
THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

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

QUARTERLY REPORT

April 1 – June 30, 2003

Submitted to USAID/CAR

COUNTERPART International, Inc.

**1200 18th St., NW, Ste. 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-296-9676
Fax: 202-296-9679**

**36 Zhandosov Street
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Tel: 7-3272-98-06-08
Fax: 7-3272-98-06-06**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL	1
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	1
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	1
C. HUB CENTER ACTIVITY OVERVIEW	14
• Regional Overview	14
• Kazakhstan	17
• Kyrgyzstan	20
• Tajikistan	23
• Turkmenistan	25
• Uzbekistan	27
D. CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTERS OVERVIEW	29
• Kazakhstan	29
• Kyrgyzstan	35
• Tajikistan	46
• Turkmenistan	51
• Uzbekistan	55
E. FOCUS NGO OVERVIEW	62
• Kazakhstan	62
• Kyrgyzstan	65
• Tajikistan	66
• Turkmenistan	69
• Uzbekistan	73
F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	74
G. LEVERAGING	79
II. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW	80
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	80
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	80
C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW	81
D. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	87
E. LEVERAGING	91

ATTACHMENTS
TABS FOR QUARTERLY REPORT

1. GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES
2. TRAINING MATRIX

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

You Can Teach Old Dogs New Tricks!

Founded over 30 years ago, the public organization *East Kazakhstan Oblast Society of Environment Preservation* is one of the oldest NGOs in the region. However, political changes and external reforms resulted in an ineffective management system that could no longer attract funds or retain members. The CSSC ZUBR, in coordination with the Society conducted a needs assessment and provided the necessary training in Human Resource Management, Fundraising, and the Art of Entrepreneurship. Consequently, the NGO restructured its management and has identified opportunities for financial sustainability, such as: opening a mini market called The Nature and providing services on a for-fee basis to the Bee Center. These revenue-generating activities have allowed the Society to expand its service by launching a series of ecological education programs for residents in Oskemen.

The CSSC ZUBR Contributes to Sustainable Development of Youth Organization

Youth, particularly rural youth, have been disenfranchised as a result of the harsh economic transition in Kazakhstan. CSSC ZUBR provided technical and consulting assistance as well as a series of trainings in skills such as NGO & Community, Project Design, Personnel Management, Strategic Planning, Mass Media Outreach to a local youth initiative group allowing them to register as the *Association of Youth & Children Organizations*. The Association implements and contributes to state youth policy in East-Kazakhstan region and has developed a project proposal to Establish a Service Center to foster regular information exchange and create a social adaptation among rural youth. This proposal won a state-wide tender with a grant of \$29,000 from the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord of the Republic of Kazakhstan. One expected outcome of the project is that 20 newly trained experts of the Association's will provide over 400 young locals with complex consulting and educational services, thereby creating favorable economic conditions for youth.

The NGO's Newly Developed Skills Contributes To Drug Prevention In Astana

Astana teenagers, unaware of the myriad of dangers associated with habitual drug use, are increasingly becoming addicted to drug usage. The CSSC ASTRa has provided training and technical assistance to the NGO *Private Fund Nachni Novuyu Zhuzn* ("Let The New Life Begin"), one of the key players in the field of drug and HIV/AIDS prevention. Using materials provided by the CSSC, the Fund developed educational modules adapted for teenagers, their parents and teachers to raise the level of awareness of the risks associated with drug use. Over the last four months 28 trained volunteers of the Fund have conducted 24 trainings on HIV/AIDS prevention targeting 364 local teens and their parents and teachers. As a result of the increased awareness, three Drug Prevention Centers were established in city schools to continue promoting a healthy lifestyle among Astana youth.

Social Partnership

Media, Government and Business Relations are Key

While a strong organization, the Qostanai branch of the Korean Association of Kazakhstan lacked skills and experience in social partnership with local state bodies and business structures. Assistance by the CSSC enabled the Association establish contacts with local officials, businessmen, and leaders of other youth organizations. Using skills developed through Counterpart trainings at the CSSC, the Association launched a multi-faceted public awareness campaign to educate the public about the problems of youth and to market the Association. The campaign included the following activities, conducted in close cooperation with local government, universities, and media:

- The art contest *Children Against Terror* with participation of over 100 children
- A *Martial Arts Festival* with the Kazakh Minister of Tourism & Sports as an official guest

As a result, the NGO has gained visibility and was noted as the only ethno-cultural center among the participants of the Social Fair held in Qostanai in April.

Mission on Human Rights Proves NGOs are Good Resources for Government

Historically NGO and government dialogue has been initiated by NGOs, with state bodies unaware of the capacity of NGOs to build constituencies. Rarely are NGOs actively involved in concerted actions of the state. The public organization *Mission on Human Rights*, trained in Social Partnership by the CSSC ASTRA, established a relationship with the Department of Justice of Astana City and lobbied for obligatory human rights education for state officials. As a result, 150 representatives of juridical structures of the Astana Akimat and Ministry of Internal Affairs participated in the NGO's mini-seminars on the "Conception of Human Rights" and "Mechanisms for the Protection of Human Rights." The NGO proved its capacity as experts in the field of human rights and were invited by the Department of Justice to serve as members of forthcoming examination commission on testing state employees on human rights issues.

Partnership, Coalition –Building and Association Development

Association Development Results in Beneficial Cooperation with the State

The Qostanai Housing Association faced difficulties attracting new members. Without a strong constituency, the Association was less effective at lobbying for change with various local state bodies. Recognizing this problem, the Association requested support from the Qostanai CSSC and received consultations and training in Association Development and Human Resource Management. Both members and nonmembers of the Association participated in the seminars. The result of these activities was a conscious decision to cooperate to solve existing problems. With the CSSC's support, the Association attracted five new member organizations who helped to subsequently mobilize over 1,000 community members as part of an advocacy campaign to plant neighborhood trees. In May the Association received government approval and began planting trees throughout the community. With trees planted, the Association is gearing up to address the growing parking needs in communities.

Advocacy

NGOs Take Legislation to Heart

Legislative barriers are one of the greatest obstacles to NGO effectiveness. The *Joint Platform of Civil Society Organizations* (JPCSO), initiated by CSSC Network, IDC and YISK, formed to promote the development of effective state policy and legislation governing the activities of NGOs in Kazakhstan. In pursuit of its mission, the JPCSO designed and conducted a comprehensive campaign to promote greater participation of NGOs and independent experts in drafting the Law "On Non-Governmental Organizations." The campaign included meetings with local and national level government officials, press conferences, formal appeals and petitions, an up-to-date web site, and conferences. *JPCSO* gained support of over 200 Kazakhstan NGOs, including a number of NGO coalitions and associations such as the Confederation of Non-governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan, Eco Forum of Kazakhstan and Network of Independent Observers. As a result of the advocacy campaign, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan has stopped an adoption of the Law and decided to send it to the Parliament in Fall 2003. Additionally, the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord adjusted the Draft Law items that were strongly recommended for review.

Community Mobilization

Training Sparks Change

Many of the rural areas of the Qaraghandy Oblast are not part of the process of civil society development as a result of the limited number of Kazakh-speaking experts in the NGO sector. The community level effect is inactive communities, few public organizations, and a shortage of financial resources for local needs. The CSSC EcoCenter conducted PCA exercises to identify initiative groups that could participate in seminars on NGO & Community and Project Design. The CSSC has Kazakh trainers who train over 16 community members from Egindybulaq, Qarqaralinsk, Nurken and Terekty villages. The initiative groups have subsequently started designing project proposals to address change in their communities.

Community Mobilization Triggers Community Employment

High unemployment among disabled Afghanistan War veterans was identified as a priority problem during PCA exercises facilitated by the CSSC ZHALGHAS-Counterpart in the Almaty oblast. The public organization *Almaty City Society of Invalid Veterans of War in Afghanistan* used skills developed through Counterpart's community outreach program and a number of CSSC trainings and consultations to design a community action plan. The resulting proposal was submitted to the Canadian Embassy and funded with \$8,000 to establish joinery, providing jobs to 27 members.

We Can Do It Ourselves

PCA exercises in the Besaghash Village of Almaty Oblast revealed the problem of adequate water supply. The CSSC ZHALGHAS-Counterpart facilitated a community meeting to address the problem, leading to an action plan that exclusively mobilized internal resources. Due to joint activity and efforts, the locals have built the embankment road 250 meters in length, and therefore, connecting their village with neighboring Duman.

Tools for Success

The lack of farming machinery in the community *Incubator* in Almaty Oblast has resulted in a decrease in labor productivity. Using skills developed through consultations and training from the CSSC ZHALGHAS-Counterpart, an initiative group, jointly with public organization *Union of Rural Women of Talghar County* designed a community action plan. The subsequent project proposal was submitted to the Embassy of Canada, which granted \$9,000 for the purchase of farming equipment.

Kyrgyzstan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Save the Trees

For the past three years the number of felled trees has increased in the Tup region, leading to increased soil erosion. The resulting desertification has led to decreased plough-land, low soil fertility, and a decrease of haymaking. In order to solve these problems the NGO *Etno-Tur Santash* applied for consultative assistance to Karakol CSSC and attended the following trainings: Project Design and Fundraising. As a result, *Etno-Tur-Santash* designed a project to preserve forests in mountain villages by planting saplings near Santash, Ken-Suu, and Kara-Chunkur village. Under this project, the local population will plant the saplings, which are provided free of charge by the local forestry on the contract basis. GTZ funded this project with \$1,005 in April under its program *NGO and local communities support the Convention on desertification in the Kyrgyz Republic*.

Installation of heating system in Komsomol School

PCA exercises in *Komsomol* village in the Suzak Rayon, Jalal-Abad Oblast revealed the deterioration of social infrastructure, namely the heating system in the high school. In recent winters students have had to study in the cold school. The local community, with the NGO *Azem*, took the initiative to attract external funding to install a new heating system. They attended the training workshops, conducted by Jalal-Abad CSSC and Counterpart and received technical and informational support from the Jalal-Abad CSSC. As a result, they prepared the project *Installation of heating system*, which was supported with \$2,300 in funding from the Asian Development Bank.

Refugees created strong organization in Kyzyl-Kyia.

Refugees from Tajikistan face a lot of difficulties starting a new life in a new place. There are 596 refugees (120 households) in Kyzyl-Kyia, and many face problems with housing and unemployment. Recently these refugees have been taking more initiative to resolve their own problems. In 2001, with the support of Batken CSSC, the refugees created the NGO *Radjab-Ata*, which currently provides support to refugees. To build the capacity of the NGO, its members attended training seminars delivered by Batken CSSC and Counterpart, including PCA facilitation. As a result of this assistance, *Radjab-Ata* designed the project *Construction of Toilets and Dust-collectors*. The project was approved and financed by UNDP/LIFE to the amount of \$4,000. This project is being successfully implemented. Currently, *Radjab-Ata* is one of the best NGOs in Batken Oblast with qualified staff, good material base and effective communications with their communities.

