Kazakhstan*, organized by the British Volunteers Service, Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation and Agro Consulting Center.
- Kevin Borrap, ICNL Director, and Vsevolod Ovcharenko, Legal Consultant, met CSSC staff to discuss the use of technology in the Center.
- On September 11, Harry Ledbetter, a representative of US Association of Lawyers, met CSSC staff to learn more about program activity in Astana and discuss organization of a joint regional Advocacy seminar in December.
- CSSC Coordinators Elena Savelyeva and Botagoz Buralkieva participated in the quarterly CSSC meeting on September 30.

Community Outreach

- The Center monitored three community projects – *Uyut* of Public Association Youth Sport Club *Svezhy Veter* (Moskovsky Village of Esil County), *Zhivaya Voda* of Public Association *Ecologic Club Koktem* (Atbasar Town) and *Development of Sport-Cultural Center Rodnic* of initiative group of Uspeno-Yur'evka Village of Aqmola Oblast.
- By September, the terms of the community projects *Zhivaya Voda* and *Rodnic* were completed and participatory appraisals were conducted with each project deemed a success. During the *Zhivaya Voda* project implementation (January – September, 2002), there were no cases of hepatitis in the targeted local boarding school. In addition, the community initiated an idea to build a greenhouse that was supported by Peace Corps. As a result of implementation of the community project in Uspeno-Yur'evka Village, over 50 children are able to attend the Sport-Cultural Center *Rodnic*.
- The Astana CSSC launched the formation of focus groups to facilitate advocacy campaigns in the region. In accordance, the Center held a staff meeting to discuss technology and tools for conducting effective advocacy campaigns.
- CSSC volunteers assisted in systematization of the Center's library and assisted CSSC clients in technical service delivery.

3. Entrepreneurship Development Agency SMEDA, Aqtobe Oblast, Aqtobe **Analysis of the OD Dynamics of CSSC**

In between the first and the second assessments the OD dynamics fell –5.88% according to staff and -15.15% according to Counterpart consultants. This is associated with the resignation of the director – Kozhevnikov and the subsequent conflicts inside the organization between its key staff members. As a result of those conflicts, some employees quit the organization. In addition, the organization received fewer grants during that period, leaving Counterpart the only donor.

The difference between the assessments made by the CSSC staff and Counterpart consultants amounted to nearly 10%. This is likely due to the more critical perception of the organization's situation. At that time, Counterpart was even contemplating canceling the contract with *SMEDA*. After lengthy discussions, Counterpart decided to continue working with the CSSC and to strengthen their consulting work with it, especially in strategic planning and human resources management. At this stage, the Counterpart Director was actively involved in efforts to foster CSSC sustainability.

With a new CSSC Director, the organization is much stronger and on the path to stabilization. All these efforts resulted in gradual growth of the CSSC OD dynamics. So, according to CSSC staff, its OD dynamics between the second and the third assessments amounted to -2.94%, with Counterpart consultants' assessment at -12.12%. On the whole, *SMEDA* rates last among the CSSCs in terms of OD dynamics. In the near future the organization's OD rating is expected to stabilize and grow up to 5%.

Internal Capacity Building

- Nurlan Zhumabekov consulted the Support Center in its community project design. Joint efforts of the Center and the Hub Office in the community outreach program resulted in PCA training for ISAR in Atyrau. The training was facilitated by Galym Zhukupbayev (Zhalgas Program Coordinator) and Kairat Kunshashev (Aqtobe CSSC Manager).
- On July 10, a meeting was held with newly trained trainers to increase their cooperation with the CSSC in organizing Counterpart training seminars.
- *SMEDA* program activity was covered in the newspaper *Aqtobe*, published by Oblast Akimat.
- On July 10 the CSSC trained the *Aqtobe Debate Center* in Decision Making/Advocacy.
- Kairat Kunshashev, Manager, participated in the regional seminar *Strategy Kazakhstan– 2030: Achievements & Challenges for 5 Years*, organized by Oblast Department of Information & Public Accord.
- In July, *SMEDA* assisted in organizing a meeting with auto sport and an ethnographic expedition *Kazakhstan: West-East*, initiated by the NGO *Kovcheg* and supported by the Mangystau Scientific Society and the State Agency of Tourism & Sport.
- Kairat Kunshashev and Marina Tsygankova participated in the second seminar-practicum Monitoring & Evaluation in Almaty, initiated by the Eurasia Foundation. CSSC staff submitted a report on the evaluation of the project *Computer Classes for Students* of the Aqtobe branch of National Scientific Library.
- In late August representatives of West Kazakhstan NGOs were trained in Accounting in NGO.
- In late August *SMEDA* organized a meeting for Mr. Larry Napper, US Ambassador in Kazakhstan, with members of political parties and public movements, representatives of NGOs and state officials. Participants discussed the political and social situation in the region.

Community Outreach

- In July, the Center worked to form its Local Grant Committee that is planned to be the Expert Council of the CSSC. The Committee includes 7 members – 6 representatives of local NGOs and 1 of state body (the Head of the Department for Public Organizations & Youth Policy of the Oblast branch of Information & Public Accord). The LGC examined three project proposals, submitted by local NGOs and initiative groups. The Committee members approved two projects. Dana Amanova, Counterpart's Grant Manager, supervised the meeting.
- In mid-July the *Confederation of Non-governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan*, with assistance from the CSSC and Oblast Akimat, organized a seminar entitled Mechanisms for Social Partnership of NGOs and State Power. 20 Representatives of the oblast and district maslikhat, akimat, local NGOs and business structures participated in the seminar. Participants discussed mechanisms for social partnership among the sectors for solving social problem and formed an Interaction & Coordination Council on poverty reduction programs, comprised of three state officials and 10 NGO members.
- During the second LGC four of five project proposals were approved and submitted for further examination by the Hub Office.

- Two volunteers joined CSSC team in September to assist in CSSC day-to-day activity.
- In August, Kairat Kunshashev, CSSC Manager, and Dilyara Temirbaeva, Program Coordinator, participated in PCA exercises in a community of the Moscow District of Aqtobe, which revealed a lack of water supply and appropriate road conditions. Through CSSC consultations in advocacy campaigns, the community applied to the local Akimat, and after a number of negotiations with state officials, the initiative group received the Akimat's approval to provide the community with water supply and road repairs.

4. Nuclear Test Victims Union IRIS, East-Kazakhstan Oblast, Semey

Analysis of the OD Dynamics of CSSC

In between the first and the second assessments the OD dynamics of *IRIS* fell -8,57% according to staff, although there was no change according to Counterpart consultants. Currently, the actual development rate of the organization is the highest of all the CSSCs - 3.8 points according to the CSSC staff and 3.5 points according to the Counterpart consultants. The difference in the assessments made by the CSSC staff and Counterpart consultants makes up about 8%, and in this case the CSSC proved to be more critical. The explanation for this discrepancy is two-fold: First, there was an overestimation on the part of staff during the initial assessment; second, there were problems within the organization with the distribution of job responsibilities, which resulted in conflicts between the staff members. The *IRIS* Director resides in Almaty and directs the organization from a distance. This caused an informal struggle for leadership.

The Counterpart consulting group decided to abstain from supporting any of the conflicting parties and to have them settle the conflict on their own, with only technical support from Counterpart. As a result, one of the leading members of *IRIS* left for another organization, which put an end to the internal competition. The CSSC has well-drafted job descriptions and is going rework the executive director position. The organization is much more stable now and currently is working productively. The OD dynamics between the first and the third assessments were rated at 8.57% by *IRIS* staff and 9.38% by Counterpart consultants. Overall, *IRIS* ranks fourth in terms of the OD dynamics among all the CSSCs.

Internal Capacity Building

- Gul'sum Kakimzhanova, CSSC Director, and Lyudmila Khabdamova, CSSC Associate, participated in the quarterly CSSC meeting on September 30.
- Gul'sum Kakimzhanova and Gulmira Beketova (CSSC Coordinator) participated in the second seminar-practicum *Monitoring & Evaluation*, initiated by the Eurasia Foundation. They submitted a report on the evaluation of the project *Business Training Organization* of the Semey Association of Small & Medium Businesses *Aspan*.
- The CSSC conducted a workshop with representatives from the International Foundation *Cord Aid* and Resource Center *Dissent* to share information on the CSSC's program activity. The Resource Center invited CSSC coordinators to conduct PCA exercises in Pavlodar.
- In September, the CSSC organized a meeting of local NGOs and UNDP officials to discuss the involvement of NGOs in UNDP's Program of Small Grants for NGOs.

Community Outreach

- On July 1, Gulmira Beketova (CSSC Coordinator) facilitated PCA exercises for the *Center for Temporary Rehabilitation & Adaptation of Minors*. 22 people, including children and teens ages 3-18 actively participated in the participatory appraisal that resulted in a Community Action Plan design and the formation of an initiative group.
- In July, the CSSC held a workshop with 15 members of the Local Grant Committee to discuss organizational issues. The Committee granted four of five project proposals.
- On September 26, Gulmira Beketova conducted a monitoring visit of the project *Windowpane Repair & Installment* in Sarzhal Village of Abai County. Due to the community's successful fundraising and social partnership campaigns, the County Akimat allocated funds for additional repairs to the local school.

- In the framework of an anti-nuclear campaign in Semey, the CSSC organized and conducted Public Auditions on *The Problem of Importation & Burial of Nuclear Active Waste in Kazakhstan's Territory*. Ecological Experts and representatives of Eco NGOs discussed the Draft Law *On Importation of Nuclear Active Waste* and gave reports on its ecological consequences. The action resulted in the official Appeal to the Parliament of Kazakhstan to vote against nuclear waste importation into the country.
- Three volunteers assisted the CSSC in organizing PCAs and monitoring community projects.

5. Social Corporate Foundation ZUBR, East-Kazakhstan Oblast, Ust-Kamenogorsk

Analysis of the OD Dynamics of CSSC

One of the fastest developing organizations is CSSC *ZUBR*. Its OD dynamics in the past period was 16.67% according to staff and 6.25% according to the OD consultants. The 10% difference between the two scores reflects the low initial assessment by staff. As a professional consulting entity, staff tend to be more self-critical. The organization has a stable and capable staff who can perform a broad spectrum of tasks related to non-commercial sector development in the region. The Counterpart consulting group provides consulting support to the CSSC in its priority areas, such as monitoring and evaluation of socially significant problems. *ZUBR* is also one of the leaders among the CSSCs in establishing governance structures. In the spring of 2002 it established the Board of Trustees, which is developing successfully and duly performing all of its functions. *ZUBR* is capable of showing 20% in its OD dynamics.

Internal Capacity Building

- Vitaly Kulik, CSSC Director, and Natal'ya Terekhova, CSSC Manager, participated in the quarterly CSSC meeting on September 30.
- Alla Kozlyatkina (CSSC Coordinator) and Natal'ya Terekhova participated in the second seminar-practicum *Monitoring & Evaluation*, initiated by the Eurasia Foundation. CSSC staff submitted a report on the evaluation of the project *Training Center for Small & Medium Businesses* of the Regional Educational Center Youth' Achievements.
- In mid-July CSSC trainers conducted a seminar and facilitated a roundtable on Social Partnership, initiated by ICMA. State officials from Almaty, Astana and Ust-Kamenogorsk (Akimat and Department members) participated in the meetings.
- The CSSC extended its database of partner NGOs to provide a *Tax* seminar.
- Vadim Litvinov, CSSC Consultant, participated in the seminar *E-Riders*, organized by the Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation. At the request of the Foundation, he polled three NGOs of Ust-Kamenogorsk under their program *Information Resources for NGOs*.
- From August 19-27, the CSSC conducted its Second Summer School *Social Process Management* with support from Soros-Kazakhstan. The program included trainings such as team building, NGO marketing, strategic planning and financial management. 35 NGO associates and state officials participated in the program that resulted in 29 mini project designs.
- CSSC staff met with the Director of the Public Foundation *Dissent* (Pavlodar) to discuss cooperation in the training program.
- To improve the CSSC's professional capacity, Mr. Litvinov co-facilitated Project Design training.
- In September, the CSSC organized a meeting with the East Kazakhstan branch of *Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan*, the *Student Lawyers Association* and the regional office of NDI to discuss youth policy and activities of informational youth service in the region.

Community Outreach

- The Center conducted two PCA in projects *Levoberezhny Hospital* and *Ellada* and provided over 40 consultations in Project & Report Design and Community Action Plan.
- Representatives of the Almaty-based NGO *Baspana* visited the CSSC to share expertise in community mobilization. The NGO shot a video about community project in Ust-Kamenogorsk's Foundation for Support of Poor People *Shyghys*.
- In September, the CSSC held a Local Grant Committee and approved four of eight proposals for funding. Marat Aitmagambetov, Country Director, supervised the Committee workshop.

- The CSSC Coordinators participated in an advocacy campaign to promote the Draft Law *On State Youth Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan*.
- A new volunteer from the Public Association *Zelyonaya Ulitsa* systematized the Center's library and assisted CSSC clients in technical and informational support.
- In late September, volunteer Ekaterina Polyakova participated in the seminar *Functions & Experience of the Network of Volunteer Centers in Poland*, organized by Volunteers' House in Almaty. As a result, she will work with the CSSC to develop a volunteerism strategy.

6. Association of NGOs of Kostanai oblast, Kostanai

Analysis of the OD Dynamics of CSSC

The Kostanai CSSC showed the best OD dynamics among all CSSCs in the period under analysis. The changes between the first and the third assessments were estimated at 18.52% according to staff and 28.57% according to Counterpart consultants. As a result, the organization has actually achieved the planned 25% OD level. One of the reasons for this growth is the lowest actual OD score during the first assessment (2.7 by staff, 2.1 points by Counterpart). This organization is the most stable among all the CSSCs and is a recognized leader in social partnership among all organizations of the non-commercial sector in Kazakhstan. Today a strong goal-oriented leader heads its team of professionals. The Counterpart consulting group is doing its utmost to strengthen the CSSC as an organization capable of becoming a model in interfacing with the state agencies. A precursor to success, this organization was established with Counterpart's direct participation and set up as an association of oblast NGOs for implementation of Counterpart programs in the region. The leadership is well respected in the region, as leaders were elected by majority vote of NGO leaders in Kostanai. It is assumed that the organization will exceed the planned OD parameters in the near future and may reach 30%.

Internal Capacity Building

- In late July, the Director of the Kostanai CSSC, jointly with Program Coordinators and with counsel of Nurlan Zhumabekov, conducted PCA exercises and monitored the projects *Building Special Library & Infrastructure for Sight Impaired People, Community Mobilization in Building #112 on Valikhanov Street, Overhaul of Dairy Shop*.
- Almat Kaibzhanov (CSSC Coordinator) and Irina Ortner (Financial Manager) participated in the second seminar-practicum *Monitoring & Evaluation*, initiated by the Eurasia Foundation. CSSC staff submitted a report on the evaluation of the project *Building Special Library & Infrastructure for Sight Impaired People* of Public Foundation Association of Youth Support.
- The CSSC participated in the practical conference *Social Partnership: Mechanisms, Experience & Prospects*, organized by ICNL, Counterpart, INTRAC and Institute of Open Society. Irina Ortner, CSSC Financial Manager, presented a report on *Cooperation of NGO and State in Kostanai Oblast*.
- In August, CSSC staff conducted a number of meetings with state officials of the Oblast Akimat, Maslikhat and other executive bodies to discuss community outreach and grant programs as well as fundraising issues in the region.
- Dmitry Day (CSSC Director) and Marina Veibert (CSSC Assistant) participated in quarterly CSSC meeting on September 30.

Community Outreach

- In mid-July, the CSSC held a meeting with state officials and NGO members to sign contracts and cover organizational issues to conduct Local Grant Committee meetings. Later that month, the Committee granted five of six project proposals. Nurlan Zhumabekov supervised the project examination.
- In September, the CSSC provided local NGOs and communities, including *Oralmans, Raduga, Nadezhda* and the *Association of Kostanai Consumers' Cooperatives*, with 51 consultations and technical support in Project & Report Designs.

7. Qaraghandy Regional Ecological Center *ECOCENTER*, Qaraghandy oblast, Qaraghandy Analysis of the OD Dynamics of CSSC

The OD dynamics of the CSSC *ECOCENTER* is quite insignificant: 3.03% according to its staff and 0% according to Counterpart consultants. The main reason for such a low OD performance is its very short history as a CSSC (it just joined the Counterpart program in February 2002). *ECOCENTER* has just started implementing a Counterpart program and concentrated all its efforts on this program, to the detriment of its OD. It should be noted that the bulk of staff development and capacity building trainings were conducted in 2001, before *ECOCENTER* joined the network. Overall, the organization has a good stable team capable of learning and making considerable progress in OD. In addition, it is one of the leaders in the ecological movement of Kazakhstan and one of the few local NGOs implementing a large grant program. In the near future, *ECOCENTER*'s OD dynamics is expected to grow to 7%.

Internal Capacity Building

- CSSC staff designed a joint plan for Summer School for 30 Qaraghandy NGOs that was conducted in Bayan-Aul (Pavlodar Oblast) from August 12-18. The workshops resulted in formation of the Qaraghandy NGO Council and the design of a number of projects on Social Partnership to be submitted to the Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation and Counterpart.
- In July and August, in the framework of ecological program:
 - Hurlan Eskendirov (CSSC Coordinator) participated in Almaty seminar *Advantageous of Ecologic Management & its Introduction in Business in Kazakhstan*;
 - Kaisha Atakhanova (CSSC Director) took part in a *TOT* seminar in Baku (Azerbaijan);
 - *ECOCENTER* initiated the seminar *Eco Leadership & Management* in Almaty.
- Lyudmila Kurtavtseva (CSSC Coordinator) designed a module on *Effective Eco Education for Sustainable Development* for seminars, organized by Leninigorsk organization *Boomerang* in the framework of Regional Eco Center project. In addition, the Kazakh module *Strategies & Technologies* was designed for local mass media.
- Kaisha Atakhanova assisted in conducting seminar on Project Design, initiated by the World Bank for ecologic organizations of Caspian region.
- On August 7, CSSC staff met with the US Ambassador Larry Napper to discuss the US grant program and *ECOCENTER* program activity in the region.
- Kaisha Atakhanova represented Kazakhstan NGOs in the summit *RIO+10*, held in Johannesburg.
- The Eurasia Foundation granted the CSSC funds for *Project Design and Organization of Parliament & Public Auditions in Kazakhstan*. The project covers Semey, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Stepnogorsk, Aqtau, Atyrau, Astana and Almaty regions, and includes Anti Nuclear campaigns.
- CSSC staff participated in the seminar *E-Riders*, organized by Soros-Kazakhstan.
- Bakirov Kuat (CSSC Manager) participated in the National seminar *Micro Credit in Kazakhstan: Challenges & Prospects*, organized by Public Foundation Agro consulting Center in cooperation with CNOK.
- Lyudmila Kurtavtseva (CSSC Coordinator) participated in the second seminar-practicum *Monitoring & Evaluation*, initiated by the Eurasia Foundation. CSSC staff submitted a report on the evaluation of the project *Center for Legal Support of Mass Media*.
- Kaisha Atakhanova (CSSC Director) and Lyudmila Kurtavtseva (CSSC Manager) participated in the quarterly CSSC meeting on September 30.

Community Outreach

- Local Grant Committee meetings were held on July 22 and September 12 and 24. Committee members approved four of nine proposed projects.
- Lyudmila Kurtavtseva, CSSC Manager, performed participatory monitoring of the community project in Novozhdolinka Village of Qaraghandy Oblast.
- Kaisha Atakhanova, CSSC Director, was one of initiators in Anti-Nuclear campaign in late September. As the leader of *ECOCENTER* and an expert on ecology, she participated in Public Auditions against importation and burial of active nuclear waste in Kazakhstan.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	ZHALGAS-Counterpart	Astana ASTRa	Aqtobe SMEDA	Qaraghandy ECOCENTER	Association of NGOs of Kostanai oblast	Semey IRIS	Ust-Kamenogorsk ZUBR
Number of visitors	148	168	185	73	156	329	78
Number new visitors	8	46	60	10	10	55	9
Number of visits	538	397	554	119	263	261	139
Number of NGOs receiving services	370	92	95	48	68	78	43
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	15	36	5	14	13	30	9
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	12	1	12	0	2	8	0
Number of trainings	7	3	4	0	1	1	1
Number of consultations	55	39	205	118	167	125	107
Number of times Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	650	157	114	73	56	24	30
Number of times copy machine was used	0	486	167	98	79	25	55
Number of copies	0	4199	1838	1424	1379	4500	2711
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	45	386	18	138	20	12	22
Number of PCAs conducted	0	0	5	3	0	1	2
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	2	2	0	1	0

KYRGYZSTAN**Activity Overview Common for all CSSCs**

The CSSCs conducted an average of three training workshops per month due to budget limitations. In order to better meet local demands, they offered for potential trainees to share training costs such as paying a fixed amount for each training day and providing training premises at reduced costs or even free of charge. For example, the Naryn CSSC conducted two training workshop collecting 10 som per participant per day. While this is not enough to fully cover training costs, nevertheless, it is an indication of the motivation of training participants. In order to increase the cost-effectiveness of the training program, it was decided to give priority to training workshops in the communities, as this will reduce participant costs.

On August 13-17, the Hub Office conducted advanced training workshops in Social Partnership. As a result of these trainings, the CSSCs drafted action plans on social partnership as an integral part of their strategic plans. The CSSCs in Batken, Karakol, Jalalabad, Osh, Naryn and Talas have been successfully implementing contracts with the Soros Foundation to provide these services to local NGOs. The CSSCs have been administering grants on behalf of Soros Foundation, providing information support, and delivering consultations and training workshops. Soros Foundation conducted a seminar on Evaluation and Financial Accountability for these CSSCs on July 26-27, where they got new skills in such areas as legal aspects of the NGO registration, NGO taxation, requirements of the Social Fund, and some issues of local accounting.

Localization of the grant making and administering capacities is going well. Last quarter, all the CSSCs formed local grant review committees (LGCs) after consultations with their Stakeholders Committees. The Bishkek Grant Committee, which was responsible for final decision, conducted its last meeting on September 25, after which it transferred the decision-making authority to the LGCs as they have proven their capacity to make transparent and unbiased recommendations for project funding. The increased capacity of CSSCs to administer small grant programs was recognized by local donors, who turned to the CSSCs to disseminate information about their grant programs and monitor projects. For example, IOM and INTRAC visited all the CSSCs based in Oblast capitals and Kumtor Operating Company requested the Karakol CSSC administer its grant program.

Due to additional funding from USAID, the number of target communities increased to 76. Southern CSSCs selected 10 new communities (Nookat- 2, Jalalabad- 2, Osh- 1, and Kerben- 5). As the workload for the southern CSSCs increased, they created the new position of Grant Manager. All CSSCs conducted training seminars on participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) for their trainers and PCA facilitators, after which PM&E exercises were conducted in 46 target villages.

The members of LGCs started visiting the target communities to familiarize themselves with the community profiles and actual situation. They also participated in the monitoring of CAGs at the field level. The CSSCs started sharing information on LGCs activities, for example, the Grant Manager of the Batken CSSC participated in the LGC meeting in Nookat as observer as the Batken Center has extensive background in managing small grant programs. The observations and recommendations on improving the work of the LCG were sent back to Nookat Center.

1. Batken CSSCs (BT)

Activity Overview

- On September 24, the Assistant took part in a roundtable conducted by the branch office of the *Coalition For Democracy and Civil Society*. The participants discussed the main concepts of constitutional reforms and sent recommendations to the National Government.
- The BT staff together with the team of the project *Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan* conducted training workshops in Project Design for 20 members representing initiative community groups from bordering areas of both countries.
- The BT assisted IFES in organizing a summer camp for school students where they were introduced to the basics of the civil society. The BT collected 80 applications, 50 of which were qualified for participation.