Solid Project Design Skills Win Funding

In May 2002 the Counterpart-funded project to renovate the secondary school *Alykul* in the village of *Tashtak* (Suzak Rayon) was successfully completed. \$4,871 in grant funding supported major repairs to the school. An additional \$2,679 of Counterpart grant funding allowed the community to install a new heating system. With all these repairs, the community still lacked technical equipment to put in their renovated school. The school badly needed basic materials such as desks, chairs and blackboards for the 750 student school. The NGO *El Kutu Elette* and *Tashtak* community members took the initiative to address this problem and attract additional resources. With the NGO's proven ability to design projects, they prepared the project *Providing school equipment*, which was funded by Mercy Corps with \$5,100. The community was able to purchase 9 blackboards, 12 tables, 20 chairs and 75 desks.

Social Partnership

Stable Partnership = Stable Funding

The initiative group of *Eski Pokrovka*, as a target community of the Osh CSSC, has experience in community project management. While cost share from the community and local authorities was agreed upon by all parties as a stipulation of grant funding, the local authorities cited lack of funds and backed out on their commitment. The initiative group, ultimately responsible for the cost share requirement, scrambled to collect the \$507. This process helped the initiative group realize the importance of interaction with local authorities and community members. The Osh CSSC, aware of the struggles, conducted training in Social Partnership and Advocacy and hosted a roundtable discussion on strengthening cooperation between NGOs and local authorities. With broad participation from NGOs, community members and local government, five communities developed agreements to work with the initiative group, who in turn established a stable partnership with the Kyzyl October village board. The village board supports the initiative group's activities with a set aside in their budget equaling \$2,325 in 2003. As a result, the initiative group is able to address problems in their own and seven neighboring villages of the Kyzyl October village board.

Innovative Partnership for Long Term Development

A partnership agreement between the Kumtor Operating Company (KOC) and the CSSC of Karakol was signed in February and provides support to local NGOs, community organizations and initiative groups to implement activities addressing social problems, protecting local interests, and strengthening cooperation among communities, businesses and governments. According to the agreement, KOC is providing \$2,439 annually in grant money to be disbursed through the local grant committee in the Issyk-Kul Oblast. The first meeting of the grant committee took place on June 20, during which 12 of 30 applications were approved. In order to implement credit activities the CSSC Karakol and KOC have founded the Microcredit Agency, which was registered in April 2, 2003. The sum of \$4,878 will be given as credits to NGOs, CBOs, and initiative groups with a 20% interest rate. Every year the credit portfolio will be replenished with accrued interest rates and additional contributions of KOC, which estimates annual funding at \$4,800. The sum of \$2,073 has been allocated to cover costs associated with administration, grant review and selection, and monitoring and evaluation. The cooperation with KOC contributes to the sustainable development of the CSSC and development of local NGOs/CBOs.

Partnership, Coalition Building and Association Development

NGO in Partnership

In this difficult economic environment, many entrepreneurs have created small businesses as a means to create jobs for themselves and others. While the intention is good, they often lack the appropriate business management skills and knowledge, to found a viable business. In order to solve this problem, members of three Batken NGOs *XXI Kylum Baldary*, *Ustat*, and *Kanykei Ene* attended a number of Counterpart and the Batken CSSC trainings including Project Design, Financial Sustainability, Strategic Planning, Microbusiness Basics, and Social Partnership. The three formed a consortium to accelerate the formation of Small and Medium Business in Batken region. They designed the project *Opening Own Business*, which was funded by Europe Aid in April 2003 with \$11,950. The consortium is providing trainings in the development of business ideas and expanded training to include one-day seminars for official establishments, state organs, local authorities, financial establishments and NGOs in Batken, Isfana, Sulukta, Pulgon, Kyzyl-Kya. Altogether over 70 people were trained. This project became has motivated further business development and stands as a model for intersectional cooperation.

Community Mobilization

Working Together for a Big Payoff

Dayres' district (180 households) is located 60 km. from the Kerben rayon center. On April 22 heavy rain destroyed a 500 meter road running through the village and the main drainpipe preventing irrigation problems. Receiving consultations and training in Human Resources Management, Strategic Planning, Social Partnership, Fundraising, Project Design, NGO Management, Financial Sustainability, and Formation of Interested Environment from the Kerben CSSC, the members of the NGO *Yntymak Dayres* mobilized citizens to repair the damage. 29 people participated in the road repair work with \$35 contributed from a local sponsor to subsidize labor costs. Then the community worked to restore the drainpipe by hand. 18 community members worked for two days to complete the repairs. The local farm *Dayres* sponsored the drainpipe repairs with \$115 for welding supplies. Further, 55 members of the community and residents of *Dayres* district cleaned 700 meters of the irrigation ditch. With just \$150 in funding and in one month, the NGO *Yntymak Dayres* mobilized people to fix the road, repair the drainpipe and clean the irrigation ditch.

Community Demands Change, Gets Clean Water

People in the *Archa Beshik* area of Bishkek (100 households) have not had proper access to water for the past ten years. The local residents requested the local NGO *Arysh* support their initiative to lay pipelines after hearing about *Arysh's* success in working on similar issues with a neighboring community. The NGO helped establish four community initiative groups and trained them in skills such as NGO and Community, Project Design, Fundraising, and Human Resources Management. For the start up of the water pipeline campaign, the initiative groups raised \$730. *Arysh* contributed \$3,000 US dollars to lay 500 meters water pipe; the city administration contributed \$3,900 to lay 200 meters water pipe. People actively participated in public works. On May 16 the water project was completed and opened for use. The project's success was in the local newspaper *Slovo Kyrgyzystana*.

Repair of the School Roof in Tashtak Village

Tashtak village in the Jalalabad region has 1350 residents (around 270 households) and a school with capacity for 800 students. PCA exercises revealed the condition of the local school to be a priority problem, with a community action plan developed calling for roof repairs to take place during the summer holidays. In anticipation of the repairs, the initiative group, working with the local NGO *Lola Bah* began looking for funding from international donors. As a result of participation in Counterpart trainings such as Project Design, Fundraising, NGO and Community, Advocacy, Social Partnership, and Joint Monitoring and Evaluation, the NGO and initiative group developed the project proposal *Repair of Roof of Tashtak School*, which was funded by the Asian Development Bank with \$2,300.

The Hamza school has got a new roof

The Hamza Secondary School is located in the village of Choko-Dobo (Suzak Rayon, Jalalabad Oblast), populated with 2,046 people. The school was built in 1976 and currently more than 1,000 students attend the school. The minor repair works done annually have not been sufficient to prevent the old building from falling into disrepair. Last year, roof repair was identified as a priority problem during PCA exercises and was the focus of the community action plan. The community approached members of the NGO *Kojomat* to develop a joint project to repair the roof. Both participated in trainings and seminars conducted by Jalal-Abad CSSC and Counterpart. As a result, the joint project to repair roof was designed and funded by the Asian Development Bank with \$2,500.

Achy school rehabilitation.

The mountain village of *Achy* has a population of 650, 207 of which are school aged children. *Achy* has a three-year school, but after third grade, the students must go to a cluster village school located 27 km away to continue their studies. Given the great distance, the majority of students do not study beyond the third grade (only 16 students of 67 children continued last year). The community decided expansion of the school was their best option. The village government administration started to build additional rooms of the school in 2000, but lacked the resources to complete the construction. Community members, working with the NGO *El Kutu Elete* took the initiative to finish construction by attracting resources from external donors. Equipped with skills learned in Counterpart workshops at the Jalalabad CSSC, the group developed a project that was subsequently funded by the Asian Development Bank with \$2,500.

Tajikistan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

New Organization, New Voice

In February 2003 in Penjikent Tajikistan a CSSC was established, which provides information, technical, training to NGOs, CBOs, and Initiative Groups from all districts of Zeravshan Valley, who are totally isolated from Republican and Oblast Centers. The CSSC has proved to be a catalyst for civil society development in the area and is a meeting place for initiative groups and activists. The CSSC proved its value in June 6 when a mountainous flood threatened Penjikent. The CSSC was the intermediary receiving all International Humanitarian Organizations and providing them with information, access to its database, and other services. The CSSC is the bridge between local civil society organizations and the international community.

Somondukht Creates Jobs and Expands Services for Women

To tackle the issue of unemployment among women in the Nau district, the NGO *Somondukht* developed the proposal *Woman in democratic society*, which received Counterpart funding. As a result of the project, a sewing workshop was organized, employing 10 women. The workshop now manages two shifts, doubling the number of employees. The NGO's first project encouraged the expansion of activities beyond fundraising – it organized sewing courses for women who could use them to earn a living. In partnership with the local government, the NGO organized computer classes for women, using funds generated from the sewing classes to purchase computer equipment. Additionally, the NGO provides medical services to women in remote communities, including a Mobile Medical Aid for women unable to travel from remote areas. The cumulative effect of the NGO's charitable activities and service provision is the respect of local government and communities.

Unemployment is Challenging

With men in the rural areas leaving for job opportunities in Russia, women heads of households are prevalent. Many of these women are not equipped with the skills to provide for their families. The NGO *Parvin*, a participant in several Counterpart trainings, identified women in the *Tursunzoda* district and trained the 60 poorest women in small business development and vocational training sewing national dress. After the trainings *Parvin* was keen to create jobs for these women. The local Khokimat allocated space for a sewing workshop and the NGO equipped the workshop with sewing machines, contributing 900 somoni (\$300). Now women are provided with permanent jobs, earning

30 somoni (\$10) per month. *Parvin* applied to the WFP to support these women with flour and oil for six months, after which the women are confident they will increase their volume work to be able to provide for themselves and their families.

Volunteerism

Qualified volunteers

Volunteer development is an essential component of modern society. In the Soghd oblast the number of volunteers is rapidly growing, not only for international organizations and local NGOs, but also for government agencies and social institutions. The Khujand CSSC is experienced in providing educational courses to train volunteers and has trained 42 volunteers in seven Counterpart modules. A recent survey of local NGOs working 16 Counterpart trained volunteers revealed that they are making a substantial contribution, providing quality services and being responsive to the program needs.

Social Partnership

Promotion Generates Cooperation

Mistrust and lack of information about NGO activities has proven that local authorities are not ready for cooperation with NGOs. The CSSCs *Shahrvand* and *Fidokor* united their efforts to bring positive changes in the relationship between local government and NGOs of the Khatlon Area. They initiated an exhibition devoted to NGO projects and activities and invited regional and district level government officials. As the result the Governor showed interest in the Counterpart CAG program and expressed his willingness to mobilize all districts to benefit from Counterpart program through training. Both CSSCs were requested by Government to organize a number of trainings for governmental officials on a fee-for-service basis.

Social partnership for sustainable development of Dushanbe

Over the last four months the Dushanbe CSSC has worked with the Mayor of Dushanbe to organize a meeting with representatives of local and international NGOs, business structures, media, and financial institutions. While all groups work to address social problems, there is little coordination or information exchange between them. The goal of the meeting was to establish collaboration between sectors for joint problem solving and the Mayor acknowledged that NGOs possess the intellectual capacity to address problems effectively. As a result of the meeting participants prepared an agreement for social and economic partnership with a Coordination Committee of 23 people from different sectors as a governing body. The Mayor serves as the Chairman of the Coordination Committee.

Community Mobilization

Motivation to Move Forward

One of the root causes of poverty in the *Shitharv* village in the Ishkashim District in Badakshan is the lack of water to irrigate new lands. At its worst, the population wasn't able to grow anything for six months, leaving many families to struggle to eat. Repeated appeals to the state went unanswered. After going through Counterpart trainings, the initiative group *Shitharv* decided to take matters into their own hands and developed a proposal to construct a 3 km channel. The Khorog CSSC provided technical and consulting assistance in the design of the project, which was funded by the Aga Khan Foundation. Within the three months the channel was completed and 50 hectares of lands were irrigated. Now community members are growing potatoes, wheat and pumpkins, all of which thrive in the mountainous conditions. This project has resulted not only in food and products that can be sold in the marketplace for income, but has also ignited the community to continue to look inward to solve problems. They intend to initiate school repairs over the summer vacation.

Where There's a Will ...

Many people in the capital of Dushanbe gave up hope to get gas to heat their homes in the winter, but not in one community. The initiative group from the urban Nazarshoev Street mobilized 37 households to address the gas issue. They developed a proposal, funded by Counterpart, which was implemented in two months. As a result 222 people now have access to gas – and without dependence on the government to provide it.

Change of Attitude

Citizens of the community Korez in the Dangara district suffered for a long time due to the lack of drinking water. The water was delivered by trucks and was sold for a high price. Those who were not able to buy pure water had to drink dirty and salty water from the nearest canal, resulting in the spread of infectious diseases. Community citizens didn't feel responsible for their health and were not inclined to solve the problem with their own resources. The NGO *Khairhoh*, frequent participants in Counterpart activities, conducted PCA exercises in the community. As a result, community leaders developed an action plan and proposal to address the water problem. The project was submitted to Counterpart's *Healthy Communities* program and received funding.

Land Is Highlanders' Wealth

The *Badjuv* community is located in 50 km from Khorog and 30 km from Rushan and stands 3,800 meters above the sea level. Geographical considerations and severe weather affect the quality of life of the local population. Because of the remoteness of the community it is often overlooked by governmental and international organizations. One specific problem identified by community members is the lack of sowing lands. With assistance from the Khorog CSSC, community leaders developed a proposal to construct an irrigation canal which received funding from the UN WFP. Construction of the canal promoted the processing of new sowing lands – 36 hectares where citizens can sow grain and supply themselves with bread to feed 40% of the population. Irrigation of new lands also promoted the development of raising livestock.

From Dependence to Self-Reliance

The consequences of the civil war in Tajikistan still affect many citizens, with the low level of education, increased unemployment and other social and economic problems. Among vulnerable groups there is an increasing dependency on humanitarian aid. One of the main goals of the Dushanbe CSSC over the past year has been to provide consulting, information, and technical assistance to develop proposals to help communities address their own needs themselves. The Dushanbe CSSC assisted in the implementation of 10 projects in Dushanbe area, benefiting 6,125 people. As a result the CSSC's goal was achieved – people united to solve common problems (gas, water-provision, electricity, and renovation of schools and medical centers). Communities gained knowledge and skills to write proposals, mobilize resources, interact with stakeholders, and use traditional forms of work. They gained the confidence to solve community problems without the traditional reliance on the government or humanitarian agencies.

Success of Mobilization

While implementing a CAG the NGO *Paivand* had problems with the diminished level of participation of the population. The Kulob CSSC *Sharvand* organized complementary activities like informal meetings with the population and roundtables with different stakeholders to ascertain the reason for the low participation. The interventions revealed that the leader of the initiative group wasn't a motivator. As a result, he's been replaced with a new leader who is demonstrating strong leadership abilities and promoting mobilization. Under new leadership the community not only built a road, but also built a playground for youth and children and created a soccer team.

The bridge has passed the trial

The breakdown of the bridge in the *Galaobod* community in the Khatlon Region was the source of great frustration for community members. Without the bridge, local community members cannot take agricultural products to the market, bring in construction materials or attend school. Members of an initiative group trained by the Khurgan-Teppa CSSC conducted PCAP exercises and developed a proposal which was funded by Counterpart. They mobilized the population, local government and other stakeholders to address the issue. Taking into consideration on-going rain and mountain conditions in Tajikistan, some of the specialists and experts were skeptical about the bridge restoration, but the community restored the bridge and passed the trial period and weathered the Spring rains.

Turkmenistan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

First success

The start up of any public organization brings a number of problems and issues such as financial sustainability and professional growth. The Lebap CSSC provides information, including news postings by e-mail, about donors agencies, conferences and activities of international organizations. To find appropriate information, the Center's volunteers communicate with organizations from around the world. As such, they were invited by organizers to attend the Summer School of Great Britain. Volunteers from 50 countries will attend this event to exchange experience. By joint attempts of Lebap CSSC staff and volunteers a project application was developed and the Embassy of Great Britain approved the proposal with \$1,950 to finance a trip for two volunteers to attend the Summer School. Also part of the proposal was the purchase of a video camera to develop a video to document the activities of the volunteers and local NGOs to present at the Summer School and to document the Summer School to present to Lebap organizations.

Major Achievement of Junior Achievement in Turkmenistan

It was difficult to present an example of participating of local Turkmen NGOs members in Advisory Board of International Organization till present time. "Junior Achievement" of Turkmenistan is one of the main developed and the functioning organization in Turkmenistan. 25 people (mainly teachers and trainers) are the members of the organization and about 8 people are the volunteers of the NGOs. The NGO's mission is to contribute transformation in market economy of Turkmenistan through local NGOs and youth generation educating in marketing, market economy and business planning. "Junior Achievement" is the target NGO of Counterpart Turkmenistan from 2000 year and from 1998 acquires services from Counterpart Turkmenistan in such areas as consultations, grants, information, and training. The leader of NGO is an experienced contract-trainer in conducting about 10 CT training modules from 1998 and participated in CT regional trainings as: Facilitation Skills Development and Financial Management. This year when "Junior Achievement International" conducted annual selection of 16 members for National Advisor Board worldwide, the leader of NGO "Junior Achievement" from Turkmenistan along with 2 other Asia countries representatives (from Shri-Lanka and from China) were identified for being a member. It is a big achievement of "Junior Achievement" and its leader Ayna Bayramova. Participation in the National Advisor Board's meetings will let to learn international experience and will introduce new technology in Turkmenistan, those would strengthen further sustainability of organization.

Our sustainability – in our hands.

One of the main problems of NGOs in Turkmenistan is the financial sustainability, which extensively depends on lack of knowledge on this issue. To improve the situation, Counterpart Turkmenistan (CT) regularly conducts training for NGOs on "Project Design" and "Fundraising". As a result, many of local NGOs expand their activity through making subsidiary products, those help them to cover current NGO's expenditures and independently finance various activities for NGO's targets. For example, CT target - NGO "ARMA", receiving consultation, technical and informational support form CT, developed project on opening laundry and got a grant from Netherlands Embassy. Providing chargeable services for population, organization became able to pay for office rent and to cover other current expenses. NGO "ARMA" renewed conducting various activities for pensioners and then, therefore appeared opportunity for conducting new training for pensioners. In particular, was conducted a seminar on basic computer literacy for member of NGO – pensioners, have opportunity to receive services of laundry on preferential terms. Quantity of pensioners, who received services of laundry, consists of 40% from total amount of laundry clients.

Connection with Donors Is Enlarging

Financial sustainability is one of the most important issues for NGOs and initiative groups of the Akhal velayt and Ashgabat city. One of the basic sources of NGO financing is grant pools. In Turkmenistan the number of donor organizations is limited, and the Ashgabat CSSC takes great care to assist NGOs and initiative groups in their search for potential donors by: updating their database of donor organizations; publishing monthly digests; hosting regular Informational Club meetings; facilitating meetings with donor organizations to familiarize NGOs with new grant programs and fundraising opportunities; and providing NGOs with consultations on projects design and proposal writing. In January the World Bank presented its small grants program and contest for innovative ideas with the assistance from the Ashgabat CSSC. Representatives of 42 NGOs were present and expressed great interest in the new program. Twenty organizations developed project proposals with consultative help from the Ashgabat CSSC, and five projects were supported by the World Bank Grant Committee. Similar activities are carried out by the Ashgabat CSSC to assist the NGOs in project design and proposal writing for submission to the Democracy Fund of US Embassy, the British Embassy, the Fund of the Netherlands, Eurasia Foundation, and the Women's Global Fund.

Volunteerism

New Opportunities

The Lebap CSSC, seeking to improve volunteer involvement in NGO activities, recruited a team of 47 volunteers. The system of effective volunteer management developed by the CSSC is a process that includes volunteer recruitment, orientation, and creating incentives. Some of the incentives include: free English Language Courses; computer training; free access to the Internet; and rewards for excellent volunteers. The activities of volunteers vary tremendously and the idea of volunteerism has become widely adopted.. In one case, a team of 9 volunteers has been actively involved in Lebap NGOs activities by organizing activities such as a Contest for Turkmenabat Best Embroider; two sports competitions for disabled children, a crafts fair to support a local orphanage, a Novruz Bayram holiday celebration for Aged People Center, a seminar on conflict resolution, and a film about NGO activities. Additionally the Lebap CSSC volunteers help clients to use e-mail, Internet resources, computers and other office equipment, search for information, and translate materials. Having originally started as just CSSC's helpmates, the volunteers are now capable of working independently developing and implementing new creative ideas and initiatives. To increase the effectiveness of the job being done, the volunteers work out the rules and procedures for them to distribute responsibilities and manage the process.

Social Partnership

Strengthen of the relations

The potential for social partnership is weakened by dissociation and the lack of information about NGO work and achievements. In the summer 2002 Counterpart supported 10 CAG projects on infrastructures problem solving with community involvement and partnership development in Akhal velayt. The Ashgabat CSSC held a roundtable discussion in May on the "Integration of efforts of governmental and public organizations for local initiative development" where 22 representatives from local authorities, NGOs, initiative groups and communities participated. The results and experience from these 10 CAGs were shared and led to a productive discussion resulting in the creation of a Coordination Group on Social Partnership of Akhal velayt. This group, formed by representatives from NGOs and governmental structures, developed guidelines and a workplan. The first activity of the Coordination Group was to conduct a needs assessment in the four etraps of Akhal velayt. Next the Coordination Group began looking for a resources to solve identified problems. In addition to working together to address community needs, NGOs and government are now working together as equals.