Internal Capacity Building

- The BT hired and conducted orientation exercises for a new Assistant, Mr. A. Mirsangilov.
- On July 9, BT staff participated in a planning meeting of the FTI staff, where the achievements and bottlenecks were discussed and the strategic plan for the next three years was presented.
- The interim internal assessment of the BT was conducted by senior staff of FTI, which resulted in recommendations to improve operations. Special attention should be paid to increasing the capacity of BT in working with local self-governing bodies.
- The BT purchased two new computers and additional furniture to accommodate the growing staff numbers. The BT also has Internet access and moved to a larger room.
- On July 12 the Grant-Manager A. Kochkorbaev took part in the grant review meeting hosted by the Nookat CSSC as part of building local capacity in grant-making.

Community Outreach

- The BT has been delivering training workshops and consultations in *Micro Business* to refugees, which has resulted in the approval of 44 refugee families' business applications by MCI. To date, the refugees (150 people) received loans from the MCI agricultural program totaling 195,000 som (apr. \$4,250).
- Two CAG review meetings were held in Batken during the reporting period, where two projects were approved totaling \$4,124.

2. Bishkek CSSCs (BS)

Activity Overview

- During the reporting period, the BS conducted a series of meetings with NGOs working with street children. The goals of the meeting were twofold: to discuss current legislation and make recommendations based on actual experience, and to discuss options for working as a network.
- The Manager B. Muratalieva took part in a meeting of donors working at the grassroots level, hosted by the WB mission on September 24. The new WB *Village Investment Project* was presented. Participants discussed issues for intensifying information exchange and improving coordination. The next meeting was scheduled for late October.

Internal Capacity Building

- From June 17-July 5 the BS Bookkeeper N. Sadygalieva participated in a *Union of Bookkeepers and Auditors*-sponsored Accounting seminar, which focused on bookkeeping for NGOs.
- The BS conducted its OD self-assessment. Based on key findings, the Action Plan on Institutional Capacity Building was revised with particular attention on revising job responsibilities, reorganizing training services, and refining procedures of staff hiring/firing.
- As part of diversifying finding sources, BS introduced subscription fees for its newsletter and 25 organizations have already subscribed. BS also continues to provide services such as participatory appraisals, evaluation, and social video films on a fee basis. This quarter, a collection of articles entitled *Democracy: Grassroots Views* was issued with circulation of 500 copies.

Community Outreach

- On July 5, together with the target NGO *Kut-Doolot*, the BS staff presented the Community Outreach Program to 40 residents of new residential blocks in Arch-Beshik-2.
- The Center assisted two target communities in revising their CAPs. The concept of community development foundations, suggested by the NGO *Arysh*, has been incorporated into the action plans. As a first step, the initiative groups to establish community foundations have been selected to participate in the microcredit project of the NGO *Arysh*, which was approved by Counterpart in September 2002.
- From September 25-27, the BS conducted a training workshop in Project Design for initiative community groups and NGOs. The participants shared and discussed their project ideas in terms of feasibility and sustainability of results.
- During the quarter, the local grant committee approved two projects totaling \$5,640.
- On July 13, the PR Coordinator took part in the *Forum of Civil Leaders* organized by the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, OSCE, NDI, and the NGO *Against Corruption*. The recent political developments in Kyrgyzstan were discussed.
- During September, the BS collected signatures for an open letter to the Government to revoke the Decree placing a moratorium on holding public meetings and demonstrations.

3. Jalalabad CSSCs (JA)

Activity Overview

- On July 22, the JA Coordinator facilitated a meeting between NGOs and the newly appointed Governor of the Jalalabad Oblast. NGO leaders stated that local governments have a limited understanding of their activities. They requested that the Oblast State Administration share media resources to promote NGO programs. The Governor was receptive of NGO initiatives.
- In September, the JA staff, together with representatives of the Oblast Environment Department, TV Company Echo of Manas and NGO *Symbiosis*, visited the Mailuu Suu to learn more about the uranium tailing pits. As a result of the visit, a video was produced chronicling the problems faced by local governments and communities since the tailing pits were destroyed by floods.

Internal Capacity Building

- A contract with the ADB Mission was signed in July to deliver consultative and training services to ADB-targeted communities in Jalalabad Oblast. The work plan and activity timeline have been finalized, and two new trainers were hired on a competitive basis.

- On September 9, the JA conducted a staff meeting, where they decided to create an internal fund to motivate staffers to improve their performance. The fund will be replenished out of penalties imposed for inappropriate performance.
- On September 25, the JA hosted a meeting of trainer-contractors to discuss training reports. The trainers decided to keep records on follow-up consultations in order to identify gaps and bottlenecks. A regular trainers meeting has been scheduled for the 25th of each month.

Community Outreach

- On August 9, the JA conducted a one-day seminar on Accounting for 16 organizations, representing the target communities and NGOs that received Soros grants. Topics included compiling financial reports for donors, preparing tax deductions, and keeping grant files.
- On September 5, the JA hosted a meeting of initiative groups from target communities to discuss ways of improving the quality of community project design. They also introduced the logical framework concept at this training.
- The local grant committee approved eight projects totaling \$20,109. The projects were focused primarily on developing income-generating activities in target communities.
- On July 11, the JA conducted its first participatory monitoring and evaluation. A team of eight facilitators involved 38 members of the community in monitoring the project aimed at rehabilitating the water supply system. The main finding was that community members are well aware of the project, and are active participants.
- The JA assisted NGO *Cholpon Ata* in conducting an advocacy campaign to ensure that the community benefit from the repair of the village club, which the village government took over after the community repaired it. The advocacy campaign included appeals to the Oblast Governor and information dissemination among the village. The result was that the village club was given to the NGO rent-free for 10 years.

4. Kant CSSCs (KN)

Activity Overview

- The KN took an active part in the meetings of youth NGOs discussing their possible joint actions.
- On August 30 the KN staff took part in the official ceremony on presenting Kyrgyz passports to the Tajik refugees held in Bishkek. President Akaev attended this meeting.
- The KN conducted a series of meetings with the Legal Clinic *Adilet* to discuss division of labor in providing legal assistance to refugees.

Internal Capacity Building

- During the reporting period, the KN recruited nine new volunteers. To build their capacity, four participated in the training on volunteerism, one participated in the TOT on methodology and was included to the team of contract trainers, and one took part in the seminar on human rights held by the Open Society Institute in Budapest.
- August 8-9, volunteer A. Joldosheva took part in a seminar on Reproductive Health conducted by the *Kyrgyz Alliance for Reproductive Health*, which will allow her to provide better support to NGOs working with women and youth.
- A new Accountant was hired after screening applications and conducting individual interviews. A computer and office furniture were purchased for the accountant.
- The KN succeeded in establishing partnership relations with local governments, which resulted in regular meetings and greater information sharing. The KN consulted 12 local governments to design project proposals, which were funded by Soros.

Community Outreach

- The KN staff conducted a series of meetings with refugee communities in the villages of Krashaya Rechka, Ivanovka, and Kirgshelk to discuss implementation of their newly revised action plans. The KN hosted a meeting between MHIF and refugee leaders to work out the schedule to register refugees for health insurance certificates.

- The initiative group of the community of the Otogon VI. registered as an NGO and took part in the GEF grant competition, submitting the project on preserving tulips in the outskirts of the village. The newly created NGO was awarded a \$12,400 grant to create a greenhouse for growing tulip bulbs and planting them on the foothills.
- The KN focused on helping three target communities revise their CAPs to incorporate the concept of community foundations. The communities received consultations in basic skills such as registering new organizations and building stakeholder relations.
- The local grant committee approved four projects totaling \$7,029.
- The NGO *Booruker-Urmat* won a Soros grant to conduct an advocacy campaign aimed at simplifying citizenship procedures. In August, the refugee NGO conducted a roundtable with participation of local government, media, representatives of passport offices in Bishkek. Participants discussed gaps and problems facing refugees in obtaining citizenship of Kyrgyzstan. Recognizing that the Government has removed many of the political and technical obstacles hindering the process of obtaining citizenship, the participants advocated for adoption of a draft citizenship law, which simplifies citizenship acquisition procedures and is more refugee-friendly. The draft law is currently under consideration by the Parliament. A written statement of support in adopting this law was forwarded to President Akaev, Parliament and Ministry of Justice.

5. Kara-Balta CSSCs (KB)

Activity Overview

- The Center Manager was an active participant in designing the Development Strategy for the Town of Kara-Balta: He took part in the seminar on City Strategy Development, held by the Mayor's Office and Urban Institute on July 6-7; made a presentation about NGO activities at the conference of local governments on August 5; and regularly participated in working meetings in the Mayor's Office.
- The KB facilitates monthly meetings of local NGOs where they can discuss cooperation with the Jayl Rayon Administration and plan special events. This quarter they planned an information campaign for the annual Elderly People Day to raise public awareness of the plight of pensioners in Jayl Rayon.
- The Manager presented the role of NGOs in the youth movement organized by the Youth Center and the Rayon Administration.

Internal Capacity Building

- The General Meeting of the Members was conducted in the KB on July 19. The following issues were discussed: 1) four members who do not take part in the organizational activities were excluded according to their written statements; 2) four new members were elected; and 3) the management team and inspection commission were re-elected.
- As a result of the internal screening, volunteer L. Keldibekova was chosen to fill the position of program coordinator for the Soros Foundation Project.
- In July, the CSSC received a grant of \$2,000 to be a Soros implementing partner and deliver support services in West Chuy Valley.
- Regular meetings with volunteers resulted in finalizing their job responsibilities and refining their work schedule. The volunteers created an information stand central for clients to access information. On September 7 the KB conducted a training seminar in Project Design and Advocacy for the volunteers as part of their capacity building.
- In August the volunteer K. Osmonov took part in the summer camp organized by IFES. The camp focused on involving youth in the democratic process and increasing their voice in elections.
- On August 19, the KB hosted a meeting of its trainers to discuss ways to improve the quality of training workshops, refine procedures of assessment and identify training impacts. The trainers decided to conduct assessments 4-6 weeks after the training workshop.
- August 8-9, Coordinator K. Shorukova took part in a seminar on Reproductive Health conducted by the *Kyrgyz Alliance for Reproductive Health*, which will allow her to provide better support to NGOs working with women and youth.

Community Outreach

- On July 15 the representatives of *Mandatory Health Insurance Fund* (MHIF) met with refugee leaders to discuss issues of incorporating officially recognized refugees into existing medical facilities by providing them with yearly health insurance. As a result of the meeting, a schedule for registration was approved.
- On August 21-22, the KB conducted the training workshop NGO and Community for 21 initiative members of local communities who are interested in creating and registering community organizations. To date, one group has finalized their statute and prepared registration documents.
- The community of Kara-Tube VI. successfully finished the project aimed at thorough repairs of the water supply system. The grant funds covered costs of the water pump, energy supply equipment and construction materials. The community contributed in kind in the form of materials and labor.
- On September 26, the KB took part in a meeting in Kara-Tube VI. where community members, discussed with the newly elected Head of the village government issues of transferring ownership of the system to the water users' association and collecting fees for the potable water.
- The local grant committee approved three projects totaling \$6,990.
- On September 11, the KB conducted a training workshop in Advocacy for the office of the Children's Educational Center for 28 school students from 14 schools of Kara-Balta.

6. Karakol CSSCs (KR)

Activity Overview

- August 26-29, the Manager B. Abdieva visited the more developed legal NGOs providing direct services to the population, such as *Legal Assistance* (Bishkek) and *Spravedlivost* (Jalalabad). The main goal of visits was to share experiences in delivering legal aid.
- On September 9, the Governor of Issyk-Kul Oblast visited the KR Center to learn about the Center's activities. The Governor discussed cooperation between the State Administration and the CSSC in developing a database on investment opportunities in Issyk-Kul Oblast, and expanding legal services to the population.
- From September 3-20, the KR took part in conducting sociological research on tariff policies among 300 households. The research was ordered from the consulting company SIAR.
- On September 23, the KR assisted the DFID field mission in completing the social passport of the village of Darkhan. The KR staff met with the deputy head and executive secretary of the village government, as well as with doctors and schoolteachers.
- In July 2002, the KR signed partnership agreements with the State Administrations of Jety-Ogyz and Aksu Rayons.

Internal Capacity Building

- After several meetings, the KR staff, together with the stakeholder council, developed a plan for financial sustainability and distributed responsibilities among staff members. They also discussed and approved a new policy for providing information services to clients.
- The Coordinator of the Volunteer Center participated in the seminar *Mobile consultants-eReaders*, conducted by Soros Foundation and gained new experience in using information technology. This service will be developed for access by local NGOs.
- The Manager visited the CSSCs in Osh, Jalalabad and Nookat to share experiences on implementing the community mobilization program and providing legal services for clients under the project *Public legal service*.
- The Coordinator on Working with Clients participated in the TOT on methodology and gained experience in the training module NGO and Community. Another Coordinator participated in the SIAR training and gained knowledge and experience in marketing.

Community Outreach

- In July the KR conducted participatory monitoring and evaluation in the villages of Jele-Dobo, Kyzyl-Suu, and Karal-Dobo, where 86 community members participated. They analyzed the project implementation and indicators to ensure the sustainability of results. The next round of PM&E has been scheduled for January 2002.
- On August 23, the initiative group of the Otradnoe VI. presented a progress report to 120 community members as part of ensuring transparency and involving people in project activities.
- On September 12, the Coordinator A. Ravdugina took part in a meeting with the WB where she received information about credit organizations and their terms for credits: interest rates, duration, and credit sum. The information is currently being sent to target communities.
- September 16-17 the KR conducted PCA exercises in Otradnoe VI. and assisted the community in revising the CAP with focus on boosting economic activities. 112 people took part in PCA, which resulted in identifying opportunities and threats in developing local economies.
- The local grant committee approved two projects totaling \$6,183.
- On July 20 the KR conducted a roundtable on NGO Taxation with participation of 21 people representing NGOs, audit firms, bar associations and the tax agency. The participants discussed amendments to the Tax Code and gave their support to the draft bill.
- The KR, together with NGO *Develop-Koruk*, conducted a local level advocacy campaign to revoke the decree of the Tjup State Administration on accepting land tax payments in cash only. As a result of the campaign, farmers are now able to pay land taxes in-kind.

7. Kerben CSSCs (KE)

Activity Overview

- In early July the newly appointed Governor of the Jalalabad Oblast visited the KE and familiarized himself with its current activities. The Manager reported that some government departments are not responsive to NGO inquiries, and sometimes do not meet their obligations in funding community projects.
- On July 18-19, the KE took part in the second round of a seminar aimed at strengthening the capacity of Southern NGOs in migration issues. The KE presented their project to install information stands at six border check points along the Uzbeki and Kyrgyz borders.
- On September 13, the KE hosted a meeting of NGO leaders to discuss problems facing young organizations. Participants identified bottlenecks in service delivery such as the lack of general skills, such as project design, and the constant demand for training services.

Internal Capacity Building

- On July 1, the KE hosted a staff meeting with participation of volunteers and leaders from target communities to discuss the implementation of the community outreach program. The members of LGC were re-elected. The Team of Stakeholders transitioned into the Advisory Board of CSSC with new functions.
- In July, the KE elaborated new procedures for using library resources to better meet the needs of the increasing number of readers. Also revised were the principles and ethical norms of the CSSC, rules for using equipment and resources, and planning procedures.
- On August 20, the KE conducted a staff meeting with participation from contract trainers to discuss reporting on the training program, using analysis of training reports as the basis of discussion. It was determined that KE staff will provide regular consultations to contract trainers in how to write training reports.
- On September 20 N. Sariiev was elected the new Director of the Volunteer Center. His first order of business was to review the list of potential volunteers and conduct weekly meetings with them.

Community Outreach

- A working group, appointed by the Stakeholders team and consisting of representatives of local government, NGO and UNDP, has selected five new target communities. The KE conducted PCAP exercises in the new target communities.
- The KE volunteers compiled a list of retired residents of Kerben VI. who need support in harvesting their crops. The volunteers are planning to organize school students to provide assistance to these people.
- The local grant committee approved 12 projects totaling \$22,500.
- The KE conducted participatory monitoring and evaluation in the villages of Tostu and Ak-Jol. The community members analyzed project implementation and indicators to ensure sustainability.

8. Naryn CSSCs (NR)

Activity Overview

- On August 28, the IOM Coordinator visited the NR to familiarize herself with its current activities and to find areas of common interest. IOM is interested in using existing local capacities to fight trafficking and illegal migration. As a result, the Center will disseminate IOM brochures and booklets.
- From September 19-24 the NR conducted sociological research for the consulting company SIAR to create smoker's profiles.
- The NR hosted a meeting of local NGOs on September 24 where the *Kyrgyz Alliance for Reproductive Health* made a presentation of their programs. The *Alliance* is interested in establishing effective information channels for Naryn NGOs.

Internal Capacity Building

- In early July the NR staff reviewed their fundraising plan. They added one activity - holding a lottery – in order to generate revenue for purchasing legal and economical literature.
- According the NR action plan for capacity building, the Center revised its training program policy. Trainers will be given more responsibilities, training needs will be regularly updated with the assistance of local NGOs; and participants will be selected on a competitive basis.
- The Program Coordinator and Assistant participated in the third National Forum of the Women Organization and gained experience in providing gender related consultations.
- A program audit conducted by Counterpart in September revealed that the financial documentation does not comply with local accounting standards. Recommendations for improving financial management were shared with the NR staff and will be incorporated into the revised action plan.
- The Stakeholders Committee was transformed into the Advisory Board of the NR at the regular Stakeholders Committee meeting on September 30. Also at this meeting, the NR Manager reported on the Center's activities in 2002.

Community Outreach

- The local grant committee approved seven projects totaling \$14,251.
- On July 5 the NR conducted meetings with experts from the State Departments of Irrigation Systems, Architecture, Environment and Rural Water Supply to discuss their involvement in the local grant committee, as their experience is valuable for reviewing community projects. All experts agreed to volunteer as committee members.
- From July 10-12 the NR conducted PCA exercises in the village of Emgek-Talaa, selected by the Stakeholders' Team in June. The elected initiative group designed a CAP and presented it to the community for comment.
- The NR, together with the NGOs *Agape* and *JAK-O*, conducted a roundtable entitled *Consuming alcoholic drinks by youngsters threaten the nation*. The goal of the meeting was to push local governments to prohibit selling alcoholic drinks and tobacco to the youth younger than 18 years of age. The draft decree was compiled and sent to the Oblast Kenesh for consideration.

9. Nookat CSSCs (NO)

Activity Overview

- The NO was contracted by Chemonics to translate training modules on land issues into Uzbek. One of the contract trainers will deliver actual training workshops on a contract basis.
- On August 18, the mission of the US Ministry of Emergency, headed by DCM Ms. D. Klepp, visited the NO. Guests were introduced to the community outreach program and afterwards decided to follow up to specify areas of cooperation. The DCM was very impressed with the findings and shared her appreciation with Country Director E. Kasybekov.
- The NO closely cooperates with UNHCR and *Legal Fund* (Osh) to assist Tajik refugees in acquiring Kyrgyzstani citizenship. The CSSC staff completed profiles for 159 refugees and conducted training in Advocacy to educate refugees in how to advance their interests.

Internal Capacity Building

- The NO moved to new offices that were built by the members of the organization. The new office has training room and a larger work area for staff.
- The NO opened branch offices of the Volunteer Center in the target communities and developed a policy for working with volunteers.
- Four volunteers visited the Hub Office and CSSCs of Kara-Balta and Karakol to exchange experience and gain skills in volunteerism.

Community Outreach

- Together with *Legal Fund*, the NO conducted a training seminar on citizenship and rights protection issues for 14 refugee leaders and representatives of MIA, local governments and military enlistment offices.
- The board for distributing emergency assistance to refugee families has started its operations. Eleven applications were reviewed at the July meeting. Two refugee families (women-headed households) were granted 2,000 soms.
- The local grant committee approved 11 projects totaling \$18,936.
- The NO has been issuing 2 newsletters: 1) *Lastochka*, which is published by volunteers to educate the general public in volunteerism and news of the volunteer center, and 2) *Zerkalo Nookata*, which covers NGO developments in the Nookat Rayon.
- The NO has been conducting consultations with target communities on creating a common community fund to serve member communities of the Nookat and Aravan Rayons.
- The CO Coordinator, Nookat CSSC Manager, Contract Trainer A. Niazalieva, and Deputy Akin of the Nookat Rayon took part in the regional training on Social Partnership held in Almaty from July 12-15, which generated draft plans on social partnership activities for the Nookat CSSC.

10. Osh CSSCs (OS)

Activity Overview

- From July 8-13 the OS Coordinator, together with staff from the USAID-funded NRMP, conducted a training on Building Constituency for rational use of natural resources.
- On August 20, representatives of INTRAC visited the OS to learn about expertise of the OS in community outreach, as they are planning to deliver seminars not only for NGO support organizations but also for rural communities.
- On August 21, the Manager met with the CAIP Coordinator of ACDI/VOCA to discuss collaboration in the area of community mobilization, as ACDI/VOCA is launching the CAIP program provide support to communities at risk.

Internal Capacity Building

- The OS hired grant manager for the CAG program to handle the increasing workload. The orientation of the grant manager included in-depth consultations in project design, service, recordkeeping, and reporting.
- The OS staffers took part in Association Development training to increase their knowledge and skills to provide consultations in this area.

- The OS recruited three new volunteers from Osh State University to translate materials from English to Russian.
- The OS extended representative services to the donors without a local presence. This quarter it signed contracts with Eurasia Foundation and HIVOS.

Community Outreach

- The local grant committee approved nine projects totaling \$20,835.
- On July 19, the OS conducted a training seminar in conducting final evaluations and assessments for facilitators from target communities. Afterwards, the facilitators conducted the final evaluations for three successfully completed projects.
- From August 26-28 the OS conducted a training workshop in Business Planning for 18 members of initiative groups as per the training requests of target clients.
- On September 16 the OS conducted PCA exercises in Karakochor as determined by the Stakeholders team. The initiative group designed a CAP and presented it to the community.

11. Talas CSSCs (TL)

Activity Overview

- On August 28, the IOM Coordinator visited the TL to familiarize herself with its current activities and to find areas of common interest. IOM is interested in using existing local capacities to fight trafficking and illegal migration. As a result, the Center will disseminate IOM brochures and booklets.
- The TL assisted the Crisis Center *El-Naz* in organizing a roundtable for the NGOs working with disabled children from the Talas Oblast of Kyrgyzstan and the Jambyl Oblast of Kazakhstan. The main topic of the discussion was creation of a rehabilitation center for disabled children.
- In late September representatives of INTRAC visited the TL to learn about expertise of the TL in community outreach, as they are planning to deliver seminars not only for NGO support organizations but also for rural communities. INTRAC will finance internships for two community leaders from Kara-Suu VI. in Kazakhstan.
- The TL signed partnership agreements with the State Administrations of Talas and Kara-Buura Rayons. The Talas Rayon Administration agreed to support the creation of a community consultative center.

Internal Capacity Building

- The TL developed a database of about 300 local NGOs, CBOs and initiative groups. The database includes information on their projects, participation in advocacy campaigns, social partnerships, and skills level. The database enables TL to provide better information to clients and donors.
- The activity plan for the Volunteer Center was developed and finalized. The volunteer A. Turdukulov participated in a TOT on methodology and was added as a contract trainer.
- In September the Coordinator participated in a SIAR seminar on how to conduct sociological research on the tariff policy and profile smokers.
- The TL was re-registered and the Advisory Board was re-elected. The TL staff conducted orientation for new members of the Advisory Board.