With care for a health

In the recent past NGO activities have not been taken into consideration by governmental departments and NGOs were not recognized as a viable resource or partner. Members of *Uchgun* participated in Counterpart trainings in Social Partnership, Facilitation Skills Development, and TOT and received consultations on project design and proposal writing from the Dashoguz CSSC. With these skills

several members have learned to design and conduct special trainings on health protection using interactive approaches. Successfully project implementation by *Uchgyn*, including a sub-contract with UNICEF, has attracted attention from the management team of the Central Hospital of Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz velayat. The Head of Hospital applied to *Uchgyn* with a request to conduct series of trainings for medical staff. *Uchgyn* developed modules for mini-trainings on breastfeeding and the prevention of infection diseases. *Uchgyn* trained 32 medical personnel who work with local communities of three villages. Over the next few months, *Uchgyn* will conduct four more trainings.

Community Mobilization

Heading Towards Sustainability

The economic transition has resulted in various problems, which can only be solved through joint efforts of community members and involvement of key organizations. The community of *Selmeli Kel* village of Ak Altyn Farmers' Union of Turkmenbashi etrap carried out two projects supported by Counterpart to provide the community with potable and technical water. The Dashoguz CSSC provided every kind of assistance to the community - at the initial stage of needs assessment and project design; and during project implementation with consultations, meetings, and training. As a result, the Rural Committee was founded. Community members became actively involved in project implementation, and established solid working relations with the local authority. The positive experience in local resource mobilization, fundraising, and grant management now helps the community find optimal solutions to other urgent problems. The Rural Committee developed a project proposal, approved by the British Embassy in Turkmenistan for \$1,200. At present the community is preparing to start construction of a mill in their village. This project takes into account the interests of each of the community members and will be monitored by the Rural Committee. The approximate cost of mill services was also calculated, and the optimal schedule of mill working hours was worked out. The mill services expected to benefit to 300 village households.

Positive result – incentive to new actions

Involvement and commitment of communities in the processes of discovering primary problems and striving to solve them is still one of the main goals of civil society development in Turkmenistan. During the PCA process, which was conducted in Dashoguz velayat, Kunyaurgencheskiy etrap, *Cotton plant* village in 2002 by DCSSC and the NGO *Sarygamysh*, participants identified the primary problem and formed a Steering Committee to develop a plan to address the problem. They designed a proposal and received a CAG from Counterpart. The project sought to construct power lines 1.5 km in length in the village with participation and investment from community members, resource intake from the local factory and financial support from the local government. In addition with support from the factory administration, the community replaced 500 meters of high-voltage cable, through which electricity can reach the village. The positive results inspired the committee to continue to develop CAPs. The Steering Committee, in coordination with community members, organized work on construction of a footbridge. Before, had to walk 2 kilometers to get to work, now this distance is shortened to 500 meters.

Uzbekistan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Support Expands

The number of NGOs and initiative groups in the *Djizak* region has increased over four times in the last two years (from 5 to 22) thanks to the activity of the Samarkand CSSC. To support the growing need for NGO support in *Djizak*, a support center for civic initiatives was registered in *Djizak* in May with considerable assistance from the Samarkand CSSC and the director of the new center is a Counterpart contract trainer. While a young organization, this new center already has strong ties within the community, with clients and partners including initiative groups, local government agencies, media, universities and NGOs. A sampling of partners includes: the *Djizak* Khokim's office and Khokim offices in Bakhmal, Gallyaaraal and *Djizak* districts; a local business incubator; the Internal Affairs Office; the Prosecutor's Office and the Department of Justice of *Djizak* region; the

local business Transport Company No 4; the social protection department; two local newspapers; Djizak regional television; and the ped-institute. The Center has agreements of cooperation with all these organizations; for example, 1) Transport Company No 4 provides transportation to staff of the Center 2) the social protection department provides the center with office space and installed a phone line, and 3) the ped-institute provides rooms for workshops and NGO meetings.

Uishin - Social Center for rural women.

Community members in the remote Kashkadariya village *Beshchasma* identified the problem of unemployment among women as a priority problem and established an initiative group to develop a solution. Counterpart supported their project to train sixty women to sew and weave carpets. While implementing this project the initiative group registered as the NGO *Social Center Uishin*. One year after the completion of the project the NGO not only increased the number of girls-trainees, but also expanded its geographic coverage. Now girls and young women from nearby villages of Past Uishin, Yukori Uishin, Mirzatup and Chilchivut are involved in trainings. Eight trained girls set up a workshop to make carpets, others are making carpets at home having obtained a license. In all, eighty women have improved their economic situation and on average their monthly family budgets have doubled. The NGO began to work on psychological support of women to address the high rate of suicides among woman in this area. The community and the local authorities support the center's activity. The village council provided the center with four additional rooms for trainings and local residents helped with creating proper conditions for woman.

Volunteerism

The NGOs in Djizak region started to actively involve volunteers in their work.

One of the hindering factors for the development of NGOs in this region is the lack of professional staff and limited resources. The Samarkand CSSC conducted training in "Work with Volunteers in NGOs" for NGOs in the region and achieved the following results:

- The NGO *Sevichn* had no volunteers. The director not only lacked the knowledge to motivate volunteers, but also didn't understand how important the volunteers are. After the training *Sevichn* developed a strategy for working with volunteers and attracted four volunteers to its work.
- The leader of the NGO *Protection of Consumers' Rights* had been working practically alone. After the training six volunteers started working with the organization.
- The *Center for Public Education* was having the problems with the fluctuation of volunteers. They developed a strategy for motivating volunteers to stay over longer periods of time. To date five volunteers have been working in the Center for more than six months.
- The *Information Resource Center* made contracts with volunteers and defined in detail their duties and responsibilities, which increased the effectiveness of the volunteers work.

Media/Outreach

First Steps to Integration

In Bukhara there are about 10,000 gypsies (lyulyu) living in isolation, 90% of whom are illiterate and unemployed. They survive on earnings from panhandling, fortune-telling and other small trades. City residents avoid them, and employers refuse to acknowledge them. The NGO *Etnos* is the first public organization committed to raising public awareness of the problems of lyulyus and to support their indigenous culture and creative work. *Etnos*, headed by a Bukhara TV correspondent, used consultations, trainings and technical support from the Bukhara CSSC to develop a project to produce a series of programs about the lyulyus and to establish an ethnographic ensemble. *Etnos*, with funding from Soros Foundation, has generated a number of results: 1) After seeing a program on the lyulyus, the local authorities approved requests for a plot in the cemetery after years of denying such requests. 2) *Etnos* with the help from business structures and local authorities organized New Year's celebrations in the lyulyus communities, during which adults and children enjoyed food and clothing from the city administration and public organizations and received presents for the first time in their lives. 3) An ensemble group was organized, who debuted on the local New Year performance on TV.

Social Partnership

Officials of Karakalpakstan Promote CSO Development in Villages

Many government representatives in the Republic of Karakalpakstan have limited experience with NGOs leading to great skepticism about third sector development in Karakalpakstan, in particular in rural areas. On March 14 the CSSC in Nukus conducted the workshop NGO and Community for government representatives, including 17 deputy khokims, 33 mahalla committee representatives, and nine members of the media. The workshop was conducted in Karakalpak, thus making it possible for rural participants to understand and participate. The participants were very responsive to the interactive training methodology used as well as the workshop materials prepared specifically for a government audience. The officials expressed their willingness to promote NGO development, in particular in rural districts. As a result four initiative groups were set up in four rural districts under the Karakalpak branch of the Uzbek Association on Reproductive Health. These groups are conducting education activity with the support of local authorities.

Community Mobilization

Counterpart's first project in Djizak region has been successfully completed

The *Djizak* region is in the steppes of Uzbekistan is densely populated and inactive. Many objects of social infrastructure have worn out in recent years and need renovation, in particular water supply systems. Counterpart's CSSC in Samarkand has conducted a number workshops, including PCA, for the staff of the Khokim's Office and mahalla activists in the Gallyaaraal district. At residents' requests the CSSC also conducted PCA exercises in the mahalla *Bakht* with all 3053 residents. The PCA identified lack of drinking water to be a priority problem. An Initiative group *Madad* was set up, to design a project to clean the well, lay pipes, and to install a pump. The project, supported by Counterpart, motivated mahalla residents and attracted new partners and stakeholders. For example, the poultry farm committed to provide electricity for the pump and to pay all associated costs. The community contributed resources to build a shelter for the well and the pump and to put additional pipes in to provide water to the school, Lyceum, kindergarten and market. A number of NGOs, media, and local authorities were involved in the project. Representatives of the Khokim's Office mobilized community members and the company *Vodocanal* committed to maintain the well and the pipes. The Mahalla committee will be responsible for collecting money from local residents for using water. This is the first NGO project in *Djizak* to improve infrastructure, which generated interest from the US Ambassador to Uzbekistan, who visited the project to see the results.

Home nurses provide first medical aid in the villages

One of the acute problems in the countryside is the low level of first aid practices. To solve this problem the Center *Yangi Avlod*, supported by Counterpart, set up first aid center in the mahalla *Bekabad* of Urgench. This mahalla is 30 kilometers away from the district center. 52 women, residents of the mahalla, were trained to be home nurses. Over a six month period, 120 people visited the medical center for help. Home nurses were able to provide urgent medical aid in eight emergency cases. Statistics shows that children's mortality rate in the mahalla has decreases by 22% compared to the previous year, and the infectious disease rate has decreased by 10%.

Twenty families in the rural mahalla Navoiy solved the problem of gas supply on their own

Twenty families in the mahalla *Navoiy* of Uchkupryuk district in Ferghana did not have gas in their houses. The Youth and Yomen's Center *Iftikhor* implemented a project, supported by Counterpart, resulting in the supply of clean drinking water to 110 households. The success of that project encouraged mahalla residents to become more active and start solving their social problems without assistance. 20 families in the mahalla mobilized their resources, purchased and laid the pipes and constructed gas-distributing points and now have gas to cook and heat their houses.

C. HUB CENTER ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional Overview

Training Activities

The major training event in this quarter was a regional follow-up training workshop in Developing Community Networks. Tom Kiernan, Program Manager for the Rural Community Network and Sonya Murray, Director for the Triskele Community Training and Development presented the Northern Ireland experience and approaches in the area of developing networks. The training activity aimed at enhancing participants' knowledge, skills and understanding of network development and introducing the concept of 'social capital'. Participants were exposed to a number of effective community networks operating in Northern Ireland and established for economic and social development.

Training participants included Community Outreach Program Coordinators, representatives of Support Centers and communities involved in developing community networks. In the course of the training participants were introduced to a wider range of strategies for initiating and developing community networks. The participants exchanged their experiences of developing community networks in the context of Central Asia and concluded by drafting Action Plans. Those Action Plans indicated how the participants would adapt and implement mechanisms and tools for maintaining effective networks in their countries.

During this quarter the regional office began developing a new Training Plan for 2003-2004. All Hub and Support Centers were involved in preparing requests for supplementary funding through the AED-START Program to support additional trainings. The Regional Office provided assistance in the design of Training Activity Request Forms in accordance with the regional and country-specific program priorities. Altogether 36 TARFs were submitted from Counterpart to USAID and AED for consideration.

Organizational Development

During the quarter, Counterpart continued to focus on strengthening the capacity of the Hub centers. In June, a training workshop in Leadership and Management was conducted by the Russian agency *Leader*. Country Directors, Program Managers and Financial Managers from all five country offices and Regional Program Coordinators participated in this training which covered:

- Efficient management and its importance for the organizational effectiveness;
- Similarities and differences between the concepts of leadership and management;
- Key roles and functions of manager in an organization;
- The concept of corporate culture;
- Leadership and management skills;
- The concepts and differences between strategic and operational management;
- The concept of managerial technologies;
- Types of management decisions and the differences among decision-making technologies; and
- Personnel recruitment and hiring systems.

Using information from the Country Directors meeting, the Regional office developed a draft set of criteria and indicators to assess CSSC performance. The purpose of the assessment is to identify partners for the new CSSI program of Counterpart. The proposed time horizon for gathering information is for the period of January 2001-June 2003. This will enable us to fully utilize our existing MIS/database and will be also helpful for defining further dynamics of organizational performance. The performance indicators and criteria will be used for future periodic assessments and subsequent capacity development plans. All these components will form a Performance based Organizational Capacity Development approach, the main theme of CSSI program.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach program implementation during the extension period was carried out in accordance with the regional and country program plans. The main focus was on adapting the M&E system for the Community Outreach to country contexts. It has been a valuable exercise to analyze the lessons learned for future programmatic activities by both the Hub and CSSCs. The participatory approach of M&E in community projects has enabled staff to convey this expertise directly to project beneficiaries, especially in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The regional Community Network training has been another big event for the program. It was held on June 27-30 with participation of Community Outreach country and regional program coordinators, the regional training program coordinator, CSSCs program staff and community initiative group leaders. The trainers were from the Rural Community Network in Belfast, Northern Ireland and were the trainers of the previous training in Community Network Development in Samarkand in November 2002. The follow-up training gathered practitioners directly involved in establishing networks throughout the region. Beyond their knowledge of social capital and mechanisms for community networking, the trainers challenged participants to think of alternate solutions to problems. The training participants came up with realistic plans of activity for developing community networks.

Advocacy was carried out in Kyrgyzstan by promoting of NGOs' interests throughout the country where the CSSCs actively participated in public hearings.

- In Kazakhstan the CSSCs were actively involved in organizing forums on the *Law on NGOs* to be passed by state. At Counterpart Kazakhstan's initiative NGOs throughout the country signed a petition appealing to parliament to revise and amend this law. An informational support of this campaign was organized through Internet and media sources.
- In Uzbekistan local advocacy campaigns were held successfully in Bukhara to save the cultural and historical heritage of this ancient city, and in Navoyi Oblast to protect residents from tuberculosis.
- In Tajikistan Advocacy activities focused on trafficking and early marriage problems. Several intersectoral roundtables were held to inform government of the need to change legislation.

One of remarkable events this past quarter was the Volunteer Forum held in Turkmenistan in May. The forum brought together 50 participants representing all three sectors and international organizations operating in the country and introduced the Resource Book on Development of Volunteerism. This resource is recommended for successful promotion of volunteerism in the region.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Activity Overview and Major Achievements in M&E Program

From April to June, Counterpart continued the ongoing process of conducting field evaluations for community projects (CAGs) and entering data into Regional CAG MIS. The Country M&E coordinators, along with the CSSCs, developed M&E plans for projects to be evaluated during the extension period April-June. The planned numbers for project close-out and follow-up evaluations were submitted to Regional M&E Coordinator in April. According to these plans and given numbers, at the end of June 2003 the Regional CAG MIS has been containing project close-out evaluation data for 216 projects (from the project pool of 348 CAGs, plus MIPs in UZ), and project follow-up evaluation data for 142 projects:

Type of evaluation reports	KZ	KG	TJ	TM	UZ
Close-Out Evaluation Reports	51	79	32	15	39
Follow-Up Evaluation reports	36	43	7	31	25

These numbers reflect the substantial scope of work performed by CSSCs in conducting participatory field evaluations of community-based projects. From MIS data observation, it could be concluded that almost all the projects, evaluated by close-out evaluation, had achieved their objectives:

Achievement of Project Objectives	KZ	KG	TJ	TM	UZ	CAR
Achieved Fully	43	76	30	15	32	196 (91%)
Achieved Partially	8	3	2	0	7	20 (9%)
Not Achieved	0	0	0	0	0	0

Follow-Up Evaluation data shows that 135 of 142 projects evaluated after 6 months or more after completion are sustainable: i.e. projects are functioning, ownership over project results is defined, maintenance plan exists and is supported, implementing agency continues project support in the community.

April 28-29 Counterpart's regional team participated in the INTRAC Conference in Bishkek on *Monitoring and Evaluation of Programmes in CAR*. During the first day, Counterpart presented its M&E systems and tools to conference participants. Also, Counterpart's team actively participated in discussing community development M&E models and country specifics for M&E identified by participants in small groups.

In April, program Performance Plans were reviewed. All regional program coordinators actively took part in the revision of submitted reports on achieving performance targets.

At the end of May, the regional M&E staff visited KG CSSCs in Nookat, Batken, and Naryn with the purpose to observe the state of M&E conducted by centers for their CAG projects. The objectives were, based on the observation of sample CSSCs, to verify the quality of project M&E: level of accuracy and precision for data derived from participatory M&E and submitted to Regional MIS, to observe how the process is organized at CSSCs, what is the involvement of community residents and how do they benefit from participatory project monitoring and evaluation. It was revealed in the field that the average number of participants for project evaluations in KG is pretty high, about 50 people, which demonstrated high level of involvement from community residents.

The CSSC Grant Review Committees distributed CAGs with a strong focus on income-generating activities in the target communities. This focus has led to the empowerment of local people through the creation of some future prospects for them in terms of their own economic prosperity. As a result of these implemented CAG projects, community people who were met during the field visits confessed an increase in their welfare, as the result of water project, sewing workshop project targeting community women, mini-bakery project, goat breeding project, and other projects. The field observation has demonstrated that CAG projects' sustainability is ensured through regular fee collection, about 20-30 som annually from community residents. In some projects, there is more frequent collection of money, the same amount but quarterly. Due to their improved well-being, community residents are able and willing to give this money to support project outcomes. Many communities have established community foundations, and at the time of the visit, increased their initial capital two- or three-fold, through giving microcredits to community residents. Thus, this field trip confirmed that participatory M&E conducted by those CSSCs visited complies with all the regional procedures and rules established and meets the necessary quality standards for participatory approach to M&E.

Kazakhstan

Training Activity

In early May the Hub monitored the training program of the Qaraghandy *ECOCENTER* by: 1) meeting with staff, local trainers, and other NGO members; 2) conducting a participatory appraisal of program needs; and 3) analyzing relevant documents. The CSSC can deliver training in the 16 basic modules and is the only training provider in the region. Further the CSSC is the only provider of Kazakh language training and has already translated the Project Design and PCA modules into Kazakh. Training in Kazakh is badly needed in other areas such as Semey, Aqtobe and Almaty.

The Hub selected 25 NGO members to participate in an AED/START training on *Corporate Philanthropy* at the end of August. Despite the distribution of a questionnaire to over 200 NGOs throughout the country, Counterpart received only 44 applications.

The Hub selected three NGO representatives – The Qostanai CSSC Program Coordinator, the YISK Marketing Manager, and Galina Meyermanova the Project Coordinator of the Women Association *Moldir* – to participate in the regional training on *Marketing of NGO Services* July 7-11 in Tashkent.

The Country Director, Senior Program Officer, and Financial Manager took part in the regional seminar *Management & Leadership* delivered by trainers from *Leader* in Almaty from June 2-6. As a result, participants understand the concepts of management & leadership, corporate culture, effective management, strategic and operational management, and human resource policy.

May 20-24, the Accounting Department and Grant Manager participated in a seminar on *International Standards of Financial Reporting*, organized by Counterpart. The seminar participants were certified and gained skills in counting of financial activity according to 39 international standards.

Organizational Development

The reporting period included series of staff meetings on the organizational Strategic planning, Action Plan achievements, overview of the program activities, and group consideration of newly announced Request For Application (RFA) designed by USAID.

The OD Program Coordinator visited the Qostanai CSSC from May 22-24 to provide consulting in membership development and building an effective governing body. The PC met with the CSSC's partner NGOs *Nadezhda*, Center for Development of Small & Medium Towns of Kazakhstan, *Pomosh'*, and the Association of Consumers' Cooperatives.

At the April Case Management meeting, the country staff (Country Director, Senior Program Officer, Grant Manager, OD Program Coordinator, Community Outreach Coordinator, Training Coordinator, and Regional OD Coordinator) analyzed final performance data on organizational and institutional developments of all partner NGOs, and discussed prospects and challenges for CSSC Network development, including a discussion of criteria and partner selection for the next phase of Counterpart's program.

Community Outreach

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

1. Conducting a comprehensive assessment of the program's impact on civil society development;
2. Assisting CSSCs in organizing program activities through consultations, site visits, and quarterly meetings;
3. CSSC capacity strengthening in community network development.

1. Conducting a comprehensive assessment of the program's impact on civil society development

The results of complex research and evaluation of impacts from the Community Outreach Program were processed by the CO Program Coordinator in coordination with the CSSCs. A questionnaire was administered to Support Centers and covered 104 public organizations (including 34 NGOs implementing community projects) in Almaty, Aqtobe, Aqmola, East Kazakhstan, Qaraghandy and Qostanai. A more complete report of findings will be presented in the final report, but some key findings include:

- 61% apply PCA methods on constant or frequent bases.
- 63% of respondents noted they have regular cooperation with state bodies during community project implementation, 20% pointed out long-term relationships with government, and 17% stated that cooperation was sporadic.