Community Outreach

- The TL continues to publish its newsletter *One hundred questions and answers on land issues*, which covers specific topics raised by constituents. TL volunteers, who received additional training from Chemonics, prepare the newsletter.
- The local grant committee approved one project with funding of \$3,967.
- On September 23 the TL hosted a roundtable titled *Prospective of the volunteers' movement* with participation from NGOs with volunteers. Participants discussed skill building for volunteers and mechanisms for institutionalizing volunteers.
- On July 10 the initiative group of the community Kairat met with the staff of the DFID project *Mountainous Villages Development* and its target community of the village of Kopuro-Bazar to share experiences and identify effective community mobilization strategies.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Indicator	BS	BT	JA	KB	KE	KN	KR	NO	NR	OS	TL
Number of Visitors	247	562	504	750	363	301	373	654	528	551	670
Number of New Visitors	46	75	152	189	87	68	83	104	138	90	151
Number of Visits	541	771	829	1,818	867	477	889	1,096	982	660	1,132
Number of NGO receiving services	191	242	288	155	120	55	208	293	303	412	395
Number of CBO, initiative groups receiving services	12	84	47	35	83	33	30	164	40	45	109
Number of volunteers recruited for NGO	7	12	2	31	0	12	52	34	14	27	19
Number of Training Workshops	3	15	24	12	13	4	6	20	17	11	12
Number of Consultations	161	229	200	444	514	204	344	164	525	76	857
Number of Times of Computer/Internet/E-mail Was Used	336	146	128	280	84	35	2,453	34	151	110	677
Number of Times Copy Machine/Printer Was Used	67	290	263	786	222	103	71	161	421	223	568
Number of Copies (for Copy Machine and Printer)	391	6,812	4,287	11,060	3,829	3,070	2,039	794	11,058	1,518	13,490
Number of Times Phone/Fax Was Used	32	159	182	88	68	43	183	122	64	45	1,653
Number of PCAs Conducted	0	6	12	1	11	6	5	7	4	3	2
Number of CAPs Developed	2	6	12	1	14	5	5	7	5	5	6

TAJKISTAN

1. Dushanbe CSSC/*The Third Sector*

Activity Overview

In consultation with the Regional Office in Almaty, the Country Director, Randall Olson, terminated the contract of Temursho Imatshoev, the Director of the Dushanbe CSSC. Mr. Olson appointed Elena Chastukhina, the Dushanbe CSSC Training Coordinator and NGO Resource Center Manager, as the Acting Director of the Center for a probationary period of three months. Since the Dushanbe CSSC was registered as a local NGO with the Ministry of Justice under the name, *The Third Sector*, the Board of Directors met to approve the changes in the leadership of the organization.

Counterpart Tajikistan, in cooperation with the Board of Directors of the Dushanbe CSSC, placed an announcement in the local newspaper seeking candidates for the Director position and members of the Hub Office and the Board of Directors are currently reviewing the applications. The Acting Director of the Dushanbe CSSC hired a new Program Coordinator and a new NGO Resource Center Manager to assist the Center with completing all the program activities under Phase III.

This quarter the Director of the Dushanbe CSSC visited the Kurghon-Teppa CSSC/NGO *Fidokor* to gain more knowledge about their program activities, their organizational management style and their filing system. The results of the visit were discussed in one of the Dushanbe CSSC's meetings, and the Center's members agreed to incorporate some of *Fidokor's* best practices.

This quarter the Dushanbe CSSC continued providing consultations and information services to members of various local NGOs. Most visitors to the Center sought the following types of information and advice:

- Information about trainings provided by the Center
- Information about donor organizations
- Advice on project design
- Information on Volunteer Management
- Advise on how to build partnerships with other NGOs

The Dushanbe CSSC updated the list of Active NGOs for Dushanbe and Direct Rule Districts.

The Dushanbe CSSC in cooperation with the Hub Office is planning to take steps to improve the quality and effectiveness of trainings. As a first step it was decided to more closely monitor the training program as well as to begin a review of the qualifications of the contract trainers working in the Dushanbe area. For this purpose a working group was established consisting of two contract trainers, the Dushanbe CSSC Program Coordinator and Training Coordinator from the Hub Office. As a result of the two meetings the working group held it was decided that there would be four different pay levels for contract trainers. The working group drafted a set of criteria that a contract trainer must pass meet before advancing to the next level. The working group also developed two evaluation questionnaires; one for the training participants to fill out after the completion of a training and one for Counterpart's Training Coordinator to use during observation sessions. The questionnaires will help the Training Coordinator to monitor the trainings and to collect information and feedback from the participants about the quality of instruction given by the various trainers. The information will be used to help determine if there are weaknesses in the training program and will also help to determine the trainers pay level. The working group will discuss the new levels and the evaluation questionnaires with the rest of the contract trainers once the draft is finalized at both the Hub Office and the Regional Office.

During the Third Quarter of 2002 the Dushanbe CSSC conducted seven training workshops for NGOs on the following topics:

- NGO Management
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Project Design
- PCAP
- Coalition Building
- Governance

The Dushanbe CSSC signed a contract with the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society to conduct three NGO and Community training workshops for Afghan refugees on a paid basis. They also provided three fee based Volunteer Management training workshops for Mercy Corps target groups. Now Medicines Sans Frontiers Holland has expressed interest in the Dushanbe CSSC training program for their clients.

The Dushanbe CSSC has also started preparations for two Social Partnership follow-up meetings based on the National Social Partnership Conference that was held in June. The follow-up meetings will be held in December in the city of Tursunzade, near the Tajik-Uzbek border, and in Dushanbe. The Dushanbe CSSC members together with the Training Coordinator from the Hub Office developed a draft program for the meetings, and met with the respective government officials to discuss the agenda of the meetings. The meetings will be co-funded by Counterpart Tajikistan and AED.

This quarter the Dushanbe CSSC submitted to Counterpart's Hub Office ten proposals from various local NGOs for Counterpart's new NGO Support Grant initiative. The new grant program was launched by Counterpart Tajikistan after supplemental funds were received from USAID for the Phase III program. An international review committee reviewed each of the ten proposals and

conditionally approved six NGO Support Grant proposals. Currently the Dushanbe CSSC is working with the approved NGOs to revise their projects and to resubmit them to the Hub Office for final approval. (For the full list of new grants see ATTACHMENT #1).

In addition to the NGO Support Grants that were submitted through the Dushanbe CSSC, they also submitted three Community Action Grant proposals for review by the Counterpart's Grant Review Committee. Of the three, only one was funded. There is still a problem with the quality of proposals being funded by the Support Centers.

Internal Capacity Building

The job descriptions for all the staff at the Dushanbe CSSC were revised and the Acting Director signed new contracts with all the staff members. Also, procedures for individual planning and reporting for each CSSC staff member were developed. The Dushanbe CSSC has also revised its action plan on how to build its internal capacity as well as to develop the institution. As a result, the staff at the Dushanbe CSSC decided to increase the number of Community Outreach activities. The staff members of the Dushanbe CSSC also attended three TOT workshops on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Social Partnership and Advocacy as part of their efforts to build their internal capacity. This quarter the Dushanbe CSSC also updated its brochure and the information list on the services provided by the Center.

Community Outreach

This quarter the staff from the Dushanbe CSSC and the CO Coordinator from the Hub Office developed an updated workplan on community outreach activities through March 2002. Accordingly, the community outreach component of the Center's action plan for capacity building and service delivery was revised and new activities were added. The newly appointed Dushanbe CSSC Program Coordinator was assigned as the responsible person for community outreach activities.

Following the new workplan the new Dushanbe CSSC Program Coordinator visited the several communities where the Dushanbe CSSC's partner NGOs recently conducted PCAs. The Program Coordinator monitored the results of those activities in the communities of Microrayon 62 and Sharq in Dushanbe; and Chaghatoy and Chormaghzakoni Uzbek communities in the Varzob District.

2. Khujand CSSC/Consortium of Initiatives

Activity Overview

During this quarter Dilorom Atabaeva, the Director of the Khujand CSSC/Consortium of Initiatives, resigned from her position after she was chosen to be the national Country Director for Counterpart. Victoria Davrukova, the Center's Assistant Director, was then appointed as the Acting Director until a candidate could be chosen through an open competition.

One of the major accomplishments of the quarter by the Center was the publishing of the first Network Newsletter, entitled *Tajnet*.

This quarter Khujand CSSC/Consortium of Initiatives assisted six NGOs in applying for the new NGO Support Grants that were announced by Counterpart Tajikistan's Hub Office. The grant applications were sent to the Hub Office in Dushanbe and were reviewed by the Grant Review Committee meeting. The Committee approved five of the six proposals.

The Khujand CSSC, in cooperation with a branch of the Soros Foundation in Khujand, the independent TV station SM 1 and the NGOs *Media Group* and *Mercy* initiated another Press Club meeting. The meeting was dedicated to the role of NGOs in building civil society. Representatives from a number of NGOs, different government offices and the press participated in the Press Club meeting. The participants focused much of their discussion on the need to develop social partnerships between the different sectors of society.

This quarter the Khujand CSSC conducted two training workshops on Participatory Community Appraisals and Facilitation Skills for advanced NGOs. According to the participants' evaluation these workshops were very useful and the participants learned how to facilitate meetings and workshops and how to mobilize community members to solve their own problems.

The Khujand CSSC assisted representatives from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Diana Howansky and Scott Kearin, in arranging meetings with the leaders of a number of democracy-orientated local NGOs. During the meetings representatives from NDI presented the NGOs leaders with an overview of their program activities in the region and announced their intention to establish an office in Tajikistan.

Under the project *Assistance to Afghan Refugees* funded by UNHCR, the Khujand CSSC/*Consortium of Initiatives* continued providing various social services to Afghan refugees. The Support Center also signed a partnership agreement with the *Khujand Human Rights Center* to provide legal consultations to Afghan refugees and to provide legal representation for them in court.

Internal Capacity Building

As a result of the supplementary funding for various grant programs provided by USAID, the Khujand CSSC enlarged its operational budget in order to compensate for the increase in program activities. The new approved budget will allow the center to purchase some necessary office equipment and to perform more monitoring and evaluation activities on Phase III activities. The additional money will also be used for training volunteers and holding advanced advocacy trainings.

Because of the changes in the management and the increase in the workload associated with the new grant program, the job descriptions of the Center's staff members were revised. Each staff member will be required to take on extra responsibilities and the option of hiring an additional staff member is also being considered.

The Khujand CSSC Program Coordinator and Grant Manager participated in the TOT workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in Dushanbe. Based on the materials received in this workshop the CSSC members developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for both the NGO Support and Community Action Grant programs. Two of the Khujand CSSC staff members attended advanced TOTs on Advocacy and Social Partnership conducted by staff members from the Hub Office. After the TOTs they conducted special sessions on the above-mentioned topics for other staff members of the Khujand CSSC.

Community Outreach

A group of volunteers trained by the Khujand CSSC formed their own NGO, *Group of Initiative Volunteers Accent*. This quarter this group developed a project proposal on creating a volunteer house to train new volunteers in helping disabled and elderly people. The proposal was submitted to the Hub Office and the project proposal was approved.

The Khujand CSSC is actively involved in the preparations for the Social Partnership follow-up meeting in the Sughd Province. The Khujand CSSC/*Consortium of Initiatives* has revised its workplan and added activities related to the Social Partnership Conference follow-up meetings. A working group of representatives from NGOs, government, business, and media, was formed to facilitate the Conference. Meeting weekly, the working group has already developed a preliminary agenda.

The Khujand CSSC is setting up a Local Grant Committee in order to review and approve Community Action Grant applications from the Sughd Region at the Khujand Office. The Khujand CSSC staff members were given guidelines and instructions on how to conduct grant committee meetings during the Network meetings. It was decided that the Support Center would initially invite grant review committee members from local and international organizations with experience working with communities.

3. Kurghan–Teppa CSSC/*Fidokor*

Activity Overview

In accordance with a request made by *Action Against Hunger* the *Fidokor* conducted a training workshop on Problem Identification with five Community Development Centers (CDC) and three NGOs located in the Kurghon-Teppa District.

During this quarter *Fidokor* also conducted four trainings on Project Design, NGO Management, PCAP and Volunteer Management. The Volunteer Management training was conducted for the *South Khatlon Coalition*, a coalition consisting of 11 NGOs from the districts of Shahrtus, Kabodiyon and Beshkent, all located in the Khatlon Province. Under the Farmer Associations Training program funded by Mercy Corps, *Fidokor* conducted a training workshop on Taxes and Bookkeeping for 20 leaders and bookkeepers from various farmer associations from the Kolkhozabad District.

As a part of its activities under a community mobilization grant funded by UNHCR, *Fidokor*, through its partner NGOs, conducted ten one day training workshops on Problem Identification for target communities in Kurghon-Teppa, Vakhsh and Bokhtar Districts. In addition, *Fidokor* assisted these communities in developing project proposals. Four projects out of nine have been funded already.

Internal Capacity Building

In August *Fidokor* re-registered at the Ministry of Justice with a new charter. The new charter paved the way for *Fidokor* to work as the national rather than district level. Although the documents for re-registration were submitted in March, the Ministry of Justice delayed the registration claiming that the term “Board of Directors” was used in *Fidokor’s* charter and that term can only be used for commercial organizations under the Tajik law. As a result of meetings and discussions with the Ministry of Justice *Fidokor* managed to keep the term “Board of Directors” in its charter.

As a result of a supplemental Institutional Grant provided by USAID to Counterpart Tajikistan, *Fidokor* applied for and received \$4,000 in additional grant money to add a training room to their current office facility. *Fidokor* will spend \$3,000 from its own funds for the construction project and has also recruited a number of volunteers to work on the building. The construction workers have already started laying the foundation for the training building.

IREX selected *Fidokor* from among four of the strongest local NGOs working in Khatlon Province as a partner for its Internet Access and Training Program. The project is aimed at providing Internet and E-mail services to NGOs and youth in the Khatlon Province. IREX has agreed to help pay for the construction of the part of CSSC’s building where the Internet equipment will be housed.

This quarter *Fidokor’s* micro-credit portfolio has increased to \$13,000 based on an original grant received from Mercy Corps.

Fidokor’s Training Manager and Contract Trainer attended a TOT workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, which was held in Dushanbe.

Community Outreach

The members of the Kurghon-Teppa CSSC and *Fidokor’s* Board of Directors have developed a manual for establishing a local grant review committee and submitted it to the Hub Office for approval. It is anticipated that this committee will review and make decisions on Community Action Grant applications from the Kurghon-Teppa region. The Center has also developed a list of potential candidates to serve on the grant review committee.

This quarter *Fidokor* assisted six NGOs in developing proposals for Counterpart’s NGO Support Grants program. All of the NGOs included community outreach activities in their proposals. The proposals were submitted to the Hub Office and reviewed at the Grant Review Committee meeting in Dushanbe that met in August. The Committee approved five of the six projects.

Fidokor has started preparations for the Social Partnership follow-up meeting for the Khatlon Province, which will take place in late November. A working group consisting of representatives from local NGOs and government officials has been established to conduct the meeting.

4. Khorog CSSC/*Kalam*

Activity Overview

The NGO *Kalam*, Counterpart's Civil Society Support Center partner in Khorog, continued providing nine services to local NGOs and CBOs in the Gorno-Badakhshan Province (GBO). On the average, from five to seven people visit the Center each day to access the services. The Khorog CSSC also helped to arrange meetings with local NGOs and CBOs for a number of international organizations, such as the Eurasia Foundation, UNICEF, and the Democracy Fund. This quarter Khorog CSSC conducted four training workshops for local NGOs on the following topics:

- Strategic Planning
- Governance
- Project Design
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

The Khorog CSSC, together with the ICNL, also conducted a training workshop on International Standards of NGO Legislation and its Application in Tajikistan for GBO NGOs.

The leader of *Kalam* met with the representative of the National Social Investment Fund (NSIFT) to talk about future cooperation. NSIFT works with communities throughout the country providing them technical and financial assistance.

Internal Capacity Building

Two Khorog CSSC staff members and two contract trainers attended the Training Of Trainers (TOT) workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in Dushanbe. The staff members also participated in TOTs on Advanced Advocacy and Social Partnership.

This quarter the Khorog Center received new publications from NSIFT on community mobilization, and from ICNL on NGO legislation issues. The Khorog CSSC also obtained new training modules in Tajik. These modules will be particularly useful when conducting trainings in the Darvaz, Vanj and Ishkashim Districts, where people only speak Tajik.

Also during this quarter the NGO *Kalam* received the first installment of a grant from the US Embassy's Democracy Fund to work with former Tajik opposition fighters from GBO. The grant will be used to encourage the former fighters to voluntarily handover their weapons.

The staff at the Khorog CSSC has identified five potential sites for a new office. They have applied for an additional Institutional Grant from Counterpart Tajikistan for an office as a part of their long-term sustainability plan.

Community Outreach

This quarter *Kalam* revised its community mobilization workplan in response to the supplementary funds received for NGO Support Grants and Community Action Grants from USAID. The Grant Review Committee, which met in August at the Counterpart Hub Office in Dushanbe, approved one NGO Support Grant and five Community Action Grant proposals from the Gorno-Badakhshan region. *Kalam* helped the beneficiaries with their grant proposals and submitted the proposals to the Grant Review Committee. During the quarter staff members from *Kalam* also monitored and evaluated Community Action Grant projects implemented in the villages of Tirchid, Khufak, Khabost.

5. Kulob CSSC/Shahrvand

Activity Overview

This quarter Maxsud Odinaev, the Director of the NGO *Shahrvand*, our partner CSSC in Kulob, resigned after being offered a job working with UNDP. A month earlier the CSSC NGO Resource Center Manager left *Shahrvand* to work for another organization and the Program Coordinator also resigned. The Hub Office began an immediate intervention to assist the organization in hiring replacement staff members. Announcements were made in local newspapers for three positions: the Kulob CSSC Director, the Program Coordinator and the Grant Manager/Accountant. After a series of interviews, conducted in cooperation with the Board of Directors, three candidates were hired for the vacant positions.

Dodarbek Saidaliev, the former leader of the NGO *Sudmand* and one of Counterpart's contract trainers from the Kulob region was selected by the Board of Directors as the new Director of *Shahrvand*. Before joining *Shahrvand* he worked with UNDP in the Karategin Valley working on rural community development projects. The Country Director and the Senior Program Coordinator, along with the other program coordinators from the Hub Office, conducted several orientation sessions with Mr. Saidaliev both at the Hub Office in Dushanbe and in Kulob at the CSSC. The program coordinators introduced him to the main goals and objectives of Counterpart's Phase III program and the responsibilities of the Kulob CSSC, based their contract with Counterpart Tajikistan to provide services and program activities. He also visited the Dushanbe and Kurghon-Teppa CSSCs to familiarize himself with their work.

During the quarter the Kulob CSSC conducted two training workshops for NGOs on Participatory Community Appraisals and Volunteer Management.

Staff members of the Kulob CSSC met with the UNWFP Kulob Office to discuss several community development projects in the Kulob region. Representatives from the WFP expressed interest in providing these communities with food commodities under their *Food for Work* program. The villages of Balkhobi, Metantughai and Beshtigirmon have already received food assistance from the WFP in conjunction with Community Action Grant projects that were funded by Counterpart/USAID.

Internal Capacity Building

The Program Coordinator and two contract trainers participated in a TOT workshop on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation conducted by Hub Office in Dushanbe. The new Kulob CSSC Director, Program Coordinator and a contract trainer also attended TOTs on Advanced Advocacy and Social Partnership. The Kulob CSSC has developed a plan for training their volunteers.

Community Outreach

This quarter staff members from the Kulob CSSC monitored three community development projects in the Balkhobi, Metantughai and Beshtigirmon villages. They also conducted two Participatory Community Appraisals in the village Jomi and with a disabled community in Kulob city.

As a result of supplementary funding from USAID, five new NGO Support Grant proposals submitted by the Kulob CSSC were approved by the Grant Review Committee. All of the NGO Support Grant proposals contained community mobilization activities. The Kulob CSSC provided technical assistance to the NGOs while they were writing the proposals.

The Kulob CSSC revised its Community Outreach workplan after Hub Office's Community Outreach Coordinator visited the Center and made several suggestions. The plan includes new program activities to promote Social Partnership. As a result, the Kulob CSSC decided to resume the work of the Public Council on Social Partnership.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	Dushanbe	Khujand	Khorog	Kurghon-Teppa	Kulob	Total
Number of visitors	374	254	209	194	137	1168
Number of visits	723	342	451	233	93	1842
Number of NGOs receiving services	259	98	69	64	47	537
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	17	30	19	16	14	96
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	2	0	3	3	8
Number of trainings	7	2	5	6	3	23
Number of consultations	325	158	233	69	56	841
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	115	17	54	61	43	290
Number of times copy machine was used	276	86	118	93	57	630
Number of copies	4576	880	327	2119	772	8674
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	35	105	18	155	0	313
Number of PCAs conducted	5	7	0	0	5	17
Number of CAPs developed	5	7	0	1	1	14

TURKMENISTAN

1. Ashgabat CSSC

Activity Overview

- The Ashgabat CSSC carried out the 14 Participatory Community Appraisals in Akhal velayat.
- During reporting period there were two local grant review committee meetings. In all, 12 CAG projects were reviewed, 10 of which were recommended for funding.
- Ashgabat CSSC staff conducted 13 monitoring visits of current CAG projects, during which they also provided consultations on project implementation and report writing issues.
- The Ashgabat CSSC consulted seven NGOs in conducting Participatory Community Appraisals.
- During the reported period the Ashgabat CSSC conducted 13 trainings for 244 participants of 123 NGOs and initiative groups
- Ashgabat CSSC staff visited Turkmenbashy city and conducted a one-day adapted training on Volunter Management for the youth center *Elken*.
- The Center held a meeting with NGOs of Turkmenbashy city to present activities and services and to discuss ways NGOs can access CSSC services.
- The staff also met with USAID representatives Bradford Camp and Gulnara Khadyrova.
- Three Information Club meetings were conducted for 104 participants from NGOs and initiative groups, USAID, Natural Reource Management Project/USAID, STAR Project USAID, ICNL, Winrock International, American Embassy, Zdrav Plus, and the World Bank.
- The Center staff updated the NGO e-mail listserve; there are now 90 NGOs on the list.
- The Center conducted a meeting on Social Partnership with members of the Women's Union and the Deputy Khakim of Akhal velayat. As a result preparations are underway for a Social Partnership conference in the Akhal velayatl.
- The Center conducted a Meeting with UNDP representatives and NGOs that work on gender and women's development issues to discuss opportunities for NGOs in the new UNDP project to promote women entrepreneurs.
- The velayt newspaper *Akhal Durmushy* published an article on Counterpart activities and its role in NGO development.

Internal Capacity Building

- In cooperation with ICNL the Ashgabat CSSC conducted a roundtable to discuss NGO legislative issues in Turkmenistan.
- Trainers from the Ashgabat CSSC participated in the first regional trainers meeting. During the meeting Larisa Garabayeva, Counterpart Contract Trainer, conducted a mini training as a follow up to her participation in a TOT at the Moscow Center of Humanitarian and Applied Sciences.
- CSSC staff participated at meeting on Community Outreach issues and discussed procedures of using the Community Journal and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation in CAG projects.
- This quarter Denis Bantysh, Ashgabat CSSC Program Assistant, participated in the following activities to build his capacity: Training in Advanced Advocacy and TOT; courses in Turkmen language; and staff exchanges with the Dashoguz CSSC as an Acting CSSC Manager.
- This quarter Khadjarbibi Yelamanova, Ashgabat CSSC Manager, participated in the following activities to build her capacity: Certification as an Advocacy trainer; courses in English language; and participation in the OSCE roundtable on *Orkhuz Convene*.
- In July Ashgabat CSSC staff and four volunteers of Ashgabat CSSC participated in a half-day training on the decision-making process conducted by Counterpart Consultant Erik Blender.
- A technical assistant for the Ashgabat CSSC was hired.
- 4 volunteers of Ashgabat CSSC participated in the trainings NGO & Community, Public Education Through the Media, and Using Internet Resources.

2. Dashoguz CSSC

Activity Overview

- Three NGO Discussion Club meetings were held this quarter.
- In August the local grant committee recommended five of six CAG projects for funding.
- Dashoguz CSSC continued the PCA process in three communities of Ak-Depe etrap.
- The NGO *Sarygamysh*, with Dashoguz CSSC support, completed PCA exercises in six communities of Turkmenbashi and Kunia-Urgench etraps. Five CAG projects were developed and submitted to the Dashoguz CSSC.
- In September the Dashoguz CSSC conducted six monitoring visits to ongoing CAG projects.
- M&E Coordinator Vladimir Kosarev, jointly with Dashoguz CSSC staff, conducted final evaluations for CAG projects completed in the Turkmenbashi etrap.
- To meet local demand, the Center increased the number of monthly trainings to three.
- In September the Dashoguz Center conducted its first meeting of contract trainers. Counterpart's Training Program Coordinator from the Hub Office participated in the meeting.
- The *Union of land renters and entrepreneurs of Dashoguz velayat* was connected to the Dashoguz Internet server.

Internal Capacity Building

- In September, Kerim Amanow was hired as the Dashoguz CSSC Assistant.
- In July the Counterpart Management Advisor had a meeting with the Dashoguz CSSC staff and its volunteers to discuss the decision making process and the proposed Counterpart Turkmenistan organizational structure.
- The Dashoguz CSSC Manager visited Bukhara and Samarkand to participate in the Counterpart Uzbekistan network meeting.
- Counterpart's Financial Manager, Catherine Priakhina, installed Quick Books software for Dashoguz CSSC financial accounting and trained finance staff in how to use the program.
- The volunteer team, with Dashoguz CSSC support, developed a proposal to open the *Internet Public Access Center*. The project was sent to the fundraising team of Counterpart Turkmenistan.
- Five volunteers from the Dashoguz CSSC participated in the training NGO and Community, Team Building and Conflict Resolution, and Public Education through the Media.

3. Lebap CSSC

Activity Overview

- The Lebap CSSC conducted PCA exercises in five refugee communities in the Hojambaz, Halach, Serdarabat, and Niyazov etraps.
- The Center monitored ten CAG projects in communities of the Darganata etrap.
- The Lebap CSSC conducted three NGOs Discussion Clubs.
- In September Lebap CSSC staff conducted meetings with representatives from the Velayat Hakimlik and World Turkmen Humanitarian Association to attract additional resources for construction of a school in the Etbash refugee settlement. As the result, the local department of education provided \$2,000 for linoleum.
- The Lebap CSSC provided space, technical support and attracted volunteers to help the NGOs *Annageldi* and *Merjen* conduct a competition for women under a UNDP funded program.

Internal Capacity Building

- The Lebap CSSC Manager and Assistant participated in a Community Outreach meeting in Ashgabat, during which they discussed the issues of participatory monitoring and evaluation and using the logframe as a tool to develop projects.
- The Lebap CSSC Manager took part in the Uzbekistan CSSC network meeting.
- In mid-July the Lebap CSSC manager participated in the Hub Office training on Advocacy.
- The Lebap CSSC assistant participated in NGO and Community and TOT training.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	Ashgabat CSSC	Lebap CSSC	Dashoguz CSSC
Number of visitors	219	126	90
Number of visits	678	254	266
Number of NGOs receiving services	132	56	49
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	80	12	14
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	5	0	6
Number of trainings	14	7	4
Number of consultations	277	42	106
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail users	158	30	38
Number of times copy machine was used	262	211	73
Number of copies	3373	5790	1051
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	13	18	39
Number of PCAs conducted	14	11	8
Number of CAPs developed	8	10	12

UZBEKISTAN

Activity Overview Common for all CSSCs

- CSSC staff as well as CSSC contract trainers and volunteers participated in the trainings conducted by Counterpart according to their Plans of Personal Development.
- Contract Trainer meetings were held in all the CSSCs on a regular basis.
- NGO databases were updated on a regular basis in each CSSC.

Organizational Development

- With the registration of the Namangan CSSC in mid-July, all the CSSCs have been registered as local organizations.
- All seven CSSCs developed Fundraising Strategies and revised Strategic Plans based on Fundraising plans with support from the Hub Office.
- From July 8-10 representatives of four CSSCs participated in training for organizations supporting the NGO sector conducted by INTRAC. Participants learned about resolving organizational conflicts, understanding organizational behavior and leadership styles, and time management.
- In August the Regional Financial Director visited Samarkand, Urgench and Nukus CSSCs to examine financial documentation.

1. Tashkent Agency *FACT* (Partner)

Activity Overview

In September tools were developed to create the new database for tracking NGOs in Syrdarya and Surkhandarya Oblast.

Internal Capacity Building

- In late July the CSSC created the action plan for capacity building to reflect recommendation from OD consultants. The introduction of this plan improved coordination among staff members and clarified the requirements for monthly reporting. A working group responsible for the development of the Strategic Plan was formed.
- The Hub Office Resource Manager consulted with the CSSC Coordinator and a Volunteer on the particulars of Resource Center work.
- In September tools were developed for stakeholder analysis of the strategic planning process.
- In September the organization acquired two computers to improve the work of the Resource Center. One computer was purchased for statistical purposes and volunteers will use the other.
- In September the Agency *ITA Fact* participated in an INTRAC tender on conducting research on *Civil Society in Central Asia*. The organization won the tender and signed an agreement.
- The organization won a project from the SOROS Foundation to conduct monitoring of two projects in Samarkand and Termez. To conduct monitoring of the first project the organization initiated close cooperation with the Samarkand CSSC and in September monitoring of both projects was accomplished.

Community Outreach

- The new membership of the Local Grant Committee (LGC) in Tashkent was approved and will review proposals from Tashkent, Surkhandarya and Syrdarya Oblasts. Representatives from Business and State Structures as well as International Foundations are represented on the Committee.
- In September the LGC met to review four project proposals. The Committee recommended three for funding.
- In August the CSSC conducted an orientation of programs for volunteers. During these meetings, volunteer needs assessments and capacities were evaluated.
- Two new volunteers were added to the organization's team of volunteers.

2. Kokand Civil Society Development Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- During the quarter the CSSC distributed 22 signs for NGOs implementing Counterpart projects in the Fergana Valley to display.
- As the result of cooperation with *Tashkent Social Research Agency* the Kokand CSSC learned the basics of marketing research, conducted analysis of internal and external environments, assessed the market volume, defined the strategy of the research, developed a questionnaire and conducted marketing research among 221 NGOs, Initiative Groups and Makhalla Committees of Fergana Valley.

- In late July the Center organized meetings of USAID representatives with local NGOs to discuss extremists trends in Fergana Valley.
- In mid-August the Center organized a meeting of representatives from 10 NGOs with Daniel Stivens, doctoral candidate from London, to discuss the development of the Civil Society in Uzbekistan.

Internal Capacity Building

- Specialists of the Social Research Agency *ITA Fact* conducted a series of consultations for Kokand CSSC staff on the main aspects of conducting Marketing Research. It was the first experience for the staff of the Agency to transfer practical skills and theoretical knowledge in the field of research tool development and management. The Kokand partner organization conducted a marketing research survey among NGOs in order to assess their needs and CSSC's capacity to meet these needs.
- CSSC met in mid-July to revise the Strategic Plan, Action Plan and Activity Plan.
- In June the Center, with support from the Hub Office OD Coordinator, developed a fundraising strategy for the creation of a web site for the Center.
- In August the CSSC Coordinator worked with the Hub Office Resource Manager to learn more about identifying, approaching, and working with international organizations and donors.
- In August the Center's staff went on a planning retreat to revise the strategic plan.
- In mid-September the Center moved to new offices.
- In late September the Center held a staff meeting to discuss the results of the marketing research survey, revise the Strategic and Action Plans, and discuss organization's internal policies.

Community Outreach

In late August CSSC volunteers actively participated in the marketing research of NGOs, Initiative Groups and Makhalla Committees.

3. Nukus Civil Society Development Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

In July the CSSC Manager conducted a mini-training for NGO accountants on preparation and submission of financial reports for projects.

Internal Capacity Building

- In July additional information on donors and grant programs was found on the Internet, printed and added to the resource center library.
- In July the CSSC staff developed a Fundraising Plan.
- After participation in the INTRAC training, the Center developed a plan for providing group consultations.
- In August the new Center trainer developed the training module *Creation of web pages and web design* based on the requests from NGOs. A draft of the module was discussed at a trainers meeting held on August 9.
- In September the CSSC Manager participated in the training on Monitoring and Evaluation conducted in Tashkent by INTRAC.

Community Outreach

- The Local Grant Committee meeting was held in September. Members review five projects and recommended four for funding.
- The CSSC assisted in conducting the following PCAs exercises: 1) IG *Karshigaly* for the Aul Karshigaly of Karauzyakskiy rayon, which resulted in a CAP; and 2) CSSC (in the frames of Training on PCAP) for the Republic Hospital.

4. Bukhara Information and Cultural Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- In July the Center hosted a roundtable to discuss problems and difficulties for NGOs working the Navoyi Oblast. The Center analyzed the situation and developed a plan to address the constraints.
- On August 8 the Center organized an NGO Club where 18 NGO representatives were informed of different donor projects in Navoyi Oblast.
- In mid-August the Center met with NGOs in the Kashkadarya Oblast to identify problems and difficulties for operation as well as potential solutions to these problems.
- On August 9 the CSSC organized meetings of nine representatives of the Turmenistan NGO *Nargis* with Bukhara NGOs. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experience and to establish a partnership among NGOs of Bukhara and Chardjo. Likely areas of coordination are Crisis Centers, environmental awareness, health, and youth.
- In mid-September the Center organized a meeting for IREX with NGO representatives, teachers and students to discuss overseas research and study opportunities.
- July 15-19 the *Center* met with the Deputy Head of Bukhara Oblast Department of the Ministry of Justice. Now Initiative Groups applying to the Justice Department will get information on Resource Center and services available at the CSSC. In August, in cooperation with INTRAC, the CSSCs visited NGOs in Navoyi, Bukhara and Kashkadarya Oblasts to develop training services.

Internal Capacity Building

- As a result of training from INTRAC, the Center began providing group consultations for NGOs in July. These consultations resulted in greater information exchange.
- The Hub Office conducted OD Consultancy exercises in late July. As a result the Center revised its strategic plan and identified partner organizations in Navoyi and Kashkadarya Oblasts.
- In September the Center signed a contract with Eurasia Foundation for *Conduction of the Conference on Establishment of the Public Foundations*.

Community Outreach

The CSSC assisted in conducting PCAs exercises with the NGO *Friends of Bukhara Museum* for the villages Paykend, Shurobod, Kizilrabod which resulted in a CAP.

5. International Scientific Society *Al Khorezmi - Vambery, Urgench* (Partner)

Activity Overview

- In mid-July 16 five Turkmenistan NGOs visited Khorezm NGOs to exchange information and experiences and establish partnerships.
- On September 25 Center hosted the regular NGO Club meeting to discuss questions related to the design of a partner project for social help.

Internal Capacity Building

- On July 24 the CSSC staff met and identified ideas for the development of a Fundraising Plan.
- On July 24-25 the Center Coordinator conducted OD Consultancy with the NGOs *Women Center Marjon* and *Women Center Ikhlos*.
- From September 4-6 three contract trainers participated in the UN training Conflict Mitigation.

Community Outreach

The Local Grant Committee meeting was held on September 5. Committee members reviewed eight projects and recommended five for funding.

6. Samarkand Civil Initiative Support Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- On July 16 Richard Stoddard, Democracy Specialist, USAID Uzbekistan, visited the CSSC to learn about the activity of the Center, and specifically about the Makhalla and Community Outreach projects. The Center also organized a roundtable discussion with Samarkand NGOs.

- On July 26 the CSSC staff met with staff from the International Center of Management Training to identify areas of cooperation and to draft a memorandum on cooperation. Common interests were discussed as well as questions of competition concerning training program.
- On September 20 the Center hosted the regular NGO Club meeting. CSSC staff and trainers as well as representatives from 25 Samarkand Oblast NGOs participated in the meeting. New programs of international donors were presented. The working group organizing the NGO Fair gave an update. A survey of NGOs was conducted to assess their needs and update the NGO Database.

Internal Capacity Building

- On July 22 CSSC staff and a contract trainer met to revise the strategic and fundraising plans.
- In August the internal policy documents were revised, including the creation of rules for using Center documents, the revision of job descriptions, and the development of rules for internal employment, internal financial control, Budget Design Instructions and a vision statement on volunteers.
- The CSSC Manager left the Center to study abroad for four months. A temporary staff member was recruited from the CSSC volunteer pool.
- The CSSC Coordinator participated in the regional training on *Monitoring and Evaluation* conducted in Almaty by Eurasia Foundation.
- Community Habitat Finance (CHF), Counterpart's partner implementing the CAIP program, trained contract trainers of the Samarkand CSSC to train in topics relevant to CAIP.

Community Outreach

- The CSSC assisted in conducting the following PCAs exercises: 1) *IG Suyanch, Center Umid* and *Counterpart Network* for the Makhalla Nayman of Urgutskiy rayon, which resulted in a CAP; and 2) *Committee of Makhalla Khavasi* for the Makhalla Khavasi of Siabskiy rayon of Samarkand-city, which resulted in a CAP.
- *Ayol Center* and an initiative group of parents conducted a school rights advocacy campaign. This campaign was aimed at protesting the khokim's decision to relocate the school.
- The CSSC volunteers provided assistance in training logistics, providing technical support to NGOs, and organizing the NGO Club. With the help of volunteers the survey of business structures of Samarkand-city was conducted for the Kokand *Center of Informational and Social Marketing Researches*.
- During the quarter 11 volunteers provided services for NGOs:
 - 6 volunteers conducted a survey among business structures of Samarkand-city for the Center of Informational and Social Marketing Researches of Kokand-city
 - 2 volunteers translated a project into English for the Interregional Center *Umid*
 - 2 volunteers typed documents for the NGO *Doctors for Children*
 - 1 volunteer translated a document into Uzbek for NGO *Barchinoy*

7. Namangan Civil Society Support Center, (Partner)

Activity Overview

- In July the Center organized meetings of USAID representatives with local NGOs to discuss extremists trends in Fergana Valley.
- In late August the Center organized a meeting for the American company Land O' Lakes with seven NGO representatives to establish a partnership to implement the project *Supplying School Meals* in Namangan Oblast.
- The Namangan CSSC participated, as a member of the Fergana Valley NGO Network, in the preparation and implementation of the marketing research initiated by the Kokand CSSC.

Internal Capacity Building

On July 16 the Namangan CSSC was registered as a local NGO. Initially it was established as the *Namangan Oblast Association of Librarians*, but the mission of the CSSC differed from mission of the Association of Librarians. As such, an independent organization was created.

Community Outreach

- The Local Grant Committee meeting was held on August 23. Committee members reviewed seven projects and recommended three for funding.
- The CSSC assisted in conducting the following PCAs exercises: 1) *IG Ayol va Zamon* for the Makhallas *Navruz* and *Mingtepa* of Markhamat-city of Andijan Oblast, which resulted in a CAP; and 2) *IG Najod* for the Makhalla *Kurama* of the Andijanskiy Rayon.
- Regular monthly meetings of the Center's volunteers were conducted with the purpose of planning their activities and discussing their professional development. The team of CSSC volunteers increased by four persons, who underwent orientation. CSSC volunteers jointly developed Rules for Volunteers working in the CSSC and approved the Statement on Volunteers. The Center is also maintaining a Registration Journal of Volunteer Activity.
- CSSC volunteers actively participated in the marketing research conducted in the Fergana Valley in September.
- During the quarter four volunteers provided services to NGOs:
 - 2 volunteers typed documents for the NGO *Society of Consumer Rights protection*
 - 2 volunteers assisted the NGO *Oltin Meros* in designing a brochure
- While monitoring community project in *Panokh Shulasi* the Center noted the following organizations participated as social partners: the Andijan Oblast Department of National Education, which gave more money than originally planned; the kolkhozes *Shark Khakikati*, *Navruz* and *Babur*, which helped transport construction materials and provided meals for workers; the private business firm *Solijon Khoji*, which helped with the purchasing of construction materials; and the battery farm, which built the new toilet in the boarding school on its own initiative. As the result of successive implementation of this project, both state and business structures expressed their desire to work in close partnership to solve other social problems.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	Kokand	Nukus	Bukhara	Urgench	Tashkent	Samarkand	Namangan
Number of visitors	144	215	127	112	365	164	175
Number of new visitors	9	43	12	12	168	17	60
Number of visits	240	405	369	335	1380	380	320
Number of NGOs receiving services	62	85	68	95	221	97	69
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	43	104	25	16	144	12	34
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	0	7	0	0	11	4
Number of trainings	6	9	5	6	9	5	8
Number of consultations	29	128	142	120	123	368	53
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	165	115	168	47	1495	49	144
Number of times copy machine was used	121	146	174	63	553	82	184
Number of copies	1678	780	2438	640	7304	1029	2216
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	114	92	104	99	250	38	89
Number of PCAs conducted	0	2	1	0	1	2	2
Number of CAPs developed	0	1	1	0	2	2	1

E. Focus/Target NGO Activity Overview

KAZAKHSTAN (Focus NGOs)

1. Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK)

Activity Overview

- During the reported period, CNOK organized and conducted the following events:
 - A Eurasia Foundation seminar *Mechanisms of Social Partnership between NGO and State sectors* (July 16-17, Aqtobe);
 - The Public Foundation Agro-consulting Center seminar *Micro Credit: Challenges & Prospects* (August 2, Astana);
 - The joint ADB/UNICEF national seminar *Communicative Plan on Development of Micro-nutrition* (July 1-6, Astana); and
 - The Confederation of Independent Professional Unions international conference *Development of Labor Relations & Democratic Professional Unions in CIS* and seminar *Democratic Labor Market in Kazakhstan* (July 9-10).
- CNOK staff participated in the following activities:
 - The Kazakhstan Press Club roundtable *Out of Court Protection of Human Rights: Law & Practice* and seminar *Mass Media & Public Outreach*;
 - The Grand Opening of first Special Olympic Summer Games in Central Asia;
 - The Soros sponsored roundtable *NGO Role in Educational Policy in Kazakhstan*; and
 - The UN roundtable *Report on NGO Development in Kazakhstan*.
- Valentina Sivryukova, President of the Confederation, became the National Coordinator of the newly launched project *Strengthening National Dialogue between Government & Civil Society Organizations*. The project agreement was signed with Government of Kazakhstan, UNDP and the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord.
- CNOK continues working with Parliament to design a draft law *On State Social Insurance*.
- Ms. Sivryukova became a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Global Foundation to Prevent AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- CNOK participated in the Inter-Departmental Commission on Poverty Reduction under the Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the September 13 meeting, Ms. Sivryukova presented an alternative report on *Improvement of Evaluation System in Levels of Living Condition*.

Internal Capacity Building

- Dynamics of NGO Confederation of Kazakhstan is viewed to be one of the highest and most stable among all partners of Counterpart. So, for the reviewed period organizational dynamics reached 46.15% according to CNOK personnel and 33.33% according to Counterpart consultants. The average dynamics is rated at 39.74%, practically 20% in excess of projections.
- Counterpart consultants assisted the staff of organization to attract new members to CNOK. In addition, consulting was provided in order to work out a more efficient policy of interaction with members of organization. The organization has a well-shaped policy to attract new members and render services for the current members. For the reviewed period, membership was raised from 70 to 110 organizations.
- As a result of consulting and financial assistance, the organization was able to expand its membership base and strengthen its influence on the environment. CNOK is leading an active policy to lobby interests in some non-governmental organizations and non-profit sector in the central and regional authorities.
- As a result of fruitful cooperation between Counterpart consultants and the Confederation, the organization is developing on a sustainable basis and expanding its presence in various segments of the society. In the near future till February 2003 dynamics of organizational development is projected to reach 45%.

2. National Consumers League of Kazakhstan (NCLK)

Activity Overview

- During the reported period, 747 clients, including NGOs, consumers' organizations, state bodies and mass media were provided consultations. 496 people representing 137 organizations utilized the office equipment of the *League*.
- The *League* continued designing and adjusting normative legal documents. To realize a Law On Certification, the lawyers of the *League*, promoted awareness through the project *Food Products: Information for Consumers*.
- Due to the *League's* initiatives, six roundtables were conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Standardization & Certification. In all 146 representatives of business, state and public organizations participated in roundtable discussions.
- The *League* staff completed the design of a methodical textbook with circulation of 2000 copies for university teachers: *Practical & Theoretical Aspects in Consumers' Rights Protection*.
- 47 report programs covering consumers' rights issues were broadcast on *Khabar, Rakhat, 31, KTK, A-1 and Yuzhnaia Stolitsa*. A regular "Consumer Education" column was started in the journal *Otkrytaia Shkola*. The *League's* regular bulletin *News for Consumers* was distributed to 987 organizations with a total circulation of 6453 copies.
- The *League* staff designed rating parameters for tourist services and bottled water production. The testing process covered 60 tourist agencies and all companies producing bottled water.
- The *League* continued its cooperation with international organizations in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Belorussia, Romania and Poland to exchange expertise with other consumers rights groups.
- A new Society of Consumers' Rights Protection *Adilet* was established in Kordai of Zhambyl Oblast.
- The *League* staff participated in the following activities:
 - Summer Legal School *Isle – 2002* organized by International Confederation of Consumers' Societies (July 28-August 10, Moscow);
 - Conference *Quality of Drinking Water*, organized by OSCE (July 22-23);
 - Conference *Improvement of System of Tax Payers' Rights Protection*, organized by Tax Culture Foundation (August 22-24);
 - Conference *Eco Tourism & Kazakhstan*, organized by British Volunteers Service, Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation and Agro-consulting Center (September 2, Astana);
 - Seminar *Facilitation Skills/Personnel Management*, initiated by Counterpart (September 2-6, Almaty).

Internal Capacity Building

OD dynamics of NCLK in the period under analysis was 2.63% according to NGO staff and 16.13 according to Counterpart consultants. Such a low performance (a mere 9% overall) is not typical of the focus NGOs and is explained by obviously overrated first assessment of the actual level of OD by the NCLK staff. The significant difference in the OD dynamics is explained by a more critical approach of the consultants to assessment of the initial level of the organization's development: the NGO staff members assessed its level during the first assessment at 3.8 points, while the Counterpart consultants' first assessment was 3.1 points. To date, the NCLK has achieved a very high level of actual OD: in the staff's assessment it is 3.9 points, and in the Counterpart consultants' assessment it gained 3.6 points, which is the highest showing among all partners of Counterpart Kazakhstan. In general, the organization is developing quite dynamically and demonstrates stable growth. Today, it may be stated with all certainty that the organization has a strong market position and is successfully implementing a well-devised strategic plan. All this gives grounds to forecast that by February 2003 the NCLK OD dynamics will reach 12%.

3. Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (DARK)

Activity Overview

- DARK staff, led by Ms. Tukalevskaya, President of the Association, participated in the following:
 - Workshop of NGOs' representatives and the Head of the National Committee on Family & Women's Affairs to discuss participation of NGOs in social problem solving;
 - Roundtable *Army Nutrition in Kazakhstan*, initiated by Committee of Soldiers' Mothers in Aqmola Oblast;
 - Roundtable discussion on adjustment of the *Law On Social Protection of Invalids in Kazakhstan*, organized by public organizations of disabled people of Kazakhstan;
 - The fourth electoral conference of the Confederation of Independent Professional Unions of Kazakhstan;
 - Roundtable *Prevention of Diabetes* organized and conducted by DARK in the framework of grant program *Design of Methodical Textbook for Diabetes Prevention*, supported by Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation.
 - Roundtable *Accomplishments in Activity of Methodical Cabinet of Prophylaxis & Education of Diabetes Diseased Children*, conducted by DARK in the framework of the program granted by International Corporation "Schwarzkopf & Henkel Cosmetics".
- The Association initiated the participation of winners of the 2nd Kazakhstan Diabetic Sport Games in the 10th International Competition among Diabetics in Davos, Switzerland. As a result of DARK's efforts, the participation was sponsored by Ministry of Public Health of Kazakhstan, and supported by the companies Novo Nordisc, Eximphar, ExxonMobil, British Airways and Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation.
- The Association members took part in the following meetings:
 - Mr. Baikadamov, (Head of socio-political department of President Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan), Mr. Doskaliev (Minister of Public Health), Mr. Aidarkhanov (Deputy Minister of Public Health), Ms. Khamzina (Director of Department of medical science and education), Ms. Kabykenova (Senior Therapist of Ministry of Public Health) and other state officials to discuss the organization of the Eighth National Day of Diabetes and conference *Burden of Diabetes*;
 - Mr. Sultanov (Head of Committee of pharmaceutical & medical industry of Ministry of Public Health) to discuss the state purchase and distribution of anti-diabetic medicines;
 - Ms. Uteulina (Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Protection) to design a program of social protection for diabetics.
- By August 1, the Association completed its program *Creation of Methodical Cabinet of Prophylaxis & Education of Diabetes Diseased Children*, supported by International Corporation "Schwarzkopf & Henkel Cosmetics". In addition, pharmaceutical companies Novo Nordisc (Denmark), Eli Lilly (USA), Almaty Club Rotary, and the factory Almaty Klem provided the program with technical support. As a result, 160 people were educated and over 240 were provided thorough consultations in the program's diabetes school.