2. Assisting CSSCs in organizing program activities through consultations, site visits, and meetings

From April 28-30 the Hub conducted a site visit to monitor program activities of the Qaraghandy *ECOCENTER* CSSC and to evaluate its community projects on participatory basis. With Hub support, the CSSC conducted PCA exercises in Temirtau Town and Dubovka Village:

- *Women's Club Friends by Women Initiatives of 21st century*: this project is being implemented according to the action plan and schedule, and is showing positive results in volunteerism, social partnership with local akimat, and media outreach. As a result of the project, 80 women - victims of domestic violence - were provided with psychological and legal assistance.
- *Our Home* by the initiative group of Dubovka Village: the project is implemented according to the action plan and schedule, the social center is established to set a basis for self-management in solving ongoing social problems in the community. The project enabled locals to establish a public organization *Enthusiast*.

On May 5, the Hub evaluated the community project *Strengthening & Development of Resource Center*. Site visits included meetings with local community dwellers, schoolteachers, NGO representatives and state officials and revealed successful implementation of the project. Objectives, focused on the development of Resource Center's capacity to share the scientific-methodical base with rural schools, are fully achieved. During project implementation, the Center was repaired and provided with office equipment that resulted in technical and logistical improvements in five local schools. 30 directors and teachers of indigent schools of Aqtoghai County have improved their qualifications through seminars, provided in the Center. In terms of social partnership, the oblast department of education and of Balkhash Town provided the Resource Center with 5 additional computers and communication needs, including Internet access.

3. CSSCs' capacity strengthening in community network development.

Kazakhstan list of selected participants in the regional training *Community Network Development* included Community Outreach Coordinator and three representatives from regional rural NGOs. The training, held in the Almaly Sanatorium (Almaty, June 27-30), covered economic and social issues, the concept of *social/cultural capital*, action plan design concerning community network building.

Network Development

The Regular CSSC quarterly meeting was held on May 13-14 in Zhalghas-Counterpart's office, and will cover the following issues:

- Organizational development;
- The network's ethics design;
- Standards of service quality;
- Corporate philanthropy;
- The network project development;
- *Healthy Communities* Program activity;
- Community outreach program;
- The CSSCs' presentation on Board of Directors and development of membership organizations;
- Public campaign on Law *On NGOs*.

- Design of components on development of *Fairs of Social Project*, submitted to TACIS' BISTRO Program.

A partners meeting was held from June 18-20 in the *Yermin* Sanatorium (Kapchaghai reservoir) and gathered over 45 representatives of the Support Centers, focus NGOs and the Hub office program staff. The retreat sessions covered the CSSCs' presentation, master-classes, and final reports from Program Coordinators (OD, Community Outreach, Grant, Training and Reporting).

The Joint Platform of Civil Society Organizations (JPCSO)

The Kazakhstan Network of Civil Society Support Centers, Institute for Development & Cooperation (IDC), and Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan (YISK) initiated the Joint Platform of Civil Society Organizations (JPCSO) that was formed to promote the development of effective state policy and legislation governing the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in Kazakhstan. In pursuit of its mission, the JPCSO has designed and conducted a campaign for promoting a weightier participation of NGOs and independent experts in drafting the Law *On Non-Governmental Organizations*:

- April 11, a constituent meeting was conducted to establish JPCSO.
- April 16, JPCSO appealed to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, parliamentary deputies and Political Councils of seven parties regarding the problems with the draft Law *On NGOs*.
- April 21, JPCSO conducted a press conference on the draft Law *On NGOs*.
- April 23-28, JPCSO conducted regional forums for NGOs from Astana, Almaty, Aqtobe, Oskemen, Semey, Qaraghandy and Qostanai to design the conceptual and procedural recommendations and proposals on the draft Law *On NGOs*.
- April 23-30, JPCSO collected signatures of over 200 Kazakhstan NGOs in support of its Appeal to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, parliamentary deputies and Political Councils of 7 parties of Kazakhstan.
- April 25, JPCSO headquarters launched a special web page of the campaign for overcoming the crisis with the draft Law *On NGOs* on the Web site www.ngo.kz.
- May 6, JPCSO clarified their stance on the draft Law *On NGOs* at a roundtable in Almaty, organized by the US National Democratic Institute of International Relations (NDI).
- May 15-16, JPCSO conducted a number of meetings with deputies and representatives of the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord for overcoming the crisis of legislation governing the country's NGO sector.
- May 16, JPCSO held a roundtable in Parliament with the state deputies, representatives of the President Administration, Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord.
- May 19, Youth Information Service (YISK) and Diabetic Association of the Republic Kazakhstan (DARK), supported by National Democratic Institute (NDI), conducted their advocacy session among over 40 deputies of Mazhilis and Senate of the Parliament.
- May 19-20, over 200 NGOs signed the Platform's *Appeal* that was submitted to the Presidential Administration, Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- May 20, the JPCSO conducted a press conference on the results of the campaign to overcome the crisis of the legislation governing the non-profit sector of Kazakhstan.
- May 26, the JPCSO conducted informational briefing in Almaty to publicize the results of its advocacy campaign.

Based on the results of the above campaign, the JPCSO stated the need to establish effective mechanisms for NGO participation in the decision-making process and drafting legislation regulating the NGO sector. To break through the given crisis, the JPCSO suggested the following:

- To organize Parliamentary hearings on the draft Law *On NGOs* and *On State Social Delivery*,
- To publicize texts of the draft Laws *On NGOs* and *On State Social Delivery* through the national mass media, particularly in the newspaper *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda*.
- To conduct a full-scale discussion of the concepts underlying the above draft laws at the Standing Conference on Democratization & Civil Society Development.

- To establish, under a special Resolution, work groups for revision of the above draft laws, with participation of NGO representatives, independent experts and state officials.
- To conduct a series of bilateral meetings and consultations of Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord and the President's Administration and coalitions of NGOs to develop effective mechanisms for better interaction and cooperation.
- In the frame of forming updated interaction technologies, to establish information web portal and regular web forums participated by NGOs and the state bodies that are responsible for drafting the laws in question.

Up to date, the JPCSO has gained support of over 200 Kazakhstan's NGOs, including a number of NGO coalitions and associations, such as Confederation of Non-governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan, Eco Forum of Kazakhstan and Network of Independent Observers.

Kyrgyzstan

Staff Changes

In May the Assistant Grant Manager left to study in Germany. The Acting Grant Manager was promoted to the position of Grant Manager and a former volunteer was selected to fill the vacant position of Grant Manager Assistant.

The Hub Office has selected Mr. Maratbek Abetekov as the most successful person to fill the position of TACIS IBPP Project Coordinator after interviews with 5 short listed candidates. He has good track record working with credits.

Training Activity

The main accomplishments of the Hub within the context of providing support to CSSCs in administering the training program include:

- The Coordinator took part in the CSSC Association meeting on June 11-13, where she shared information on achievements and gaps of the training program, discussed possibilities for introducing paid training services, and made some recommendations on implementation.
- The Contract Trainer A. Niazalieva took part in the seminar titled *Publication of Independent Materials in Central Asia* held in Warsaw on April 7-18. The participants from all five Central Asian countries obtained new knowledge in designing bulletins, brochures, booklets, flyers and other printing materials. She will use these skills to assist NGOs in producing printed materials.
- In order to build staff capacity, the CSSCs actively participated in training workshops conducted by other international agencies- this quarter, staff from eight CSSCs took part in workshops provided by SBDC Consult, PRAGMA Corporation, INTRAC, NDI, IREX, Soros Foundation, and the Philanthropy Center (Ukraine).
- The training module on NGO Management was translated into Kyrgyz.
- The CSSCs continue delivering training workshops on a cost-sharing and contractual basis. The CSSCs in Kerben, Naryn and Jalalabad conducted seven workshops and earned \$190.

Organizational Development

Currently Sheriktesh has 1 full time manager, 2 part-time employees and 2 volunteers. The staff are proving their capacity to manage a diverse project portfolio.

- The contract with WBI on developing a community empowerment network (CEN) in Kyrgyzstan, has been progressing well. Three meetings of CDD Forum were held, resulting in the formation of two thematic working groups. A conference on CDD issues with participation of 85 people representing local communities, self-governing bodies, central government and international agencies was held in Bishkek on June 13-14.
- Counterpart Sheriktesh was contracted by the World Bank Institute to organize the conference Attacking Poverty, which was held in Bishkek on June 16-20. The main goal of this conference, attended by representatives of governments and civil society of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, was to

overview PRSP process and identify entry points for civil society participation, and eventually to forge links among participants.

- The idea of new partnership project, submitted to the TACIS/BISTRO Programme on May 31, was finalized after consultations with partners from Counterpart Deutschland. The proposed project, titled *Ensuring Citizens Participation on a Local Level*, seeks to institutionalize the process of participation of rural communities and citizens on a grass-root level in 2 pilot locations. Technical assistance will be consisting of three interrelated components: (1) assisting rural communities and NGOs in developing representation and participation mechanisms, (2) promoting electing representative bodies (committees) to ensure equal dialogue with governments, and (3) building local advocacy capacities. It is expected that resulted from the project, the process of regular participation of citizens in local governance and effective dialogue between local communities, NGOs and local governments will be established.

The 4th round of OD re-assessments of the CSSCs was completed, the Hub Office accomplished assessments for the CSSCs of Bishkek, Jalalabad, Kara-Balta, Kant, Kerben, Naryn, and Nookat. Data was summarized and analyzed, and the best practices and lessons learned were documented. Three case management meetings were held in order to assess progress toward achieving programmatic goals, identifying gaps, patterns and trends, and applying learning to future OD work. These meetings were attended by all coordinators (*USAID, EC, and Healthy Communities*). Main accomplishments and achievements are:

- In April all 11 CSSCs signed institutional grant contracts with the Hub Office for the period of April- June 2003, totaling \$41,940 (Attachment 1).
- The OD team assisted CSSCs in developing plans for financial sustainability beyond the term of institutional agreements.
- As a result of OD assessments, the main priorities for CSSCs to build their capacity include: revise strategic plans, develop marketing plan, intensify activities on diversifying funding sources, build staff capacity, build capacity of contract trainers and facilitators, improve the quality of services, improve the work of governing body, and ensure networking.
- According the analysis of the scores of the last OD assessments in 11 CSSCs the increase of the OD score was estimated as 8.46%, much lower than the planned 25%. There are several factors behind such low figures:
 - A lack of information of partners and clients (governments, business, NGOs) about CSSCs' activities, which stipulated unjustified high scores in the first assessment
 - A lack of knowledge of the CSSCs' staff in the OD capacity building areas, which also led to overestimating their capacity during the first assessments.
 - Technical difficulties in using the Model of Sustainable CSSC (insufficiently clear formulation of questions, the scoring system from 0-4 limits opportunities in more objective assessment of organizations).