Internal Capacity Building

The dynamics of OD within DARK is the best amongst all partners of Counterpart in Kazakhstan. For the reviewed period OD dynamics reached 42.31% according to DARK personnel and 40.74% according to Counterpart consultants. As a result the organization has an average of 41.53%, which is more than 1.5 times more than the projected figures.

Counterpart consultants proposed to organize a special consulting program for DARK branches. The proposal was accepted and personnel of the head office of the Association, under consultation support, have developed a special OD program in the branches. As a result, during visits to the branches the head office personnel organized special training workshops and consulting. Regional visits were funded by Counterpart Kazakhstan. As a result of financial and consulting support from Counterpart, the organization was able to considerably improve the work with regional branches and DARK offices. Reporting and planning systems became more efficient and a program of OD was prepared for the branches.

As a result of fruitful cooperation between Counterpart consultants and DARK, a considerable reserve of organizational capacity was built and the organization obtained the new prospects of institutional development. In the near future the dynamics of DARK's OD may reach 45%.

4. Young Leaders Association (YLA)

Activity Overview

- On August 1, YLA launched the project *Program Design on Development of Students' Self-Management*, with financial support from UNICEF and partnership with the Youth Informational Service of Kazakhstan.
- From August 26-September 5, YLA's Coordinator participated in seminars on experience exchange in the framework of *School Self-Management program* in Kishinev (Moldova) and Moscow (Russia).
- In the framework of the UN educational model, the Association designed and published a book *United Nations Organization to School Children*. In addition, a number of meetings with representatives of UNICEF and UNDP were conducted to discuss organizational issues of a seminar on Model UN that will be organized for October 10-12.
- A partnership between the Astana branch of YLA and the Astana Modern School of Economics resulted in the organization of a summer camp from July 10-20.
- The Association assisted in organizing an International Youth Festival *Solnechny* at Lake Issyk-Kul from July 17-28. The festival sought to foster information and experience exchange, team building and cooperation among teens.
- In partnership with IFES' *Student Action Committees* program, YLA staff organized a summer camp for school students and teachers from August 3-14 in Ust-Kamenogorsk.
- Natal'ya Bakhmutova, YLA President, participated in the seminar *Civil Education in Kazakhstan* and addressed representatives of NGO, state educational institutes and school students.
- YLA regional branches conducted the following activities:
 - The Aqtobe branch collected clothes and books for old people's homes for the Day of Elders;
 - Conducting a meeting *Uneasy First Steps* (September 22) for senior school and university students of Qaraghandy, Shakhtinsk and Temirtau;
 - Roundtable *Self-Management* for 125 people in Aqtobe from September 20-22;
 - Presentation of the project UNICEF/YLA/YISK at the seminar on *Student Self-Management* from September 25-29 in Temirtau;
 - 27 Taraz schools participated in the Sunday meeting for presidents of schools on organization of self-management;
 - YLA facilitated the topic *NGO & NGO* during the roundtable *Educational NGOs in Kazakhstan*, initiated by Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation on September 25;
 - YLA carried out seminar on accounting, branch development, and planning and report design for Branch Directors from September 20-24;
 - 20 volunteers participated in the training YLA Information from September 28-30 in Aqtobe.

Internal Capacity Building

The Association has demonstrated vibrant OD dynamics in the period under analysis: 34.62% according to staff and 14.81% according to Counterpart consultants. The resulting average OD dynamics of 24.72% shows that it has actually achieved program goals. There was an abrupt fall in the organization's OD dynamics between the first and the second assessments reflecting a struggle for leadership in the organization due to the change of generations in its governance. Further, there were no job descriptions and very little work had been done with the branches. All this had had a strong destabilizing effect on the organization. Counterpart developed a special consulting program for the reorganization of AYL activities. Central to Counterpart support was the development of a strategic plan with the help of Dmitry Grigoryev, Marshak Foundation/Moscow. In addition, with financial support from Counterpart the organization managed to improve its work with regional representative offices and branches, to streamline a system of regular reporting and planning, and to design a program of branch development. As a result of such interventions, AYL improved the situation with the staff and stabilizes growth. The AYL's OD dynamics is expected to reach 35%.

KYRGYZSTAN (Focus NGOs)

1. Bishkek Center For Social Initiatives (BCSI), Bishkek

Activity Overview

- The Program *Convention Against Droughts* approved the project of *BCSI* to improve the irrigation infrastructure in the area of Ak-Bosogo. The sum of \$3,000 was awarded to build a drainage system with active involvement of 120 community members.
- During the quarter, the *BCSI* staff conducted consultations for 324 people residing in the districts *Kok-Jar, Ala-Too, Kasym, Ak-Bosogo, Kelechek, Ak-Tilek* and *Bakay-Ata*. An average 20 people per month use Internet and E-mail facilities of the office.
- The *BCSI* staff, together with the NGO *Bishkek Educational Fund*, conducted the roundtable “Forming tolerant behavior and preventing extremism in multicultural communities of internal migrants”. Schoolteachers, representatives of local governments, NGOs from Kazakhstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Estonia and Russia, attended the roundtable. The roundtable materials are being prepared for publication.

Internal Capacity Building

- *BCSI* staff obtained new experience in project planning, monitoring and evaluation participating in the training seminar through the Program *Convention Against Droughts*.
- *BCSI* was re-registered by the Ministry of Justice in order to respond to the changes in internal and external environment.
- *BCSI* has successfully transformed the Advisory Board into a Board of Directors, whose members are starting to actively participate in NGO activities.
- *BCSI* has intensified fundraising efforts with the following results: a local company provided office equipment; funds are coming in from sales of a reference book on legal issues; and the NGO submitted a project to conduct research among internal migrants to Soros Foundation.

2. Talas Oblast Farmers' Union (TOFU), Talas

Activity Overview

- *TOFU* provided consultations in issues such as business planning, agriculture techniques, legal issues and crediting to 435 farmers this quarter.
- Issue #8 of the information bulletin for farmers was published, and the information in the field centers has been updated on a monthly basis.
- *TOFU* became an implementing partner of the company *Eurasia Gmbh*, which is TACIS contractor assigned to establish and develop cooperatives in rural areas.
- *TOFU* conducted seminars on Land Law for 227 farmers in the villages of *Ken-Aral, Sadykan, Kyzyl-Octyabr, Bakay-Ata, Ak-Dobo, Min-Bulak*, and *Kyrgyzstan*.

Internal Capacity Building

- During the quarter, *TOFU* staff took part in the following training workshops: Advocacy (NDI), and TOT on Methology (Counterpart).
- The *TOFU* information centers, located in the villages of *Shadykan, Nurjanov*, and *Besh-Tash* were remodelled in order to provide better information services to farmers.
- *TOFU* has been successful in raising funds: TACIS granted \$6,000 for a project to provide legal services to farmers; and DFID allocated some funds to the *TOFU* information centers in the villages of *Kaindy* and *Karakol*.
- *TOFU* introduced a new paid service, producing video materials, to the roster of services it provides to farmers (copying, computer and consultations). This quarter video production generated 1,200 soms for *TOFU*.

3. Bayastan, Naryn

Activity Overview

- Starting in July, the NGO has paid special attention to monitoring children's rights in order to identify existing gaps. The NGO conducted three surveys: 1) Adults' perception of the problems of homeless children, 2) Children's rights on information, and 3) Readiness of the local society to accept disabled children into regular educational institutions.
- On September 19-20, together with experts from the Teacher Retraining Center, the NGO conducted a training seminar on Children's Rights for rural schoolteachers.
- With support from the *Agricultural Corporation* of Naryn Oblast, NGO members launched a new project to provide vocational training to disabled children. Currently, 10 children are being trained to produce soft toys from existing resources.

Internal Capacity Building

- The material basis of the Bayastan was significantly strengthened: the NGO moved to a new office with larger premises. They also purchased a TV set, video cassette recorder, and camera. The video equipment was supplied thorough funding from the Democracy Commission.
- The NGO made a decision to re-elect the Advisory Board, as some of its members do not have the time to fulfill their obligations to the organization. Two Board members will take part in the NGO Governance training to be held in Issyk-Kul in October.
- The Center for professional training of disabled children was opened and 10 disabled children are currently being trained.

4. Chintamani, Tash-Komur Town, Jalalabad Oblast

Activity Overview

- Issues #6-8 of the bulletin *Voice of the Nature* were published. The NGO staff met with other local NGOs to coordinate efforts to organize a roundtable on social partnership.
- The NGO conducted a one-day walking-tour for school children to introduce them to the waterfall Shing-Say. The children were presented with information about people working in natural reserves and activities aimed at protecting nature from the human activities.
- To ensure protection of environment, the NGO conducted spot-check investigations on water resources together with experts of the Sanitary Epidemiological Station and the NGO *Rassvet*. The findings and recommendations were sent to the local governments.
- The NGO conducted investigations on potable water sources in the village of Kyzyl-Jar. The findings were filmed and are being prepared for broadcast by the Oblast TV.

Internal Capacity Building

- The number of volunteers of the organization has increased from 25 to 35, and the new volunteers are involved in producing an environmental newsletter.
- The NGO staff started providing new services, such as training and coaching on project design, to other NGOs and CBOs.
- *Chintamani* submitted projects on an ecological library and creating a TV program on ecological issues to the Democracy Commission and Internews.
- The material basis of the *Chintamani* was significantly strengthened: the NGO purchased a new office with larger premises. They also purchased a TV set, video cassette recorder, and camera. The video equipment was supplied thorough funding from the ISAR.

TAJIKISTAN (Target NGOs)

1. NGO Saodat

This quarter Counterpart Tajikistan supported the NGO *Saodat's* project proposal entitled *Ume* with an NGO Support Grant. The goal of the project is to assist three communities of the Sughd Province to improve their economic situation through community mobilization activities. The NGO *Saodat* will assist the communities in identifying their priority problems and mobilizing community resources by raising income through agriculture and small business development projects.

2. The Development Fund

The *Development Fund*, together with the Khujand CSSC, conducted a joint monitoring and evaluation assessment in the villages of Tajikabad, Selkan, and Madaniyat. These communities received funding through Counterparts' Community Action Grant program. *Development Fund* assisted the communities in implementing the project. The target communities had all struggled with common water problems. The results of the monitoring demonstrated that the three communities had successfully solved their water problems by repairing the wells through community mobilization initiatives. The mobilized Initiative Groups formed during the project implementation phase later created Community Support Centers in each of the three communities. These centers are places where community members can continue to network and work together to solve problems.

3. Yosuman

Staff members from the NGO *Yosuman* participated in Counterpart's trainings on Facilitation Skills and Participatory Community Appraisals (PCA) and they now have the ability to work more effectively on community mobilization activities. They will use these new skills when working with three of their target communities. One of the communities, the village of Tashabuskor, received a Community Action Grant from Counterpart this quarter to repair a school. The staff from *Yosuman* assisted the community in developing their project proposal.

4. Yovar

This quarter Counterpart supported the NGO *Yovar* and its project proposal entitled *Mobilizing the Community of Rugund to Solve a Water Problem* through an NGO Support Grant. *Yovar* is planning to train the community members to identify, prioritize and solve their water problems by creating a Water Users Committee.

5. Medservice

The NGO *Medservice's* project proposal on creating a sewing workshop for women-members of the *Sharq* community of Dushanbe was not approved by Counterpart's Grant Review Committee due to the lack of a detailed business plan. However, the organization is looking for other sources of funding to assist 1,900 beneficiaries. Currently, the international organization Merlin has expressed interest in providing medicine supplies for *Medservice's* clients in the villages of *Sharq* and *Telman*.

6. Harmony of the World

This quarter the NGO *Harmony of the World* received an NGO Support Grant and it has started a project entitled *Solving the Problems of Children* in the District #62 of Dushanbe. The community, in cooperation with local government institutions, is implementing the project. Within the project they will create a Children's Educational Center at the Shahidi Musical College. Counterpart has also given District #62 a Community Action Grant to assist the community in improving their environment by laying a water canal to the district and planting additional trees in the area. The NGO *Harmony of the World* is also assisting the community with this project.

7. Nilufar

The NGO *Nilufar* received an NGO Support Grant from Counterpart for its project *Community Development*. The purpose of the project is to assist the communities of the *Varzob* District in solving their own problems by providing trainings and consultations on legal and economic issues. For this purpose the NGO *Nilufar* plans to create a *Community Resource Center* in *Varzob*.

8. Munis

During this quarter the NGO *Munis* received an NGO Support Grant from Counterpart Tajikistan and has started implementing a project called the *Citizen Initiative in the Karamkul Jamoat*. The purpose of the project is to assist two *Karamkul* communities in the District of Hissor in improving their living conditions. According to the project *Munis* will conduct Participatory Community Appraisals and assist the communities to develop proposals for Community Action Grants.

9. Madad

A member of the NGO *Madad* participated in the *Monitoring and Evaluation* training conducted by Counterpart in Dushanbe. They now are using the methodologies learned during the workshop in monitoring projects in their target communities. The leader of the organization has been invited by Academy for Educational Development (AED) to participate in the Regional Conference on *Advocacy and Humans Rights*, which will be held in Bishkek on November 18-21, 2002.

10. Vahdat

This quarter Counterpart supported the NGO *Vahdat's* proposal on *Entrepreneurship - Way to Wealth* with an NGO Support Grant. The goal of the project is to assist 30 vulnerable families living in the communities of *Barkhorog*, *Dasht*, and *Pitzrozh* of *Gorno-Badakhshan* Oblast in improving their economic situation.

11. Hamroz

The NGO *Hamroz* received an NGO Support Grant from Counterpart Tajikistan and has started implementing a project called Poverty Alleviation through the Development of Household Good Production. It is poverty alleviation project for the village of *Mehvar*, located in the *Bokhtar* District. The project aims to provide jobs for 20 vulnerable women by giving them business training. The NGO *Hamroz* also continues to implement a project on Violence Against Women, supported by Care International.

12. Women's Center Chashma

This quarter *Chashma* received an NGO Support Grant from Counterpart Tajikistan for its project entitled *Community Development Strategy*. *Chashma* will conduct PCAs with two communities located in the *Shahrtus* District. After the PCAs are completed they will assist the communities in developing CAPs.

13. The Women's Center Umed

This quarter Counterpart funded *Umed's* project proposal *Inter-Sector Collaboration Is a Key to Wealth* with an NGO Support Grant. The purpose of the project is to assist the communities of *Bodomtu* and *Sarichashma*, located in the District of *Kulob*, by identifying their problems through PCA activities. Community development workers from *Umed* will teach community members how to solve their own problems by mobilizing local recourses.

14. Anis

The NGO *Anis* received an NGO Support Grant to assist the village of *Nishorak* to rebuild a medical clinic in the community. The Hub Office conducted a monitoring and evaluation visit to the project, which revealed that *Anis* has fully accomplished the objectives of the project in accordance to the workplan. Now members of the community can receive medical services in their village.

15. Sudmand

Counterpart Tajikistan supported *Sudmand's* project proposal *Help Yourself* with an NGO Support Grant. The purpose of the project is to assist the communities of *Tudakavsh* and *Faizobod*, both located in the *Kulob* region, in solving their common problems. At the same time the project aims at building the mutual trust and respect between these two communities.

TURKMENISTAN (Target NGOs)

1. Commonwealth of Eco NGOs

Activity Overview

- Conducting the training "Bases of ecological journalism", for representatives of 12 eco NGOs.
- Organizing three roundtables with participation from all three sectors on the topics *You and your right on an environment* in Turkmenbashi city, *Public Awareness on problems of environment* in Serkhadabat city of Mary velayet, and *Ecological partnership in operation* in Dashoguz city.
- Publishing and distributing six newsletters to more than 60 NGOs.
- Preparing an exhibition of 27 children's ecological photos.

Internal Capacity Building

- The seven member NGOs were consulted in proposal writing.
- The National Commission on Development of Nature Protection and the Environment joined to the Commonwealth.

2. Junior Achievement Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs Center

Activity Overview

- Conducting "Junior Achievement" training in economic knowledge for schoolchildren.
- Conducting a number of seminars in framework of the PRAGMA program.
- Opening pilot classes of "Junior Achievement" in Ashgabat, Lebap, and Dashoguz .
- Organizing the forum on applied economy for 80 participants from local business, Junior Achievement of Kazakhstan, representatives of Union of the economists of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Education, and local NGOs.

Internal Capacity Building

- The head of the organization participated in a Regional Directors Meeting, where participants developed the new strategy of programming for the region.
- The representative of organization visited the Russian Eurasia Fund to discuss funding for the project "Revealing of needs on training the municipal employees".
- Meeting with representatives of the World Bank to discuss distance learning training on economic disciplines.
- Conducting a training of trainers for 15 trainers of the organization.

3. My Right

Activity Overview

- Organized the meeting "Bases of consumer knowledge" in the only Russian school in Ashgabat.
- Conducted a training on consumer rights for citizens in Mary, Turkmenbashi, Bezmeyin.
- Issued three newsletters in Turkmen and Russian.

Internal Capacity Building

- Successful development of the project "Basis of consumer knowledge" and publication of the normative-legal manual "Regulation of Domestic Trade".
- The head of the organization participated in a meeting with UNHCR representatives to discuss ways for cooperation in working with refugee communities.

4. Union of Pensioners Arma

Activity Overview

- On weekly basis *Arma* provided medical services to 50 pensioners.
- Conducted 18 seminars on provision of pensions in Ashgabat.
- Hosted weekly meetings of the club for members to gather and discuss common problems.

5. Shamchyrag Turkmen Association of Journalists on Social Partnership

Activity Overview

- This quarter *Shamchyrag* started the project *Knowledge - Force* to develop a Journalists network at the velayats level, which was funded by the Democracy Fund of US Embassy.
- Upon request from the American University in Kyrzystan, the Association prepped a report on the history of mass media in Turkmenistan as a case study to be used in courses at the University.
- The Association issued 500 copies of its monthly newsletter in Russian and Turkmen.

Internal Capacity Building

- The Association developed and submitted the project proposals *Journalism for NGOs* and *Economic knowledge for development of a democratic society*.
- One NGO member went to the US through the International Visitor Program.
- The members of NGO participated in the following Central Asian regional events - the seminar *The American standard of a writing of journalistic articles* and the forum *Participation of Mass Media in the prevention of corruption*.

6. Family Mercy and Health

Activity Overview

- In cooperation with the hakimlik the NGO organized a Summer Camp for 30 children from vulnerable families.
- The NGO conducted vocational training on sewing, dancing and computer skills for children from poor and vulnerable families.
- 30 newsletters and booklets were published for the reporting period.

7. Keyik Okara

Activity Overview

- The members of the organization prepared modules and handouts, in Turkmen, for refugees.
- The project *Construction of the water-purifying structure for drinking water* of the Babadurmaz initiative group was developed.
- Four mini-trainings were carried out in Babadurmaz, after which the members of the NGO conducted distributed humanitarian aid.

Internal Capacity Building

- The leader of the organization participated in a working group on emigration, migration and repatriation.
- The NGO conducted a TOT for its volunteers who will carry out trainings for refugees in Babadurmaz etrap.

8. Ecological School of Farmers

Activity Overview

- The NGO facilitated two roundtables for the Association of Farmer from Gyawers etrap. Participants discussed protection of agricultural plants from plights and the protection of animals from disease.
- Seven newsletters and 15 booklets on the protection of plants were developed and distributed among local farmers.

9. Social Adaptation Center Umyt in Turkmenbashi City, Balkan

Activity Overview

48 participants from NGOs and initiative groups took part in training on basic computer knowledge.

Internal Capacity Building

The project entitled *We Shall Save Up All Alive* was approved by the Regional Ecological Center.

10. Arzuw, Seydi City, Lebap

Activity Overview

- The NGO organized an excursion at the wildlife reserve for schoolboys from the second and fourth classes of all schools of Seydi city.
- The NGO conducted a competition among kindergardeners of pictures reflecting the theme "My Native land – Turkmenistan."
- The NGO hosted the sports event "National Games of Turkmenistan," members and volunteers of the NGO made the prizes for the event.
- The NGO organized an excursion to the shore for the top students from the first and third classes.

11. Medet, Turkmenabat City

Activity Overview

- *Medet* organized tourist trips to Ashgabat for 20 orphans and children from poor families.
- In August the NGO conducted a two-day conference and roundtable on the rights of children. Participants included representatives from children's shelters, the regional department of education, lawyers, parents, and refugees.
- With *Medet* support, English language classes were introduced in school No. 10 in Farap etrap.

Internal Capacity Building

Medet received a UNHCR grant UNHCR to conduct English language training for 30 refugees over a three-month period.

12. Amul, Turkmenabat City

Activity Overview

- The script for the film "The first step to a service to Homeland" was written and produced.
- *Amul* registered a new sports game entitled *Gawun* with the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.
- The NGO developed a script for a feature film entitled "Storm in the desert," which was submitted to the editorial board of Turkmen Film.
- Members participated in the photo competition "My Turkmenistan" organized by the Ministry of Protection of Nature in Turkmenistan.
- *Amul* developed the criteria and introduced the terms for an amateur film contest among schoolboys in Turkmenabat.

Internal Capacity Building

- In connection with the exhibition of schoolboys' art celebrating a number of national holidays, *Amul* raised 1,300,000 manats (\$200).
- This quarter *Amul* held its first ever session of the Executive Committee.

13. Trieria, Dashoguz city

Activity Overview

Trieria conducted two lectures on the subject Anemia for the patients of velayat hospital. They also published two newsletters and issued three booklets.

14. Uchgun, Turkmenbashi etrap, Dashoguz

Activity Overview

As a subcontractor of the UNICEF WATSAN project, *Uchgun* conducted two mini-trainings in the schools. In all this quarter they conducted 14 trainings on Maternal and Child Health topics.

Internal Capacity Building

Uchgun met with members of the community to decide on a new system of paying for the delivery of drinking water. Further, *Uchgun* developed a proposal to underwrite costs associated with the delivery of water to Turkmenbashi etrap's communities and submitted it to the British Embassy Fund.

UZBEKISTAN (Focus NGOs)

1. Center for the Support of Disabled Children and their Families *Umidvorlik*

Activity Overview

- The *Center* conducted a seminar on the Art of Facilitation for ten leaders of related NGOs.
- The *Center* conducted a roundtable at the studio *Bayram* to present its socially aware Short Film, which was praised by a UNICEF representative. The NGO also worked with UNICEF support to promote this film with local TV stations. In addition, the *Center* prepared a radio program about its activities.
- The NGO continued activities such as finding find shelters for children and their parents and providing regular juridical and psychological consultations for parents and NGOs. This quarter the *Center* introduced a new program for children – Development of Oration.

Internal Capacity Building

- For the quarter the representatives of Counterpart held consultations on organizational development to identify strengths and weaknesses of the *Center*. As a result, the Public Council of the *Center* was convened to revise the organization's strategic plan.
- A mini-seminar was conducted for volunteer-fundraisers of the organization.
- An agreement on cooperation was signed with UNO, whereby UN volunteers will conduct training seminars on computer skills for staff and volunteers at the *Center*. Additionally, one UN volunteer will provide technical maintenance on the *Center's* computers.
- Representatives of the *Center* participated in the seminar Social Marketing held by the Training Center *Bilim va Jamiyat*.

2. Association of Pediatricians of the Bukhara region *Avitsena*

Activity Overview

- An expert's evaluation of the NGO's projects was submitted to the State Committee for Science and Technology.
- The NGO participated in a draft review of the photography book About Uzbekistan Women and made recommendations for improving the draft.
- *Avitsena* provided consultations on how to organize pediatric service in the oblast.
- The NGO prepared the textbook Interactive methods of education in Uzbek.
- The *Association* conducted training seminars for members of medical NGOs to evaluate health problems and to design a joint project with the Bukhara CSSC, which resulted in the submission of seven project proposals for funding.
- The NGO conducted seminars for citizens in the Bukhara and Navoi oblasts under the project "No Mama Cancer" with the support of OSI Uzbekistan.
- *Avitsena*, jointly with Project Hope/USAID, arranged for 18 teachers from the Bukhara State Medical Institute to be trained in "Integrated Treatment of Children Diseases."

Internal Capacity Building

- Members of the *Association* participated in the following activities: the International Conference *Credit alliances, reality, ways of solutions*; the international meeting on public health strategies (Salzburg seminars); the International Conference of the World Health Organization and UNICEF on *Integrated conducting of children diseases in Almaty*; and the International Conference *Avitsena Readings* in Bukhara (organized by Ibn Sino Foundation, OSI SF Uzbekistan);
- *Avitsena* organized the following events: a one week training for 12 members of the Pediatricians Association at the Internet Center; a seminar on fundrasing for the *Association* branches; and a meeting on organizational development.
- Further the NGO worked on repairing its office space.

3. Interregional Rehabilitation Center *Umid* (IRC)

Activity Overview

- The workers of the *Center* had an appointment with a correspondent from the English newspaper *Times* who asked about the work of the *Center*.
- *Umid* staff met with the Islamic issues expert from the American Embassy.
- Winrock International conducted a training seminar for disabled women of the *Center*.
- *Umid* organized a scientific conference in Karshi focused on the impact of national traditions.
- *Umid* conducted the seminar Ways of Prophylaxy in Infection and Venereal Diseases.
- The *Center's* staff participated in a TV-show devoted to developing civil society in Uzbekistan.

Internal Capacity Building

- The NGO participated in a seminar on how to create a credit union.
- The Karshi branch of *Umid* was awarded the IREX grant Internet Access and Training Program.
- This quarter the *Center* worked on improving its Karshi resource center.

4. Fergana Oblast Center for the Social-Legal Support of Women and Teenagers *Ishonch*

Activity Overview

- *Ishonch*, jointly with the juridical firm *Khimoya kalkoni*, published 500 copies of the bulletins “Questions of state registration for subjects of business activity,” “Tax exemptions for subjects of business,” and “Juridical questions of crediting for subjects of small and middle business.”
- Winrock International conducted a TOT in Authorized Education for leaders and psychologists from Focus NGOs at the *Center*
- *Ishonch* developed the brochure “Your body” – “Paykari tu” in Tajik.
- The project “Overcoming stereotypes provoking home violence through mass media” was prepared for the Global Foundation for Women.
- The seminars “Reproductive health and reproductive rights” and “Women’s rights-human rights” were conducted in the Sokh rayon.
- The *Center* continues to manage a private hotline and a juridical library.

Internal Capacity Building

- This quarter, the *Center's* web site was launched and can be accessed at <http://ishonch.freenet.uz>.
- The previous OD plan was reviewed and amendments and additions were made, with roles and responsibilities assigned for each task. Technical specialists working at the *Center* developed their individual plans to correspond to the goals of the organization.
- The *Center* analyzed its technical needs and staffing gaps that can be addressed by volunteers. As a result, the *Center* is recruiting for two technical workers, two volunteer-psychologists and one lawyer. The workers of the *Center's* Resource Center will house and manage the above-mentioned volunteer positions.
- *Ishonch* updated its internal documentation system to correspond to OD goals and designed a promotional poster reflecting the vision of the organization.
- *Ishonch* staff participated in the following activities: the INTRAC training Reporting to Donors; the OSCE training Monitoring Human Rights; and the NOVIB conference on gender questions.

5. Kokand Branch of the *Businesswomen Association (BWA)*

Activity Overview

- The *BWA* coordinated with the TV studio *Mukolot* to develop a talk show to discuss the “Bill on Charity.” They also organized a number of roundtable discussions throughout the oblast on the same topic.
- The *BWA* conducted a Forum and a number of roundtable discussions throughout the oblast on the topic “Law about charity activity.”
- *BWA* worked with the international organization ADRA to distribute humanitarian aid to 16 organizations in Kokand.
- Plenary sessions of the Committee of Kokand Women were held to discuss crime and education.
- *BWA* conducted the seminars “On the Way to Non-violence” and “Reconciling Differences” for citizens in the Uzbekistan rayon.

Internal Capacity Building

- *BWA* staff participated in the following activities this quarter: the INTRAC seminar *Practical ways of work with organizational problems of NGOs*; the Center of Marketing Studies seminar *Creating Social Short Films* at the TV studio *Mulokot* with funding from the Eurasia Foundation; the UNICEF training seminar for youth *Development of Children Participation*; and the INTRAC seminar *On the Way to Sustainability*.
- Counterpart consultants conducted OD review of the *Association*, which resulted in the development of a new strategic plan for the organization.
- The *BWA* conducted the seminars “Practical ways of work with organizational problems of NGOs,” “Strategic management,” and “Time-management” for members.

F. Coordination and Cooperation

KAZAKHSTAN

- The issue of grant administration was covered at the staff meetings of Local Grant Committee. The orientation program for potential LGC members was discussed and compiled, and the plan for conducting the regional committees was scheduled for the Support Centers. In coordination with CSSC, LGCs were formed in coordination with CSSCs staff.
- On July 31, M&E group members Dana Amanova, Galina Janabaeva and Nurlan Zhumabekov met employees of *Kazakhstan's Association of Business Incubators* to conduct an interview and collect data for the Eurasia Foundation M&E program, initiated by the Eurasia Foundation.
- The Zhalgas Program Coordinator met with Kulyash Bolotbaeva the UNDP National Coordinator on Organizational Development to discuss UNDP's monitoring & evaluation process.
- After meeting with representatives from ICMA the Center signed an agreement to conduct an M&E seminar for ICMA's staff.
- Alibi Jangildin, Zhalgas Director, Askhat BeKazakhstanhanov, M&E Program and Reporting System Manager and Nurlan Sakhanov, OD Program Coordinator met with Angelica Shamerina, CI Program Manager for Ecology & Natural Resources to discuss ecotourism project design. Similar meetings were held with program staff from Counterpart Kyrgyzstan.
- From September 24-27, Jamila Asanova, Senior Program Officer, participated in the Conference *Economic Development in Kostanai*, initiated by Business Development Foundation of Kostanai with financial support of *the Program for Small Grants* of The World Bank. The conference was aimed at public awareness of economic opportunities in the region and local community of activity of international organizations. Participants included officials from the Kostanai Akimat, representatives of local banks, business structures, NGOs and international organizations (USAID, DFID, World Bank, International Finance Corporation and others). After the conference, Ms. Asanova conducted the seminar *Assessment as a Tool in Projects' Effectiveness*.
- In the framework of the Quarterly CSSC meeting the following presentations took place:
 - *Volunteerism* in Volunteers Support Centers for Business Development by Peace Corps
 - Presentation and distribution of the periodic journals *Spectr Razvitiia* (3rd issue) and *OrganiZAtsia* (9th issue) by IDC.
- On the 13th of September, Marat Aitmagambetov, Country Director, Jamila Asanova, Senior Program Officer and Ulzhan Kanzhigalina, Regional Training Coordinator met with Wolfgang Shur from The East-West Institute for Social Management to discuss an experience of training agencies and NGO development in Kazakhstan.
- On September 18, the Program staff discussed the Log Frame for M&E of the Community Development Program that was designed by the Regional office. Raushan Amanzhanova, Regional CO Program Coordinator assisted the staff in the Log Frame design.
- In late September, the Country office worked on organizational issues to participate in yearly USAID meeting *Sustainability Index for Kazakhstan' NGOs in 2002*.

KYRGYZSTAN

- Country Director E. Kasybekov took part in the passport handlings to refugees together with James Lynch in Kok-Jar village on August 1, 2002.
- E. Kasybekov took part at reception in US Embassy on Independence Day.
- E. Kasybekov and other senior Counterpart staff regularly participate in ODT meetings organized by USAID/Kyrgyzstan
- E. Kasybekov was invited to the meeting of USAID contractors organized by the DCM at the US Embassy on September 4 to discuss the current situation in Kyrgyzstan related to Aksy events.
- E. Kasybekov was invited to US Embassy on September 11 to attend a memorial service for the anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

- The EU project #99/0439, aimed at strengthening the ability of local communities to advocate on behalf of their citizenry and ensuring their participation in decision-making process, is progressing at a satisfactory rate. To meet interests of the communities, the Hub Office designed a new training module in “Business planning and Marketing” oriented for community residents. Expertise on the training is currently being delivered to CSSCs. The representatives of target communities of Osh, Batken, Karakol, Talas and Kerben CSSCs acquired skill and knowledge in starting income-generating activities, designing business plans and calculating cash flows. The newly acquired skills were used in designing projects with income-generating activities and establishing a community fund. Having gained knowledge in business planning, community representatives prepared and submitted 20 project proposals to develop economic activities and open lines of micro-credit in the communities. All those projects aimed at development of the efficient revolving mechanism for running a community foundation.
- The UNHCR project 02/AB/KGZ/LS/470, aimed at providing support to refugee organizations, is being executed in line with the project timeline. After a series of meetings with the refugee leaders, a plan for the next round of the medical campaign, aimed at obtaining medical certificates mandatory for citizenship caseloads, was drafted and sent for UNHCR’s consideration, as it requires additional funding. To date the database contained records for 3,820 adult refugees and 3,132 children. More than 800 refugees have been granted Kyrgyz citizenship and 386 refugees of category #2 have received certificates verifying they don’t have Tajik citizenship.
- The Health program is progressing in line with the implementation plan. All the health NGOs have revised their strategic plans. The NGO *Geneco* attracted 50 new members. The NGO *Tsirina* designed two projects and submitted them to the SFK. The *Hospital Association* revised its organizational structure, job descriptions, and operating policies. Five staff members and two members of the Governing Board from the *Family Group Practitioners* were invited to Finland to participate in an exchange program. The NGO *Sanitas* recruited ten new volunteers. The Kyrgyz Club of Hypertonics conducted market research to identify patients who can pay for consultations.
 - In July, Counterpart *Sheriktesh* together with Counterpart Deutschland developed and submitted a project to the EC to reverse the current trend in the deterioration of inter-ethnic relations and increasing intolerance to foreigners, particularly refugees. Counterpart seeks to strengthen the internal capacities and skills of civil society institutions and local NGOs dealing with inter-ethnic and xenophobia issues.
- On August 30, the Senior Program Officer A. Nusupov participated in a meeting of donors supporting grassroots efforts. Participants decided to have regular meetings to discuss problems of common concern in hopes that the meetings might evolve into an advocacy forum for solve cross-cutting issues. Participants agreed to send information about their projects to Counterpart and to update information about donors with "on-the-ground" presence, which may help refugee NGOs participate in other.

TAJIKISTAN

- Counterpart continued conducting monthly Donor Organization meetings during this quarter.
- The Country Director, Randall Olson, took part in food security meetings and was in communication with Thoric Cederstrom on developing a Counterpart Food Security Program for Tajikistan. He with CARE, Save the Children/US, and Mercy Corps to discuss a joint program.
- The Country Director met with Meryem Aslan, Program Officer for Central Asia, Novib-Oxfam Netherlands. Discussed the general status of civil society in Tajikistan and the possibility of her working with *Fidokor* in Kurghan Teppa.
- The Country Director met with Henrietta Miers, World Bank Social Development Consultant. They are planning to conduct PCA activities in schools in the fall and wanted to inquire about individuals and local NGOs that have been trained in PCA Methodologies.
- The Country Director and the Regional Director met with Abdurahim Muhidov the USAID Tajikistan, Program Manager to discuss staff changes and a grant issue problem.
- The Country Director, Randall Olson, had a several meetings with Shamsiddin Karimov, the Director of AED Tajikistan, to discuss the Social Partnership follow-up activities.

- The Senior Country Advisor, Randall Olson and Country Director Dilorom Atabaeva met with Fekare Bebrekal, Program Manger at the UNDP Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development Program and talked about a potential partnership with them on the CAIP project. He would like to use Counterpart to provide trainings to local NGOs in PCA and CAP activities as well as to provide monitoring and evaluation of their community projects.
- The Senior Country Advisor together with the Senior Program Coordinator, met with Erik Caldwell Johnson, World Bank Institute to discuss a potential *Capacity Building Network for Community Empowerment* grant for Tajikistan. The Senior Program Coordinator put together a draft proposal and forwarded it to the Regional Office and to the World Bank.
- The Senior Country Advisor met with Paul Handley, a consultant with UNESCO, concerning their intention to partner with various youth NGOs and possible areas of cooperation.
- The Senior Country Advisor met with Courtney Barnett, Regional Director for Abt Associates and Edward Harris, Country Director for ZdravPlus to discuss the cooperative health grant proposal for Tajikistan.
- The Senior Country Advisor met with Kiomiddin Davlatov, the leader of NGO *Razvitie* and David Marsden, World Bank Consultant for INTRAC to discuss the program of trainings they plan to begin in Tajikistan.
- The Senior Country Advisor met with Michael Harvey, USAID Representative for Tajikistan, and discussed the HQ Counterpart proposal to conduct a needs assessment of employment and micro-enterprise opportunities for poor and single women with children in Tajikistan. The USAID Representative said that he would respond to the proposal by writing directly to Karen Sherman, Executive Vice President.

TURKMENISTAN

- Staff met with UNICEF representative Bahar Shikhkulieva to discuss possible ways for cooperation within the UNICEF program *Comprehensive Development of Children*.
- In August, Counterpart met with UNPD representatives from Albania and Bratislava to discuss a project idea to develop women small entrepreneurs using PCA methodologies.
- In July the Acting Country Director Yazgylych Charyev presented MCHI project activities at the USAID conference *10 years of Health System Transition in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia* in Washington, US.
- Rustam Hojaev, Counterpart's Health Coordinator participated in a two-day seminar about family and children's rights in Turkmenistan hosted by the Institute of Democracy and Human Rights in Dashoguz July 25-26.
- The regular Donor Sub-Group Meeting on Health took place at the UN Conference Hall on August 30. MCHI team members Manager Mered Annamuhamedov and Coordinator Nafisa Yuldasheva represented Counterpart.
- WatSan V staff participated in a special technical seminar conducted by UNICEF consultant Mr. Ken Gibbs on August 22 and a presentation of the WatSan Project Assessment on August 24.
- Yazgylych Charyev, Acting Country Director and Mered Annamuhamedov, Health program manager participated in UNICEF presentation of CT WatSan projects Assessment done by British consultant in September 2002.
- On September 17 the health coordinator Nafisa Yuldasheva participated in the Mid-Term review of UNFPA's programs in Turkmenistan.

UZBEKISTAN

- During the quarter the Hub Office developed a proposal on Hygiene Education and Sanitation for UNICEF to be implemented in Nukus and Urgench. Orientation on project activities was provided for the Nukus and Urgench CSSCs. Activities include broad involvement of volunteers and community mobilization.
- Counterpart and the CSSCs signed a partnership agreement with the Training Center *Bilim va Jamiyat* under the Eurasia Foundation project to design a module and conduct TOTs on Social Marketing for NGOs. Ten trainings have been planned for different cities in Uzbekistan for contract trainers, resource centers staff and NGO leaders. Counterpart and the CSSCs will provide logistical and financial support for the organization of the seminars. In September three trainings were conducted in Tashkent, Samarkand and Nukus.
- Under the CAIP project, implemented in partnership with Community Habitat Finance, Counterpart provided the following training-related support:
 - Consultations and help in selection of Counterpart's contract trainers for adoption and design of two Modules for the community
 - Conducting the subsequent TOT.
 - Selection of trainers to conduct trainings. 14 trainers have been selected, ten of which are Counterpart contract trainers from four CSSCs (Samarkand, Bukhara, Kokand and Tashkent).
 - Consultations and assistance in solving logistical matters.

G. Leveraging

KAZAKHSTAN

\$19,962.70 was generated from the following sources for the Hub Office:

- \$611.40 for logistical support to organize trainings in Atyrau for the World Bank (through Counterpart International)
- \$234.63 for travel fees for a trainer from the Kazakhstan Association of Family Physicians
- \$19,116.67 for program and administration of the UM/CDC Hepatitis project for the quarter

Counterpart Zhalgas generated \$8,563.00 from the following activities:

- \$5,000 from the Kazakhstan office of the World Bank for the project Establishment of Special Info Educational Web Portal for NGOs
- \$3,263 to conduct trainings for ISAR-Atyrau in the West Kazakhstan
- 307,814 KazakhstanT to conduct a TOT (September 9 – 13)
- 201,216 KazakhstanT to conduct PCA exercises (September 23 – 25)
- \$300 to conduct trainings for target NGOs of UNDP in the Aral region

TURKMENISTAN

- \$589 from WINROCK International for PCA training in Mary velayat
- \$215 from WINROCK International for Team Building/Conflict Resolution training in Mary velayat
- \$2,949.88 from the World Bank (through Counterpart International) for Ecological Project Design training in Ashgabat
- \$1,039 from the World Bank (through Counterpart International) for V. Kosarev's participation in a TOT on Ecological Project Design in Baku, Azerbaijan
- \$1,695.05 from UNHCR (through Counterpart International) for Pavel Kharitonov to participate in the Meeting of the CIS NGO Working Groups in Geneva
- \$5,980 and 350000 manats (\$16.27) from the Democracy Fund of the US Embassy for the Lebap Volunteer Center *Bridge*
- \$19,581 from the *Field Stocks* Fund for Sona Chuli-kuli (Association of Journalists), Gulistan Yazkulieva (University Women Resource Center) to participate in the seminar "Experience study of drugs prophylaxis in the USA"
- \$3,100.97 from local governmental organizations and NGOs for Initiative Groups from the Ahal velayat to supplement Community Action Grant projects.
- \$3,951 from local governmental organizations and State Enterprises for Economic Society *Sarygamysh*, Joint Community of Akdepe etrap of Dashoguz velayat to supplement project implementation of Community Action Grants
- \$74 from the Education Department of Atamurad etrap of Lebap velayat for the Steering Committee of Etbash community to support project implementation of Community Action Grants

UZBEKISTAN

Starting in June, Counterpart will get \$620 from Community Habitat Finance for support implementing CAIP.

H. Lessons Learned

KAZAKHSTAN

- OD assessments in Qaraghandy's *ECOCENTER* revealed that many elements of the CO program are not reflected in regular monthly reports. This shortcoming hindered objective analysis of the organization's activity. To address this, *ECOCENTER* was provided with thorough consultations on report design.
- Participants of the quarterly meeting pointed out insufficient work in organizations on advocacy campaigns as a result of public apathy and government pressure in the regions, particularly in Aqtobe. To address this, the Support Centers concentrated on conducting trainings in Advocacy. Further, the Astana CSSC formed focus groups to facilitate advocacy campaigns. Counterpart recommended activating the Centers to perform a number of follow-ups.
- Information is one of the key issues in sustainable development of the third sector. Partner NGOs, international organizations and state bodies lack comprehensive information about NGOs and donors, including news and analytical data. *ZHALGAS*, as a Counterpart CSSC network member, designed a project to create the Web Portal (<http://www.ngo.kz>).

TURKMENISTAN

During the last Quarter Counterpart Turkmenistan made several attempts to get an independent Internet connection. The Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan was open to provide permission, but cited that all International Organizations should get approval for Internet access from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs claimed that Turkmen Telecom, the only Internet provider in Turkmenistan has the capacity to provide the necessary speed for Internet connection. Turkmen Telecom acknowledged unofficially that they do not have the capacity to provide the qualified Internet connections to Counterpart. In spite of several requests the MFA continues to ignore Counterpart. To resolve the issue, Counterpart will get access directly, which does not require the permission of local authorities.

UZBEKISTAN

- Theory and practice go a long way to helping program staff better understand and advance program implementation. This was evident at the Coordinators meeting in Samarkand and Tashkent, where participants were able to practice PCAP exercises and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Staff meetings to discuss program implementation are more productive when they are limited to participation by the Program Coordinators, rather than including Managers.
- At the beginning of July planning processes were refined. Now all Hub Office staff are involved in planning. The end result is that staff are more aware of all deadlines, not just the one for which they are directly responsible, leading to more realistic deadlines and better time management.

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

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart/ICNL Consortium is to:

Assist in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO sector.

The purpose of ICNL is to:

Develop a legislative environment that is supportive of the long-term growth of the NGO sector in Central Asian countries.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

KAZAKHSTAN

Free Assistance Provided to Twenty-four Local NGOs and International Organizations

Vsevolod Ovcharenko, ICNL's Legal Consultant in Kazakhstan, aided 24 local NGOs and international organizations in resolving legal questions and issues. In all, ICNL engaged in 36 consultations to these organizations on issues ranging from registration and taxation to dissolution and licensing. Consultations were provided to such organizations and institutions as the Embassy of Canada, USAID, Arizona-Kazakhstan Partnership, NDI, International Red Cross/Red Crescent Society, Counterpart International, Junior Achievement, Zdrav Plus, and local NGOs Zhalgas, ASTRA, and the Kostanai Association of NGOs. Follow-on projects based on these consultations are to include workshops on common questions of NGOs and single page fact sheets for NGOs.

Regular Communication and Cooperation with Government and Parliament

In September, ICNL hired a new part-time representative in Astana, Sluzhan Ismailova, to serve as a liaison with the Government and Parliament, Ms. Ismailova regularly meets and makes contact with government officials and deputies, strengthening ICNL's knowledge base and promoting ICNL's ability to provide technical assistance to governmental and parliamentary bodies on issues such as: state social procurement, state youth policy, tax incentives for charitable donations, and micro-crediting. ICNL's representative obtains and disseminates the parliamentary agenda each Monday. On Wednesdays, ICNL obtains and disseminates the schedule for the plenary session. This information is provided to the public, and to USAID grantees such as Counterpart International and NDI, in an effort to increase awareness of these parliamentary proceedings and promote transparency.

KYRGYZSTAN

Parliamentary Committee Applies to the Government to Recall Resolution No. 315

On September 10 the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh conducted an enlarged session to discuss Government Resolution 315 dated May 17. This resolution represents yet another attempt by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to impose state controls on the activity of NGOs. Like the last summer's Resolution 358, which was revoked after ICNL prepared a thorough commentary and NGOs raised a strong campaign in opposition, Resolution 315 seeks to amend the laws on Non-commercial Organizations and on State Registration of Legal Entities. The resolution provides new oversight powers to the registering body over the activity of non-commercial organizations, and imposes fines those that aren't registered. It also seeks to amend the law On Political Parties and requires reregistration of political parties. ICNL provided substantial technical assistance to the NGO community and parliamentarians and prepared a detailed analysis of the draft resolution. ICNL's local partner in Kyrgyzstan, held numerous meetings with members of Parliament, local NGOs, and USAID and its grantees, pointing out the inconsistencies with international law and good practices concerning the freedom of association and the ramifications of the Resolution's approval. After considering the matter, the Committee decided to apply to the Government with a request to recall Resolution 315.