Community Outreach

The Hub Office focused on assisting CSSCs in conducting close-out and follow-up evaluation visits, and ensuring that all CAGs are completed so that final financial and narrative reports can be submitted by the end of June. The other accomplishments include:

- The CSSCs have conducted 37 monitoring visits to the target communities, 55 close-out and 67 follow-up PM&E of CAGs. To date, 118 close-out and 99 follow-up evaluation reports are being incorporated into the regional database by the Hub Office.
- 7 Volunteer Centers (Kerben, Kara-Balta, Nookat, Talas, Naryn, Jalal-Abad and Osh) become members of the Network of Volunteer Centers initiated by the NGO *League of Volunteers*. On April 25-28, the second meeting of the Network was held in Bishkek.
- Based on results of monitoring visits of the Hub Office staff to 8 CSSCs and their target communities, the main recommendations were highlighted:
 - Localize the monitoring and evaluation process to community level through providing additional coaching for community structures (revision commissions, elder people's committee – sovet aksakalov, etc.), that can assume M&E functions.

- Assist initiative groups in ensuring the project transparency and awareness among community members through conducting regular meeting and share information on project developments and financial aspects

The main trends identified during PM&E activities in target communities are:

- Project planning and implementation are transparent with the creation of water committees for water projects and trustees committees for school projects. to oversee project progress.
- The main and traditional approach *Ashar* tends to be the most effective and popular tool to mobilize local resources.
- The community initiative groups improved their skills and knowledge in financial reporting as CSSCs indicated improved quality of financial reports of grantees.
- The analysis of 43 follow-up evaluation reports indicated a sufficient level of sustainability of 95% of evaluated CAGs. The sustainability of the projects means that all the projects results are functional, communities own projects' results and the fees collection systems are in place.
- The target communities demonstrated potential in attracting other financial sources- 44 of them received financial support from other organizations and local government of \$193,880.
- 53 income generation projects resulted in establishing community foundations in 42 target communities. All community foundations have organizational structure, including governing body (general meeting), management unit (community initiative group/CBO/NGO leaders), revision body (revision committee, elder people committee), an accountant, and a credit committee (where micro-crediting activities are in place). 16 of 42 community foundations have got legal status (microcredit agency, public association, public foundation). The main income sources for these foundations are membership fees, micro-crediting activities, seed-funds, animal and poultry farming, processing of agricultural products, etc.
- The actual number of beneficiaries of all CAG is amounted to 134,462, which means that the number of beneficiaries per project is 1,702 (\$1.5 per beneficiary). Each \$1 spent generated \$1.20 from other sources.
- Most target communities started the process of official registration, and to date 17 community initiative groups have registered as local NGOs.
- Networking among target communities is being successfully developed - three community forums were conducted in Naryn, Nookat and Talas to identify common problems impeding community development and ways to address them. These conferences resulted in establishment of two coordination committees on community network development consisting of representatives from NGOs, CBOs and local authorities.

The main problems encountered during the CAGs implementation include:

- Some communities had problems receiving support from local governments, as they were not able to make contributions to CAG projects as promised earlier.
- Some CIGs had to introduce changes to their project workplans and budgets because of drastic changes in prices at local markets and shortcomings of a planning process.
- There were cases when community members were better informed about the projects at the beginning stage rather than during implementation.

Network Development

On April 10-11, the Hub Office conducted a country meeting of the CSSCs, where they discussed regulations of the Development Fund of the CSSC Association. The participants also discussed achievements and challenges of the Association's activities and made recommendations. The Hub office presented the *Healthy Communities* project, funded by USAID, and *Promoting Entrepreneurship on a Local Level*, funded by TACIS. The USAID's RFA on *Civil Society Support Initiative* was also presented as well as the strategy of Counterpart and the Association to respond to this RFA. The Hub Office facilitated the development of the network project aimed at conducting the advocacy campaign on effective application of NGO tax regulations.

On June 11-13, the Hub Office conducted an Association meeting, the agenda included such items as sharing lessons learned during the implementation of the *Program Of Civil Society And NGO Development*, discussing achievements and gaps, approving the Association's Strategic Plan, admission of a new member- FTI (Bishkek), and approving internal procedures on managing crisis situation. The best practices, challenges and lessons learned of the implementation of the programs such as community mobilization, organizational development, training and grant program was discussed and recommendations were developed. The Country Director Erkin Kasybekov provided a session on simultaneous management of different projects. Several project ideas in the framework of NPRS and CDF were developed, for example, involvement of community members to the implementation of poverty reduction strategies through social mobilization.

The Hub Office has been assisting the CSSC Association to prepare and submit application to ABA/CEELI. The goal of the 12-month project, which was sent to ABA/CEELI for comments, is to build capacities of CSSCs of Batken, Kerben, Jalalabad, Osh and Nookat to provide legal services to local NGOs, inclusive of training, consultations, information support aimed at building advocacy capacities of local civil society organizations. This is to be achieved through the placing a lawyer in each CSSCs, which will be responsible for delivering legal services and representing interests of appealed citizens, NGOs and CBOs. The project will increase skills of local NGOs and CBOs to advocate on behalf of their clientele.

Tajikistan

Security Situation

In general, the security situation in the country remained quite stable and calm.

Staff Development

June 2-6 the Country Director, Financial Officer and M&E specialist participated in the regional workshop on Leadership and Management. The workshop was very useful for gaining knowledge and skills in management, practice exercises and exchange experiences. The workshop material was focused more on business related management. Participants compared similarities and differences in the approaches and discussed advantages and disadvantages of the methods and approaches suggested.

May 26-30 the Community Outreach Program Coordinator and Khujand CSSC Director attended the follow-up workshop in Almaty on Community Networking. The goal of the workshop was to enhance knowledge and improve skills in community development based on the concept of social capital.

In April the Training Coordinator attended an AED organized training session for partner agencies to get acquainted with AED's training program requirements. AED also provided consulting on their training assistance request form and the process for submitting formal training requests.

In June Counterpart organized a strategic planning workshop for CSSC Network Members. The workshop was facilitated by Andrea Burniske, Chief of the Party for Women Empowerment Project. Network members were given special instruments to make SWOT analyses. The workshop proved to be a preparatory stage for strategic plan development.

Training Activity

The extension period provided a good opportunity for the CSSC network to fulfill indicators on basic and advanced training. For that additional funds were allocated to CSSCs to cover any gaps in their training program. By June 30 all the CSSCs accomplished their training program targets.

The Hub was requested by CARE to develop a module on Referendum issues. The idea was to train beneficiaries, *Federations of Women Groups* on the concept of a Referendum, explain the procedures,

and rules for participation, and clarify amendment protocol. Jointly with NGO *Women Voters* the Hub developed a one-day training that is accessible and comprehensive for a community level audience. As a result, 28 trainings have been provided and information about the partnership and the trainings was published in the local paper.

In April 23-25 Hub staff attended TB training provided by the leader of Almaty NGO *Young leaders*. The training proved to be very effective and encouraged people to feel a part of a strong team. They learned about each other, personal values, and the values of the organization. They asked a number of questions about team work, management and leadership conflict prevention and resolution. The trainer did her best to motivate people for open discussions and used the most effective team building exercises, which helped staff be tolerant and supportive.

Organizational Development

At the beginning of April the Hub reviewed all CSSC budgets for the extension period and approved them. On the average each Center got around \$4,400 for three months of activity. The CSSCs revised their work-plans to reflect additional activities for extension period.

All network members including staff from the Hub Office were invited by the Kurgon-Teppa CSSC to participate in a presentation of the new office space. The building was constructed by the CSSC with funds from Counterpart, UNHCR and their own income from fee for services and loan programs. Local NGOs, CBOs, community leaders, and governmental officials participated in the presentation. All who made a speech underlined a significant work of the Center, their willingness and readiness to help all that need their help and services. The presentation was combined with the closing of the Community Outreach program. All CSSC managers presented achievements, partnership experiences, tangible results and impacts of the community outreach program. The presentation ended with the awarding of certificates to community leaders who successfully implemented CAGs.

A CSSC was established in the Garm district, Rasht Valley. Counterpart Tajikistan awarded an Institutional Grant to the new CSSC in the amount of \$5,000 USD to acquire equipment and furniture for the office. In Rasht Valley, Garm district CSSC has been established on the basis of the local NGO *National Reconciliation* the mission of which is to promote the development and support of Civil Society. Within the implementation of the Phase III program Rasht Valley remained beyond Counterpart activities. In the area there are 13 NGOs and 38 Jamoat Development Committees and the Dushanbe CSSC couldn't be responsive to the capacity building needs of this population.

Community Outreach

Within extension period the key activity was follow-up and close-out evaluation of projects. Recently all Community projects have been completed. Database includes 46 reports on closing evaluation. CSSC staff and Hub PCs are finalizing the evaluation process for inclusion in the final report. The core indicator of the Community Mobilization component has been met and there are many examples that demonstrate the impact of Counterpart interventions at the community level. The most important achievement of the program was provision of projects sustainability, that depended not only from the proper implementation of the project, but the attitude of the population to the results of the project, their feeling of ownership. CAGs where SP is a key element are complemented by the sizeable contributions from local governments. There are examples where CAGs raised the motivation of governmental officials and as the result other infrastructure projects have been implemented at the expense of the communities and local governments without any external funding.

On May 27 the Mayor of Dushanbe met with NGOs at the initiative of Dushanbe CSSC. The Dushanbe Center has been instrumental in changing the climate surrounding social partnership. They have created a Coordination Committee with the Mayor, other governmental officials, International Organizations, and NGOs. Their role will be to identify socially significant issues, prioritize them and find ways to solve them. All committee members confirmed their readiness to provide resources for problems solution.

Network Development

In April 14-16 a three day Network Meeting was held in the Hub Office with participation of 3 program people from each CSSC and all staff of the Hub. The agenda of the meeting was developed in accordance with needs and recommendations suggested by the network members. Some items covered include M&E, grants, community outreach, training, the registration of Counterpart *Hamkori*, and the expansion of the network to include a CSSC in Rasht valley. All CSSCs approved the idea and suggested including CSSC staff in the group of the researchers travelling to Garm to set up the CSSC. The program coordinators were well-prepared for their sessions. Brain Ring was one of the new initiatives suggested by Hub program staff. It was suggested in the form of the game and at the same time it was an opportunity to assess the knowledge of the network on the program, financial requirements, management, etc. CSSCs proved to be strong enough to answer almost all questions. The game was very absorbing and CSSCs enjoyed it very much. The Dushanbe Center turned out to be the strongest theoretically and was awarded a certificate of appreciation. There was a wish from the Centers to replicate this initiative in future meetings.