TAJIKISTAN

Improved Draft Law “On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan” Submitted

The draft law “On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan” was reviewed and discussed by the deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli (Parliament). The advice and commentary provided by ICNL’s local legal consultant helped NGOs, commercial structures, as well as interested government organizations, effectively address their concerns regarding the registration of legal entities and the law’s contradictions with domestic and international law. During 2002 ICNL reviewed and provided commentary on numerous draft versions of the law, and ICNL organized seminars and several roundtables to discuss the evolving drafts. Although there was initially strong resistance from conservative officials at the Ministry of Justice who introduced several restrictive provisions, including yearly re-registration with a state fee payment, technical assistance by ICNL and hard work by the NGO community resulted in the removal of the restrictive provisions and the reintroduction of provisions favorable to the development of legal entities in Tajikistan. Also, ICNL worked closely with the drafters to ensure that the suggestions and amendments were taken into consideration. The draft law establishes a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and noncommercial legal entities and makes registration of legal entities comparable to that of other CIS and CEE states. The draft law is expected to pass the first reading of Parliament in October.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

REGIONAL

Development of Corporate Philanthropy Initiative

In August, the regional office of ICNL developed and submitted a “Corporate Philanthropy” proposal for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. At the end of September ICNL received word that USAID had funded the project. During the month of September, ICNL began taking steps to implement this project by meeting with and coming to agreement regarding cooperation with Counterpart’s CSSCs in Bishkek and Almaty, the American Chamber of Commerce in Kazakhstan, and the US Chamber of Commerce’s Center for Corporate Citizenship in Washington, DC.

Cross Border Training Builds Local Capacity for Health Service Providers

ICNL and Counterpart International facilitated the exchange of information among NGOs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan on issues relevant to social service NGOs engaged in the provision of health services. ICNL’s representatives in all three countries prepared detailed information on issues of ICNL’s from all three countries on issues related to medical licensing, fee-for-service, humanitarian assistance, state purchasing and procurement, and special benefits for health service NGOs. In Almaty, ICNL’s Legal Consultant in Kazakhstan led a training session for NGOs based on this information. As a result, these health service NGOs have been able to engage in extensive programmatic planning and are now better able to function within the legal environment of their respective countries. Each NGO was given the contact information of the ICNL representative closest to them for further consultation.

ICNL Legal Consultant for Tajikistan Speaks in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

On July, 3 ICNL partner Muatar Khaidarova made a presentation about Tajikistan’s experience with NGO development and NGO-government social partnerships at the “Social Partnership Conference: Mechanisms of Cooperation, Experience and Perspectives” that was organized in Tashkent by ICNL and other major international organizations. (For more information about that conference, please see the Uzbekistan portion of the quarterly report). Muatar Khaidarova’s presentation was well received and participants stressed the need for additional exchanges between Central Asian, NIS, and non-NIS NGOs, and for better access to information about social partnership.

OSCE Roundtable “The System of Registration of Foreign Citizens in Central Asia, Russia”

On July 11-12, ICNL Legal Consultant in Tajikistan, Muatar Khaidarova, made a presentation on the role of NGOs in the protection of foreign citizens at the OSCE roundtable “The System of Registration of Foreign Citizens in Central Asia, Russia” at Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan.

ICNL Legal Consultants Contribute Articles to SEAL (a journal)

ICNL Legal Consultants in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan were solicited to provide an article containing analysis of the legal environment for NGOs in their countries. These articles described the general legal-fiscal framework for third sector activity -- touching upon key areas like registration, taxation/tax benefits, treatment of foreign grants, economic activities, NGO-government cooperation.

NOTE: Throughout the world ICNL continues to be the leading source for information related to legal issues encountered by NGOs, evidenced by requests for ICNL representatives to lead discussions at regional and international conferences. In the third quarter of 2002, ICNL-Central Asia Region sent representatives to conferences as far away as Warsaw, Moscow, and Istanbul and as close as Almaty, Tashkent, and Issyk-kul.

KAZAKHSTAN

Tax Code Implementation: questions and concerns examined

Through consultations to local NGOs and international organizations and agencies, ICNL’s Legal Consultant in Kazakhstan examined questions and concerns related to the implementation of the new Tax Code. ICNL shared these questions with the Ministry of State Revenue (in August reorganized as the Tax Committee of the Ministry of Finance). Through its contacts with local NGOs and local government, this information was widely spread, including to associations of businesses. Questions specifically addressed included taxation of charitable activities and corporate giving [Art. 122 of the Tax Code].

Local CAID Experts Write Analytical Report on State Social Support for NGOs

Technical assistance was provided to local experts organized by CAID to work on an analytical report. The analytical report discussed social procurement in the context of international practice and current practice in Kazakhstan. This report is being used by CAID to educate government officials, parliamentarians, and NGOs on the salient issues involved in developing social procurement legislation. ICNL provided extensive revisions and edits to this report, and authored a summary chapter on international best-practices. ICNL will publish a more complete independent report on international best practices for the upcoming AED funded seminar “Legal Aspects and International Experience of Social Procurement.” This seminar is co-organized by CAID, KNOK, IRIS, and the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Harmony.

Working Groups Develop Draft Law ‘On Social Procurement’

ICNL provides ongoing technical assistance to CAID and KNOK in their efforts to produce a draft law On State Social Procurement. To date, both CAID and KNOK have developed separate drafts of the law. CAID produced its draft using local experts in Almaty while KNOK developed its draft in Astana in consultation with select ministries. ICNL has gained the agreement of both organizations to work together to develop a joint draft law.

Commentary on Draft Program on State Support of NGOs in Kazakhstan Provided at the Request of Ministry of Culture, Information, and Public Harmony (MinKIOS)

ICNL continues to provide technical assistance to government and parliament. ICNL contacted MinKIOS to receive an update on the status of the draft program and Gaziz Telebaev, Director of the Department for Internal Policy, agreed and encouraged ICNL to prepare and submit comments to it. The comments submitted in August by ICNL will be discussed within government during the course of revision of the program.

Monitoring Draft Law on State Youth Policy

ICNL continues to monitor the development of the draft law on state youth policy. Although the adoption of this law has been strongly supported by the Government of Kazakhstan, the existing draft is largely declarative and contains substantial errors and contradictions with existing legislation. ICNL has prepared a commentary to the draft law and distributed it to parliamentarians and the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Harmony. Subsequent drafts of this law by the Youth Congress and MinKIOS contain the same or similar deficiencies. While in Astana in September, Kevin Borrup, ICNL's Regional Director, and Vsevolod Ovcharenko, ICNL's Legal Consultant in Kazakhstan, attended the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan's (YISK) roundtable discussion on this draft law. The media reacted well to this event and the parliamentary drafting group was expanded to include more representatives from outside government and parliament.

Supporting ABA-CEELI's Conference for the Association of Women's Crisis Centers

On July 11, 2002 at the request of ABA-CEELI, ICNL Legal Consultant Vsevolod Ovcharenko gave a presentation on NGO taxation issues at the Conference for the Association of Women's Crisis Centers. The following day, July 12th, ICNL Regional Director Kevin Borrup gave a short presentation on best-practices for self-regulation of NGOs engaged in social service delivery. During both presentations participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and to receive immediate feedback. Following the conference numerous participants contacted ICNL to receive advice and consultation services.

Programmatic Mentoring Leads to Increased Capacity of Local NGOs

ICNL worked with its local partners to increase the effectiveness of their project and program management and implementation. ICNL worked with CAID over the period of two months in the creation and formation of a revised project plan for the second stage of CAID's Counterpart Consortium administered USAID funding. The revised project plan is based on CAID's past experience within the project and brings focus to its local capacity building component.

ICNL has continued to consult KNOK, providing both technical assistance and organizational advice. ICNL has worked closely with KNOK to further its cooperation with CAID on social procurement legislation and to bring both organizations to agreement on coordinating joint draft legislation.

At the request of AED and USAID, ICNL has engaged in a series of consultations with Gulsum Kakimzhanova of IRIS. ICNL has helped IRIS to develop and propose a training on taxation to be held in Semipalatinsk in November/December 2002 under AED funding. Specifically, ICNL aided IRIS in developing goals and objectives for the seminar, a program plan, and suggested follow-on activities.

KYRGYZSTAN

ICNL Consultants Facilitate at the Conference in St. Petersburg on Not-for-Profit Law Clinics

On July 3-7, 2002, ICNL's Legal Consultant in Kyrgyzstan Yuri Khvan and ICNL Legal Consultant Radost Toftisova, from ICNL's CEE program, attended a four-day conference on "Building University-based Not-for-Profit Law Clinics" that was held at the St. Petersburg Institute of Law. The main purpose of the conference was to further develop possible models for organizing not-for-profit law clinics at the CEE/NIS universities, to share experiences, and to network among other individuals and organizations in the field. Many of the participants included NGO contacts and partners in the implementation of ICNL's Educational Initiative. ICNL representatives were selected to lead the discussion and facilitate two of the conference working groups. At the present time, ICNL is working on implementing and expanding its educational initiative in Kyrgyzstan. An agreement has been reached with Anara Niyazova, Director of the Legal Clinic under the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in Bishkek, whereby ICNL will provide legal expertise and educational materials to the clinic. The Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University is also considering establishing an NGO legal clinic that will assist NGOs with registration, taxation, and advocacy issues.

ICNL Partner Co-Authors a Training Manual on “The Relationship of Civil Society Institutions and State Authorities”

At the request of the Chairman of the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh, Kabai Karabekov, ICNL partner Yuri Khvan authored a section on the formation and development of the third sector in Kyrgyzstan for a training manual “On the Relationship of Civil Society Institutions and State Authorities.” The manual was written for a diverse cross-section of the public including university graduates, NGO members, business people, and office workers and is of an applied nature. Containing sections on political parties, the media, and NGOs, the manual will be used in trainings throughout Kyrgyzstan.

Preparation for the Training course NGO Taxation and Accounting

In preparation for a series of five AED-sponsored seminars for NGO participants and tax officials throughout Kyrgyzstan, ICNL and AED have been designing a training course on “NGO Taxation and Accounting” to be held in the fourth quarter 2002. During these trainings, the participants will examine tax and accounting requirements imposed by Kyrgyz legislation as well as the draft amendments to the Tax Code affecting noncommercial and charitable organizations. The trainings are expected to reduce the knowledge gap existing among many NGOs about their rights and obligations under the Tax Code and improve their compliance with tax legislation as well as the overall image of NGOs as law-abiding organizations.

ICNL Presentation on NGO Legislation at the OSCE-Organized Round Table

On July 25, 2002, ICNL Legal Consultant Yuri Khvan made a presentation on NGO legislation and answered questions on NGO registration issues at a round table organized by the OSCE. The purpose of the round table was to discuss establishing an independent nonpartisan Research Center for the Study of Democratic Processes that would be involved in monitoring elections, political and human rights observance and violations, and legislation pertaining to political parties, civil society, and human rights. Since the organizers planned to register the Center as a Kyrgyz NGO, at their request, ICNL provided legal advice and assistance on NGO legislation and registration issues.

Work Continues on the Draft Amendments to the Kyrgyz Tax Code

Following submission of the draft law “On Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Tax Code of the Kyrgyz Republic” to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Jogorku Kenesh, the draft law has been undergoing review by the Government of Kyrgyzstan in preparation for submission to the full Parliament in the fall. ICNL representative Yuri Khvan has worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that any government changes to the draft law reflect international best practices and the interests of the NGO sector. The proposed amendments clarify the definitions of key terms; exclude humanitarian aid, grants, and other donations from gross taxable income; and exempt from VAT goods and services provided by charitable organizations as well as goods and services provided to noncommercial organizations at or below cost or for specified public benefit purposes.

The draft amendments to the Tax Code are the culmination of extensive efforts by ICNL to improve the tax treatment of NGOs. A roundtable on NGO taxation in January was organized with the assistance of ICNL at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees. In February, ICNL organized and financed a workshop at Lake Issyk Kul where the official Working Group (including parliamentarians, senior government officials, tax experts, and ICNL) developed initial drafts of the proposed amendments. Subsequently, the draft amendments were presented to the IMF, the Barents Group, NGOs and international organizations and discussed at a public hearing held by the Parliamentary Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs and workshops and roundtables throughout Kyrgyzstan.

Pro Bono Consultations Provided

In Kyrgyzstan, ICNL provided approximately twenty (20) pro bono consultations on issues related to NGO law and the freedom of association to local NGOs, international organizations, and government. Organizations in receipt of these services include: USAID; National Democratic Institute (NDI); Counterpart and all 11 CSSCs and many of their local NGO partners; Freedom House; Internews; OSCE; and the Kyrgyz Parliament.

TAJIKISTAN

Draft Law on State Registration of the Legal Entities in Tajikistan

ICNL continued its work with the members of the working group on the draft law on State registration of the Legal entities in Tajikistan. Although the adoption of this law has been strongly supported by the Government of Tajikistan, the current draft contains substantial errors and contradictions with existing legislation. ICNL has prepared a commentary to the different versions of the draft law and distributed it to parliamentarians and the Ministries. ICNL consultant Muatar Khaidarova has also met with the parliamentary officials to explain the problems with the draft law.

ICNL prepared a package of recommendations to the draft law and sent them to the Parliament for consideration by deputies in the Committees. These recommendations included:

1. The Ministry of Justice's (MOJ's) scope of authority during the registration process be limited to determining the organization's legal status by examining its charter documents for compliance with legislation; b) issuing a certificate of registration; and c) maintaining a register of legal entities.
2. Re-registration of a legal entity is required only under certain limited circumstances.
3. The MOJ exercise only limited oversight over the legality of the organization's activity since the law enforcement bodies are more appropriate to the task and the MOJ lacks the capacity to provide proper oversight over legal entities.
4. Fees for the name of a legal entity are charged in certain limited cases only.

ICNL will continue to monitor the situation closely and will assist the parliament, as needed, to conform this law to best practices. The draft law is scheduled for adoption in late October or November of 2002.

Draft Law "On non-commercial organizations"

Work continues on the draft law "On Noncommercial Organizations." Muatar Khaidarova has provided technical assistance to the working group, at their request, in preparing the draft law for submission to the Legal Department of the Government. Submission of the draft law to the Legal Department is expected in October 2002, after the adoption of the Law on State Registration of Legal Entities.

Draft Law "On Charity and Charitable Organizations"

Work continues on the draft law "On Charity and Charitable Organizations." At the present time, Muatar Khaidarova is working closely with the official working group and parliamentary deputies to improve the existing draft of the charity law and incorporate the best of over 90 recommendations to this draft law that were elicited as a result of the hearing held in June by the Committee on Budget, Finance, and Taxation. The ICNL partner has held many meetings with working group members, government officials and parliamentarians, and provided comparative materials from our countries demonstrating best practices in the regulation of charities. Submission of the draft law "On Charity and Charitable Organizations" to Parliament is expected at the end of 2002 after the adoption of the law "On State Registration of Legal Entities."

Two Seminars Held in Khorog on International Principles of NGO Legislation

In August 2002, ICNL in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), a UNHCR affiliate, and the Tajik NGO "Society and Law" held two seminars in the city of Khorog, located in the Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast of Tajikistan, on the international principles of NGO legislation. Over fifty-seven (57) NGO and government representatives attended these two seminars. This was the first time that NGOs and government officials in Khorog have met together to discuss NGO legislation and social partnership issues.

The purpose of the seminars was to educate NGOs and government officials on legislation governing NGOs, improve the interaction between the government and the Third Sector, and increase civil participation by the citizenry in the public life. Other seminar goals included developing awareness among participants about the international principles on freedom of association, NGO legislation in Tajikistan and other countries, as well as strengthening traditions of participation in decision-making among citizens of Tajikistan.

ICNL Regional Director for Central Asia, Kevin Borrup, made a presentation about the basics of NGO legislation and the reasons governments across the world support the development of a strong non-profit sector. He also provided comparative information on status legislation governing different types of NGOs in other countries. Of particular interest to participants were issues pertaining to the regulation of unregistered associations' activity and international experience with unregistered NGOs. Tajikistan legislation was analysed in detail and participants discussed the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the non-commercial organizations.

Another section of the seminar was dedicated to social partnerships between the government and NGOs. The participants were divided into small groups and they discussed the problems and issues faced by NGOs and NGO-government partnerships. The ICNL book *Comparative Research and Legislation on Social Partnership Issues* was also provided to the participants. And, for the first time, NGOs and government officials in Khorog met to discuss NGO legislation and social partnership issues. The participants stated that this training provided an opportunity for them to establish contacts and discuss opportunities for the establishment of NGOs as well as potential NGO-government partnerships. Participants also noted that they increased their knowledge about civic organizations and that they will try to use the new information to improve the technical and management capacities of their organizations.

Follow up After the President's Conference on Social Partnerships in Tajikistan

ICNL's local partner is a member of the working group that organized the Conference on Social Partnership requested by President Emomali Rahmonov that was held on June 21, 2002. This conference was sponsored by Counterpart Consortium and was attended by the President, the cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, international organizations, and NGOs. Counterpart-Dushanbe and ICNL continue work on the follow up to this conference at the local level.

Facilitating Communication between Regions and Government Agencies

During his visit to Khorog, ICNL's Regional Director met with local judges and local Ministry of Justice officials to talk about problems they encounter in this region. Participants identified a lack of communication between the capital and this outlying region, noting that they often learn of new laws from the newspaper or citizens. ICNL's co-trainer for the seminar that brought the Regional Director to Khorog was a MOJ official from Dushanbe. Mr. Borrup brought the MOJ trainer and these individuals together to discuss ways in which communication can be increased. ICNL is now supporting the NGO "Society and Law" in obtaining funding for an information and training project in the Gorno-Badakhshan region from Aga Khan Foundation.

ICNL and NGO "Society and Law" hold the Seminar on "Taxation of legal entities in Tajikistan"

On September, 12, 2002, ICNL in cooperation with the NGO "Society and Law" held a one-day seminar in Dushanbe on the "Taxation of Legal Entities in Tajikistan" for NGO representatives, citizen initiative groups, Tajik and foreign citizens. The seminar was financed by the NGO "Society and Law" and UNCHR and was attended by 22 participants.

The purpose of the seminar was to provide information about the existing taxation, accounting, and reporting requirements for both individuals and NGOs and the changes in the legislation that came into effect in January 2002. Particular attention was paid to NGO rights and responsibilities, the use of tax exemptions, grants and humanitarian aid issues, and the existing problems with the Tax Code implementation. An important goal of the seminar was to receive practical comments and opinions

from NGOs with regards to specific Tax Code provisions and build NGO capacity to lobby for tax changes that are favorable to NGOs. The training was expected to improve sustainability and image of NGOs, since many NGOs currently are unaware of their rights and obligations under the Tax Code and risk significant fines and penalties for noncompliance.

ICNL contributes to Counterpart Tajikistan Training on Advocacy

In September, Muatar Khaidarova provided Counterpart Consortium with materials on legislation governing advocacy activities in Tajikistan as well as organizing a presentation by the NGO “Society and Law” lawyer at the TOT Counterpart Consortium staff seminar on advocacy. Counterpart Consortium plans to use ICNL materials in the preparation of its module and handouts on advocacy.

Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Justice on the Draft Law on Public Hearing of the Drafts

Muatar Khaidarova has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) with the draft law on Public Hearing of Drafts of Laws and has provided them with model laws and parliamentary hearings procedures from CEE and NIS countries. The proposed draft Law seek to improve transparency in the development and adoption of legislation, provide access to information on legislative initiatives to the general public, and enable constituents, experts, and NGOs to present their views on important issues. ICNL remains committed to working with the MOJ on this project and the development of legislation in Tajikistan that will improve citizen participation in the government decision-making process.

Presentation on Human Rights Issues at the Donors’ Round Table

On September 25, 2002, Muatar Khaidarova made a presentation on human rights issues and the activities of ICNL and Society and Law at the donor’s round table. The presentation included information about the rights and obligations of participants in citizen initiative groups and community-based programs and the legislation governing advocacy activities in Tajikistan.

Continuing work in the Tajikistan Government Commission on Bringing Tajikistan Legislation in Accordance with International Standards

Muatar Khaidarova, as chairperson of the legal NGO Society and Law, has been included in the Tajikistan Government Commission on Compliance of National Legislation with International Standards on Human Rights. The Commission is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Zukhurov and includes high government officials and two NGOs and is responsible for reforming Tajik legislation and preparation of national reports on human rights. In this role, Ms. Khaidarova will be able to advocate for the development of NGO legislation in Tajikistan in accordance with international best practices as well as protects the human rights.

ICNL Participates at the Advanced Training on Human Rights and Refugee Law

At the invitation of UNHCR, ICNL partner-consultant in Tajikistan Muatar Khaidarova participated in the Advanced Training in Human Rights and Refugee Law for CIS NGOs, that was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on July 28 –31, 2002. The workshop was attended by twenty NGO representatives from CIS countries and seven international NGOs and focused on the principal legal instruments and institutions protecting human rights and refugees as well as the exchange of best practices and development of transnational ties. Muatar Khaidarova made a presentation on the human rights and NGO development in Tajikistan as well as the rights of refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers in the country.

Presentation on Human Rights for Law Students

On August 17, Muatar Khaidarova as NGO law expert participated at the summer camp school on human rights for law students, organized by OSCE/ODIHR at the Karatag rest area of Shakhri Naw region. Muatar Khaidarova made a presentation on the international standards on freedom of associations, Tajikistan legislation, and ICNL and NGO Society and Law activity in Tajikistan. She also facilitated the group discussion on women’s rights, rights of minorities, and other vulnerable groups.

Participation at the 2002 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw

On September, 10-13, 2002, at the invitation of the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan, Muatar Khaidarova participated at the 2002 OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. Bringing together NGO and political party representatives, parliamentarians, and government officials throughout the OSCE states, the meeting focused on fundamental freedoms, democratic institutions, rule of law, tolerance and non-discrimination, international humanitarian law and other issues. Muatar Khaidarova made a presentation on the developments in Tajikistan, the work performed by the NGO Society and Law in the human dimension area, and ICNL activity in Tajikistan and Central Asia.

Consultations Provided to more than Sixteen NGOs and International Organizations

ICNL provided practical consultations to more than sixteen (16) organizations and agencies on NGO law, including the following groups: Medecins Sans Frontieres; UNDP; Care International; AED (START); Counterpart International; CADA; NGO Youth House; NGO Sadoi Umed; NGO Najoti Kudakon; and, NGO Mekhrhubon. Issues covered by ICNL in these consultations ranged from registration/re-registration and governance, to labor taxation and anti-corruption.

TURKMENISTAN

Seminar on NGO Legislation of Turkmenistan

This seminar was organized at the request of the Civil Society Support Center of Akhal velayat for their trainers to become familiar with those common questions most often asked by NGOs and to provide the trainers with legally accurate answers to these questions. The seminar covered a) legislation of Turkmenistan regulating NGO's activity; b) issues of NGO liquidation/termination; c) registration options (individual enterprises, cooperative enterprises, NGO enterprises, economic enterprises); d) registration of foreign technical assistance; e) Issues of licensing for individual activity.

Development of an NGO Draft Law

ICNL's Consultant in Turkmenistan, Elena Vasilyeva, has begun work on coordinating the discussion of a model NGO draft law in conjunction with ICNL's Regional Office. At the behest of USAID, after gaining commitment from the President of Turkmenistan that he supports an NGO legal initiative, ICNL intends to engage government and NGOs in public discussion to gain support for this law before the NGO community presents it to the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan for consideration.

Creation of a Turkmenistan Legislative Database

Elena Vasilyeva has been engaged in converting legal texts and other documents into a useable database of the laws of Turkmenistan. It is anticipated that this free library of materials will be available to local NGOs and possible to a larger audience in electronic form.

Seventeen Consultations Provided to International Organizations and Local NGOs

During the last quarter ICNL's part-time local consultant provided seventeen (17) consultations to local NGOs, international organizations and agencies, including: Counterpart Consortium; Civil Society Support Center of Akhal velayat; Initiative group "Victory"; "Yashyl"; "Merdjen"; "Ilkinjiler"; "Keik Ocara"; "Social Partnership"; "Special Olympics"; Commonwealth of Ecological NGOs; "Begench"; "Junior Achievement"; "Ecological school of farmers"; "Nesil"; "Uchgun"; "Lukman-Hekim"; and, "Margiana". Consultations were on issues ranging from basic registration to taxation.

UZBEKISTAN

ICNL Completes a Series of Seminars on Social Partnerships

ICNL has completed its series of 14 trainings on social partnership issues throughout Uzbekistan. On July 3, the practical Conference “Social Partnership – Mechanisms of Cooperation, Experience and Prospect” was held at the International Business Center in Tashkent for 50 participants to discuss conclusions from 13 prior round tables and to present the government with an assessment of the existing conditions and trends in the development of social partnerships in the country and as well as recommendations for legislation that will regulate the interaction and partnerships between the state, businesses, and NGOs. Currently a draft Law On Guarantees of Activity and support of Nongovernmental Noncommercial Organizations is being developed by the Oliy Majlis. This law is designed to establish the legal basis for state support of social projects of NGOs as well as regulate social partnerships and interactions of the three sectors.

The round tables took place in each of the 12 oblasts of Uzbekistan, the City of Tashkent, and the Republic of Karakalpakstan and were organized jointly by the Oliy Majlis, the National Human Rights Center, ICNL, the Open Society Institute, Counterpart Consortium, and INTRAC, with financial assistance from DFID (British Embassy). Each round table brought together state officials, senior executives from state and privately owned companies, international and local NGOs, and legal practitioners. The round tables were an important step for establishing contacts and collaboration between the sectors. Participants discussed legal problems existing in the relation between the state, NGOs and business, shared their experience of social partnerships, and proposed solutions and recommendations. All this information was collected and analyzed by ICNL, which presented its findings and recommendations to the government. During the final conference, results and conclusions from the prior roundtables were reported. This report contained an analysis of the present condition of social partnerships in Uzbekistan and contained recommendations from each of the three sectors on how to improve and strengthen their inter-relationships in terms of legislation.

The final conference was attended by a number of prominent government officials and NGO leaders as well as international organizations and USAID. Alisher Ilkhamov, executive director of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation Uzbekistan, opened the conference and described the principal issues affecting the development of the NGO sector and social partnerships. He was followed by Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the Committee of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Democratic Institutions, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-governing Bodies, and Richard Stoddard, Democracy specialist, USAID who provided their views on the importance of social partnerships. Kevin Borrup, ICNL Regional Director in Central Asia, spoke about the goals and results of the roundtables and the legal, social, and economic aspects of social partnerships. He was followed by Lola Abdusalyamova, INTRAC Program Manager in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan and Dina Mukhamadieva, Program Director, Counterpart. NGO representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan also made presentations. Of particular interest was the report of Mikhail Gasanov, Deputy Director of the Institute for Monitoring of Current Legislation under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who spoke the development of the draft Law On Guarantees of Activity and support of Nongovernmental Noncommercial Organizations.

Progress on the Glossary for Lawyers on Legal Terminology Related to NNOs

Work on the trilingual (Russian-Uzbek-English) common Glossary of terms used in legislative acts on nongovernmental noncommercial organizations is nearing completion. The working group formed by the Legal Issues Research Center (LIRC), an Uzbek legal NGO, and supported by ICNL and the OSCE Center in Tashkent has prepared an initial Russian-language draft of the Glossary. At the working group’s request, ICNL prepared legal commentaries and has provided them to the working group and the OSCE. Once the ICNL commentaries are considered and additional revisions to the Glossary are made, the Glossary will be submitted to the Oliy Majlis Committee for review and approval. The organizers also plan to organize a round table in October involving Oliy Majlis, the Cabinet of Ministries, the Commission on Definitions under Cabinet of Ministries, OSCE, ICNL, Courts, Ministry of Justice, USAID and the NGO community to discuss the Glossary and prepare it for submission to the Kengash of Oliy Majlis for official adoption.

The adoption of the Glossary will represent an important step in the development of Uzbek legislation affecting NGOs. At the present time, Uzbekistan legislation governing NNOs contains many inconsistencies in terminology that hinder the proper implementation of this legislation and its interpretation by courts. Once the Glossary is approved by the Kengash of Oliy Majlis, it will obtain “semi-official” status and will then be used in the development of the normative-legal acts governing NGOs as well as a tool for the Ministry of Justice, the Cabinet of Ministers, judges, and other government agencies to help them interpret legislative provisions governing NGOs in a more consistent manner.

ICNL Provides Assistance to Working Groups to Develop NGO Legislation

Following the speech of President I. Karimov of Uzbekistan at the ninth Session of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan where he proposed to develop and adopt the laws on Charity, On Public Foundations, On Guarantees of the Activities of the NNOs, and Associations and Unions of NNOs, as well as to adopt a new version of the draft law on Public Association, the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Nongovernmental Organizations, and Self-governing Bodies has formed working groups to work on individual legislation/laws. The working groups include representatives of government bodies, NGO representatives, and ICNL. The participation of ICNL will bring the quality of the legislative drafts toward international standards, as well as to monitor the legislative process until the laws are adopted by the Oliy Majlis. Given the President’s stress on the importance of adoption of these laws and the government’s efforts to fulfill the presidential directive, it is likely that at least some of these laws will be issued in the first reading by the Parliament during its winter session (December, 2002).

Already ICNL has provided large volume of materials both to the Oliy Majlis and the Institute for monitoring of current legislation under Oliy Majlis – about 200-250 pages. These materials include CIS and EU legislation on grants, social contracting, procurement, cooperation, governmental support of NGOs, social partnership. As part of the working group of the Oliy Majlis, ICNL will provide further substantive comments regarding the law in October.

Assistance with the Draft Law on Public Foundations

Following yearlong efforts by the drafting group supported by ICNL and the approval of the draft law “On Public Foundations” by the Cabinet of Ministers, the draft law has been submitted to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the urgent request of the Institute of Monitoring of Current Legislation, in July ICNL provided its third commentary to the draft law on Public Foundations, specifically examining the rights of the founders and issues pertaining to the liquidation of foundations. The commentaries received wide approval from the working group and almost all the recommended changes and additions were accepted by members of the parliamentary committee. It is expected that this law will be put forward for consideration during the winter session 2002.

Reaching Accord between NGO and Parliamentary Draft Laws on Charitable Activity

The initiative group led by Nukus NNO “Renaissance” has prepared yet another version of the draft law on Charitable Activity and associated draft amendments to the Tax Code. At Renaissance’s request, ICNL prepared a commentary to this draft law. The new version stems from over nine months of work by the Renaissance initiative group, following the January discussions of the initial draft in Nukus in January 2002 and roundtable discussions of the draft in Tashkent in February that was organized by the Network of Uzbekistan’s NGOs “Khamkor” and USAID/Global Training for Development Project in collaboration with ICNL and the Committee of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies. ICNL also assisted the initiative group by preparing two commentaries, providing consultations, and sharing comparative materials demonstrating good practices in the regulation of charities in various countries. The importance of this project is underscored by the fact that the Renaissance draft represents the first instance of legislation initiated “from below” by a grass-roots NGO without support of donor funding. In October 2002, Renaissance plans on holding a seminar sponsored by AED. ICNL will be involved as a participant/observer, providing technical assistance as needed.

In addition to the draft law being prepared by Renaissance, a government-sponsored draft law on Charitable Activities is presently being developed by the working group headed by Deputy Justice Minister Pulat Samadov. ICNL has been included in that working group and has been providing technical assistance to it. By providing technical assistance to both the NGO and government working groups, ICNL will endeavor that their legal drafts are in accord with international best practices and that the final law that is adopted contains the best elements from each of the drafts.

Preparation of the Methodological Guide on NGO Taxation and Accounting

In advance of the series of five AED-sponsored two-day seminars on NNO taxation and accounting which are scheduled for the fourth quarter 2002, ICNL and a group of experts from the Public Expert Council headed by G.M. Figlin, have completed work on the methodological guide on NNO taxation and accounting. ICNL is preparing additional commentaries and suggestions to this guide in October they will be used in preparing the first published edition of the guide. The publication of the methodological guide will be published with the support of Soros – Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation (“Soros”) support. AED and Soros are providing assistance for distribution to seminar participants as well as to NNO bookkeepers, CSSCs, government officials, and international organizations. The guide will include both an analytical portion as well as examples of taxation, budgetary planning, and bookkeeping situations faced by NNOs. It is planned that this guide will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for official approval. After the completion of the five seminars, participants’ comments and recommendations will be collected and considered before a second, final edition of the methodological guide is published.

Law on State Registration of Legal Entities

Last quarter ICNL worked together with the Public Expert Council on writing a law On State Registration of Legal Entities. The present law is designed to establish a single registration procedure and a single registration body for both commercial and noncommercial entities, to reduce NNO registration fees and application processing period, and to eliminate the registration body’s powers to refuse issuing a decision on the registration of an NNO.

In October, the first roundtables on this draft law are scheduled to be held with direct involvement of ICNL. The draft law will also be published in the press and ICNL will provide an expert commentary on the issue. The Public Expert Council is collaborating with Soros on funding, developing, and organizing the roundtables.

Providing Legal Consultations to International and Local NGOs

ICNL’s Legal Consultant in Uzbekistan has provided numerous consultations to both international and local NGOs on issues of NGO law. Specific consultations have included the following organizations: USAID; Counterpart International; ACDI/VOCA; Land O’ Lakes; Soros; DFID; UNDP; ABA-CEELI; Freedom House; International Crisis Group (ICG); INTRAC; ICMA; Eurasia Foundation; and UNESCO. In addition, ICNL consulted with no less than fifteen (15) local NGOs, including: Legal Issues Research Center; United Research Center; Civil Society Support Centers (CSSCs); “Umidvorlik”; “Renaissance”; Tashkent Business Club; and, “Chirchik dare”.

D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION

REGIONAL

US and International Organizations

- ICNL worked in close cooperation with Counterpart International and its in-country offices. All ICNL activities have been coordinated with the USAID regional and in-country offices.
- ICNL provided regular updates to other USAID grantees on its activities and plans and developments in the NGO legislation around the region. ICNL also cooperates closely with other international organizations, including OSCE, UNDP, UNHCR, Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation, Asian Developing Bank, and other organizations.

KAZAKHSTAN

US and International Organizations

- ICNL has been closely cooperating with KNOK and Arizona-Kazakhstan Partnership on issues pertaining to the training of high-ranking Kazakhstan government officials on state support to NGOs and the development of social procurement legislation in Kazakhstan.
- ICNL has provided technical assistance and monitoring to the Central Asian Institute for Development on issues related to the development of social procurement legislation.
- ICNL has provided planning and technical advice to IRIS in planning their training on NGO taxation to be held in Semipalatinsk later this year.
- ICNL has been cooperating with NDI and their partner organizations on their campaign to amend legislation governing housing associations (known by their Russian acronym as “KSK”) in Kazakhstan and the campaign to put a halt to the adoption of the draft law on state youth policy.
- ICNL provided consultation services to the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Society in comparing the preferences and immunities applied to it under the current agreement with the Republic of Kazakhstan to the preferences and immunities enjoyed by USAID grantees.
- ICNL staff supported the implementation of the ABA-CEELI sponsored Conference for the Association of Women’s Crisis Centers (see description under activity overview).

NGOs

Valentina Sivrukova, President of NGO umbrella organization -- Confederation of Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan; Mancnia Kainazarova, Chairperson of the Central Asian Institute For Development governing board; Zhanna Nauryzbaeva, Executive Director, CAID; Sholpan Baibolova, CAID governing board member; Vice-President of the Central Asian Foundation for Systemic Research; Natalia Yantsen, President, Tax Standards Formation Foundation; the Shymkent Association of Attorneys; Kuralai Karakulova, ANNOK; the Association of the Invalids Organizations "Zhan"; Women and Law; the NGO "Legal Initiative"; CASDIN; Legal Development of Kazakhstan; Inessa Franz, Director, IDC; "Pokoleniye" Pensioners NGO; Roman Podoprigora, *Adilet* Higher School of Law; Gulsum Kakimzhanova, Chief Executive Officer IRIS; Galia Omarova, Executive Board Chair, ASTRA.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Zharmakhan Tujakbai, Speaker of the Majilis; Oralbai Abdykarimov, Speaker of Senate; Sergey Zhalybin, Majilisman; Irak K. Elekeev, Head of the Majilis Office; Sabyr A. Kasimov, Deputy; Ernek Zhumabaev, Chairman of Committee on Legislation and Justice-Legal Reform; Zhumabek Basurmanov, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights with the President; Victor Nikolaevich Vesnin, 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 Irina Alexandrovna Kubasova, the Director of the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice; Oleg Ryabchenko, 1st Vice-Minister of Culture, Information, and Public Harmony; Indira Akhmetova (responsible for updating the State Donor List), Ministry of Economics; Viktoriya Dudnikova, Deputy Chief of VAT Department of the Tax Committee, Ministry of Finance.

KYRGYZSTAN

US and International Organizations

- ICNL local partner Yuri Khvan is well-known among NGOs, donors, and state officials who consider him as a legal expert on the issues concerning the noncommercial sector. NGOs and international organizations regularly invite Yuri to various trainings and seminars and seek ICNL's assistance on legal aspects affecting the NGO sector in Kyrgyzstan.
- ICNL partner maintains constructive and cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Barents group; GTD; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Asian Developing Bank, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP.
- ICNL cooperates with the public foundation "The Legal Clinic" on issues pertaining to trainings on the NGO law issues and the development of legal clinics where law students under the supervision of experienced colleagues will provide consultations to NGOs.
- ICNL is also cooperating with the legal clinic under Kyrgyz-Slavic University on the development of an NGO law course at the Kyrgyz-Slavic University.
- ICNL cooperates with the Center for Public Policy on issues pertaining to the development of social partnerships in Kyrgyzstan. ICNL is presently helping this NGO to develop into a central resource center with expertise on legislation and on social partnerships issues.
- ICNL also continues to maintain and update the local ICNL website <http://icnl.cango.net.kg>

NGOs

Marat Kaiypov, President of the Association of Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan; Irina Ryzhykh, NGO - Chamber of Tax Consultants; Nina Petrovna Vekua, Foundation for the Research of Legal Problems; Ainura Orosolieva, Chairman of the Fund of Legal Initiatives; International Center Interbilim; Tolekan Ismailova, Leader of the Coalition of NGOs for a Civil Society; Svetlana Bashtovenko, Leader of NGO "UMUT"; Olga Djanaeva, Leader of NGO "Alga"; Akhmad Madiev, Leader of NGO "Center for Public Policy"; Elvira Elibezova, Leader of NGO "Center of Public Opinion Study and Forecasts"; Oleg Kim, Director of Public Foundation "The Legal Clinic."

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Kabai Karabekov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs; Akylbek Japarov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Tax Committee; Oksana Malevannaya, Parliamentarian and Chairwoman of Human Rights Committee; Alefina Pronenko, Parliamentarian and Chairwoman of the Committee on Competition and Protection of Entrepreneurial Rights; Alisher Sabirov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Religion; Murat Ismailov, First Deputy Director of the State Tax Inspection; Adylbek Kasymaliev, Head of Tax and Customs Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance; Arstan Berdaliev, expert of Social Policy Department of the President's Office.

TAJIKISTAN

US and International Organizations

- ICNL's Legal Consultant worked in close cooperation with USAID, Counterpart-Tajikistan, and other USAID grantees. ICNL also cooperates closely with other international organizations, including OSCE, UNDP, UNHCR, Norwegian Council on Refugees, Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, World Bank, Asian Developing Bank, Aga Khan Foundation and other organizations. OSCE, UNDP, and UNHCR offices in Tajikistan regularly involve Muatar in NGO development and law reform projects affecting NGOs.
- ICNL local partner Muatar Khaidarova is well-known among NGOs and donors who consider her an expert on issues concerning the noncommercial sector. NGOs and international organizations regularly invite Muatar to various trainings and seminars and seek ICNL's assistance on legal issues affecting the NGO sector in Tajikistan.
- ICNL partner NGO Society and Law, which is headed by Muatar Khaidarova provides daily consultations on legal and social issues for individuals and NGOs by two lawyer consultants and

two advocates and protects their rights before government officials and in court. At the present time, Muatar Khaidarova and lawyers of the NGO Society and Law are protecting in court the rights of 15 foreign citizens who seek asylum in Tajikistan against the State Migration Service under the Ministry of the Labor and Social Protection of the Tajikistan. Society and Law receives the bulk of its funding from the UNHCR as well as technical assistance from ICNL.

- ICNL is also cooperating with the Tajik State National University in the development of the NGO law course.
- Muatar Khaidarova also prepared two journal articles about the NGO legislation in Tajikistan. The first article, “Tajikistan: Non-commercial Organizations – yesterday, today, and tomorrow” (Russian language) was published in Journal “Darie” and was presented at the international conference in Johannesburg. The second article, “The Third Sector in Tajikistan: Building a Legislative Base” (English language) was published in the SEAL journal.

NGOs

Muatar Khaidarova, ICNL’s partner and Chairperson of Society and Law; Guldjahon Bobosadikova, President of the Association of Women with Higher Education; Dilbar Khalilova, Director of NGO “Fidokor”; Nigina Bakhrieva, Bureau on Human Rights; Association of Young Lawyers; Matin Mirzoev, Director of NGO “Intelcom”; Kanoat Khamidova, Chairperson of the League of Women Lawyers; Gennadii Vafoev, Vice-Chairman of the Association of Lawyers of Tajikistan; Union of Lawyers; Nurinniso Rustamova, Director of the Dushanbe branch of the NGO “Association of Business Women of Tajikistan”.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Sanovbar Khamidova, Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee on Budget, Finance, and Taxation of the Majilisi Namoyandagon of Majilisi Oli; Shavkat Makmudovich Ismailov, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Law and Order and Defense; Abdumanon Kholikov, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Legislation and Human Rights; Abdullo Oripov, deputy of the Parliament (Madjlisi Oli); Laili Babaeva, deputy of the Parliament, Committee on International Relations, Public Associations and Information; Tatiana Bozrikova, Advisor to the President; Bakhtiar Sultanov, Vice-Minister of State Revenue and Fees; Tojeniso Azizova, Deputy Minister of Justice; Sumangul Tagaeva, Head of the Department on Registration of Public Associations of the Ministry of Justice; Jumakhon Davlatov, Head of the Legal department of the Tajikistani Government; Rasul Abdulloev, Chief Legal Expert of the Ministry of Justice.

TURKMENISTAN

NGOs

Zalina Rossoshanskaya, NGO “Bosfor”; Hatydja Orayeva, NGO “Merdjen”; Center for Pedagogy and Psychology; Ayna Rakhmanova, NGO “Annageldy”; Durdy Mametyazov, NGO “Ikar”; Nabat Babyeva, NGO “Hemayat”; Club of students “Adalat”; Roza Kuzakhmedova, “Keik Okara”, Zoya Prous, NGO “My right”; Larisa Gujalova, NGO “Women’s Center of scholars on economy”.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Abram Mogilevsky, Scientific Secretary of the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights; Aman Achilov, Deputy Hakim of Lebap Velayat, Head of the Department on Public and International Organizations; Batyr Abdjev, Chief Specialist on Legal Issues, Lebap Velayat.

UZBEKISTAN

US and International Organizations

- ICNL Partner Alexander Galaganov maintains constructive and cooperative relations with various NGOs and international organizations operating in Uzbekistan. These include ABA/CEELI, UNDP, the Soros Foundation, Eurasia, DFID, USAID and other organizations that have an active interest in ICNL's legislative projects.
- ICNL together with the OSCE Center in Tashkent and the Legal Issues Research Center (LIRC), a legal NGO, is presently working on a joint project involving the development of a trilingual (Russian-Uzbek-English) common glossary of terms used in legislative acts on nongovernmental noncommercial organizations that will be used in the development of the normative-legal acts and interpretation of legislative provisions governing NGOs.
- ICNL regularly cooperates with the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Oliy Majilis (Parliament) in the development of legislation affecting the NGO sector in Uzbekistan.
- In cooperation with the National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan, the Open Society Institute, Counterpart Consortium, and INTRAC, and with the financial assistance from DFID (British Embassy) and Soros Foundation, ICNL held a final round table discussion on social partnership issues, following 13 previous round tables all over the Republic of Uzbekistan. Please refer back to the “Activity Overview.”
- In cooperation with committee on non governmental organizations, democratic institutions and self governing bodies of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute for the monitoring of current legislation under Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, National human rights center of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Association of the auditors and accountants of the Uzbekistan and with financial assistance from Soros Foundations, ICNL published 500 commentary books to the NGO Law in Uzbek.

NGOs

Gulnara Dosumova, Head of the NGO “Renaissance”, Nukus, Karakalpakstan Region; Shamil Asyanov, Chairman of the Legal NGO Legal Issues Research Center; Ilkhom Karimov, Chairman of the Board, NGO “Tashkent Business Club”; Ravshan Khakimov, Chairman of Law NGO “Uzbek Association of International Law”; Akhtam Shymardanov, Head of the NGO “Chirchik dare”; Tadjikhon Saidikramova, Director of NGO “Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan”; Gennadiy Figlin, Chairman of the Public Experts Council; Sergei Kan, Director, NGO United Research Center.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Akmal Saidov, Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Committee of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on Democratic Institutes, NGO and Self-Governing Bodies and Director of the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Shavkat Galiakbarov, Deputy Director of the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Jalloliddin Abdusatarov, Head of the NGO Bureau, Ministry of Justice; Talgat Beerketov, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Justice; Akhtam Toursunov, Director, and Mikhail Yusupovich Gasanov, Deputy Director of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Oliy Majilis (Parliament); Sayera Rashidova, the Authorized Person for Human Rights (Ombudsman); Rustam Bakhramov, Head of the Department on of Tax Methodology Improvement, State Tax Committee of Uzbekistan.

E. LEVERAGING

KAZAKHSTAN

Please refer to Activity Overview for a description of leveraging related to the Conference for the Association of Women's Crisis Centers, held by ABA-CEELI.

KYRGYZSTAN

Please refer to Activity Overview for a description of leveraging related to: the one conference held under AED funding; the one conference held by OSCE; and, ICNL's Legal Consultant for Kyrgyzstan's trip to St. Petersburg, Russia under the auspices of ICNL's CEE program.

TAJIKISTAN

- On August 7-10, 2002, ICNL in collaboration with Tajik NGO "Society and Law" held 2 seminars for government officials and NGO representatives in Khorog (Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast) on the "International Principles of NGO Legislation" with contributions from the Norwegian Council on Refugees, a UNHCR affiliate.
- On September 12, 2002, ICNL in cooperation with Tajik NGO "Society and Law" held a one-day seminar on the "Taxation of legal entities in Tajikistan" for citizens and NGO representatives from Dushanbe. The seminar was sponsored by the Tajik NGO "Society and Law" and UNHCR. At the seminar the main trainers were "Society and Law" lawyers and staff of the Ministry of Income and Taxation of Tajikistan.
- On September, 21, 2002, ICNL and NGO "Society and Law" organized a one day seminar for Judges of Dushanbe regional Courts and government officials on "The human rights: international and national standards", that was sponsored by UNHCR and NGO "Society and Law". The main trainers of this seminar were the UNHCR staff and NGO Lawyers.
- With the financial assistance from the NGO "Society and Law", ICNL provided 300 additional copies of the brochures "Compass for NGOs: rights, obligations, responsibilities", "Compass for NGOs: taxation".

Please refer to Activity Overview for a fuller description of the abovementioned projects.

TURKMENISTAN

Please refer to Activity Overview for a description of a training held under the auspices of Counterpart-Turkmenistan.

UZBEKISTAN

Please refer to Activity Overview for a description of leveraging, summarized below:

- The July, 3, 2002 "Social Partnership – Mechanisms of Cooperation, Experience and Prospect" conference held in collaboration with and the support of the Oliy Majlis, the National Human Rights Center, the Open Society Institute, Counterpart Consortium, and INTRAC and DFID (British Embassy);
- Under OSCEiT partial sponsorship, ICNL and NGO "LIRC" are developing the glossary for lawyers on the terms related to NGO legislation;
- Under Soros funding ICNL and National Human Rights Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan published 600 commentary books to NGO law in Uzbek.