In the middle of June Counterpart Tajikistan held its last network meeting within Phase III. In the introductory part the country director informed the participants about the recent situation, strategy after July 1 and prospective future of the Association. Network members shared their confidence about joint work within Association. Then discussed program issues related to other ongoing projects. At the end of the first day three CSSCs presented video-films devoted to Social Partnership, Community Mobilization and Volunteer Development. The second day of the meeting was devoted to strategic planning for Association of CSSCs. Network members discussed strengths and weaknesses, conducted stakeholder analysis, and identified directions for future action. After the meeting participants traveled outside of Dushanbe to celebrate the successful accomplishment of the Community Outreach Program. Network members have been awarded certificates of acknowledgement and presented T-shirts with the Counterpart logo.

CSSC Association Development was determined as one of the crucial strategies of the network. The issue has been discussed and coordinated with network members through e-mail to get the opinion of the network about the acceptability of the idea. CSSCs have confirmed that the network is mature enough to formalize the relationship. In the meeting we had opportunity to discuss advantages and disadvantages of the Association. All agreed that Association would promote sustainability of the network, expansion of the range of services, diversification of funding sources, protection of members' rights and support for grassroots members (Penjikent and Garm CSSCs). It's been decided to establish internal Board of Directors including all CSSC Managers, to elect a Chairman of Board of Directors. The network members have discussed many issues related to Governing body and the structure of the association. They were assigned to promote the development of the charter. CT was obliged to hire a lawyer to make it in compliance with Tajik law. As a result of long-term coordination with CSSCs on the contents of the charter, collection of all appropriate documents from all network members, we have submitted the package of documents to the Ministry of Justice for the registration of the National Association of CSSC. The registration has been certified by June 28, 2003.

Turkmenistan

Activity Overview

The Hub office provided assistance to Resource Center under "Diller Dynyasi" in Turkmenbashi city to conduct several activities for NGOs and initiative groups such as discussion meetings, and providing access to information. Two meetings for Turkmenbashi NGOs and initiative groups on volunteer development were organized by the Hub. They also organized Volunteers Management and Using of Information Resources of Internet trainings in accordance with local NGO requests. Internet, fax, e-mail, copy machine, two computers are available for NGOs through Resource Center.

The workshop on Lessons Learned was organized on May 26 for CSSCs and Hub program staff to discuss PCA, Participatory M&E, and local grant committees procedures and rules. The preliminary results were prepared and distributed for program staff to analyze, discuss and supplement. 12 community representatives from Dashoguz, Lebap, Akhal velayats and 10 CSSCs and Hub office staff were invited to participate.

Analysis of program implementation from April-June revealed the following priority areas for future work: On the job training for CSSCs; feedback on reporting and current work; improved method of communication with CSSCs; timely follow up on case management meetings; increased capacity of CSSCs in management; using different tools in financial control; follow-up on recommendations developed during the PCA lessons learned; and increased training capacity of CSSCs.

The AED/Start funded Volunteer Forum was conducted from May 2-4. 50 representatives of government, commercial, NGO, and initiative groups from all over Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and international organizations participated. After the Forum a Volunteer Resource book was published with information from the Gurt RC, volunteer forum material, Slabjanin book, and Counterpart's work on volunteer development. This book was distributed to Turkmenistan participants of the Forum and to the CSSCs. Two follow up meetings on volunteerism were conducted in the Ashgabat CSSC and the Turkmenbashi Resource Center.

Staff Development

- Natalya Semenova started to work as a Dashoguz CSSC Manager on June 10.
- The contract with Lebap CSSC Manager was terminated in the end of June.
- The Country Director, Program Manager and Financial Manager participated in the regional training Leadership and Management in Almaty from June 2-6.
- The OD Coordinator, and Dashoguz CSSC Program Coordinator participated in the Regional Training on Community Network Development held in Almaty June 27-30.
- The Country Director participated in the regional INTRAC conference "Who Benefits: the Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs in Central Asia" on April 28-29 in Bishkek.
- The Ashgabat CSSC Program Coordinator participated in the "Training for Trainers" seminar held in Almaty on June 16-22.
- The OD Coordinator attended the Counterpart training "Facilitation Skill Development".

Training Activity

- 15 trainings for 236 people from 157 NGOs were conducted. Out of 15 trainings 7 were conducted in Lebap and Dashoguz velayats, and 2 were conducted in Turkmenbashi city.
- The package of documents on training needs assessment, which consists of guidelines, report form, samples of questionnaire was developed and introduced to the CSSCs.
- Three training modules - Facilitation Skills Development, Social Partnership, Fundraising - were translated into Turkmen language. A training in Membership Development was conducted for the first time for contract-trainers from all velayats, the Hub and CSSC staff.
- Two TARFs were submitted to AED Start Project – one to conduct a seminar on Social Partnership in Akhal velayt and one for four NGOs to send representatives to a Media Training in Ekaterinburg. Three TARFs on Community Network Development, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, and Public Relations were developed and sent to the regional office.

Organizational Development

- The OD Coordinator analyzed the organizational development of the CSSCs. Lessons learned and recommendations were discussed at the network meeting and taken into consideration in the action plans for the Hub and CSSCs for April-June.
- OD plans for Lebap, Dashoguz and Ashgabat CSSCs for extension period were developed in cooperation with the Hub.
- The OD Coordinator assisted to Resource Center in Turkmenbashi to develop its activity plan for the extension period of April-June.

- The mini training on planning and time management for Hub and CSSCs program staff was organized in cooperation with Ashgabat CSSC Program Coordinator.
- The OD Coordinator and Financial Manager of Counterpart Turkmenistan conducted an internal audit of the Lebap and Dashoguz CSSCs and provided reports and feedback to the CSSCs.
- The financial department conducted an internal audit of Counterpart Turkmenistan. The audit included meetings with staff, review of financial documents, an inventory of equipment, and monitoring of cash operation and management. The results of the audit were prepared in a report submitted to the Country Director.
- The Hub helped the CSSCs update staff job descriptions.

Community Outreach

- An electronic database of technical experts was created and is being used by the Lebap, Ashgabat and Dashoguz CSSCs. The information on the technical experts will be a great resource in analyzing technically complicated community projects.
- In term of building CSSCs skills in conducting outreach activities the formats for conducting activities such as roundtables was adapted. As a result in the Dashoguz and Ashgabat CSSCs social partnership roundtables were conducted.
- Through direct consultations on volunteer management/recruitment issues the CSSCs maintain a database of volunteers.
- Twenty CAG projects were monitored in the Dashoguz, Lebap, and Akhal velayats. Two CAGs in Akdepe, Dashoguz and Bash Saka, Lebap were not finished, but the communities committed to complete them.

Network Development

The vision of the Counterpart Turkmenistan network was revised this past quarter. The most appropriate networking models and mechanisms were reviewed again and are being considered in the context of future work. All three CSSCs will continue to work as a Counterpart branches and other local organizations having legal status will be assessed as a potential partners.

Uzbekistan

Activity Overview

April 11, 2002 – NGO *Khamroh* composed of almost whole Hub-office staff was registered in the Ministry of Justice. During the quarter *Hamroh* developed project proposals to different foundations to provide organizational sustainability.

Training Activity

- On April 29-30 advanced training on *Membership Development* was conducted for 7 CSSC Coordinators, 2 Hub-office representatives and 6 contract trainers.
- In June two Hub-office representatives participated in the TOT on *Conduction of Civic Forums* organized by *Soros Foundation*.
- On June 27-30 two CSSC Coordinators, 7 contract trainers and Hub-office Health Coordinator participated in the regional training on *Network Development* in Almaty.
- A new contract format with trainers was developed and signed for three months.

Information

The Bulletin Initiative

As a hard copy and an electronic variant, 3 issues of the bulletin *Initiative* were published for April-June in Russian and Uzbek (4/54, 5/55, 6/56) and one issue in English for Spring 2003. The circulation numbers include 600 Russian copies, 300 Uzbek copies, and 200 English copies. All issues of the bulletins were placed on CANGO.NET in English at <http://www.cango.net/kg/uz> and in Russian at <http://win.cango.net/kg/uz>. The published bulletins were mailed to 155 addresses. The mailing list for the bulletin in an electronic format increased to 232 addresses. The remaining copies were distributed through the CSSCs during the visits, consultations, seminars, and conferences.

Cango.NET

The database of Uzbekistan NGOs was updated, with non-functioning initiative groups removed and new NGOs added. As of June 30 716 NGOs and initiative groups were listed in the database. The updated database information was shared with a number of international organizations at their request (Eurasian Foundation, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, etc.).

Network Development/Information

CSSC and target NGOs were regularly provided with information about new grant programs of International Organizations, fellowships and upcoming events. The list of International Organizations located in Uzbekistan as well as potential donors for NGOs from abroad was updated and distributed to CSSCs and NGOs. This list includes 101 organizations with contact data and brief descriptions of their activity.

Network Development

In May 16-17 a Network meeting was conducted. All the CSSC as well as the localized Hub presented their recent activity and their vision of the Network in the future. Opportunities and threats for the Network after July 1 have been defined. The Network began preparing all the necessary documents for Network registration. The network of seven CSSCs, excluding the Hub, voted to accept the localized Hub as a member of the Network, but due to absence some of the members, the final decision was postponed to the next meeting. The Network members elected the Director of Samarkand Center as the coordinator of the Network until the next meeting. The Coordinator is expected to be responsible for preparing the agenda and developing the first draft of the Regulations of the Network and Board of Directors of the Network.

On June 26 a Director's meeting was held in Samarkand and participants agreed to the following:

- To prepare, for approval, official protocol for Network and Directors meetings.
- To include the localized Hub, *Hamroh*, as a member of the Network.
- To accept drafts of the document on the Network and Board of Directors with additions and comments.
- To assign the chairman of the Board of Directors with the final responsibility to prepare the Coordinating Center Regulations of the Network.
- To approve Tanzilya Salimdjanova, Director of Samarkand CSSC, as the Network Chairman.

D. CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTER OVERVIEW

Kazakhstan

1. ZHALGHAS-Counterpart, Almaty Oblast, Almaty

Internal Capacity Building

- On April 3, ZHALGHAS Program Coordinator jointly with the Regional Training Coordinator and Senior Program Officer took part in a meeting to update the training modules.
- The Program Assistant compiled materials on *Fairs of Social Projects* for inclusion in relevant project proposals to TACIS.
- Program staff helped conduct the informational advocacy campaign for the NGO Forum.
- Program staff designed presentation materials on ZHALGHAS' activity during the Phase III.
- The CSSC Program Coordinator assisted the Community Outreach Coordinator in conducting comprehensive research on the Community Outreach program's impact on civil society development in Kazakhstan.
- The Program Coordinator met with volunteers from the US Peace Corps and the leader of the NGO *Avara* (Turkmenistan) and discussed the CSSC's activity with volunteerism.
- The Program Coordinator assisted in the development of a \$20,000 project proposal (by NGO *Baspana*) that was submitted to the World Bank's grant committee on May 21.
- The CSSC Director participated in design of a project on *Managing Ethnic Diversity and Ethno Tourism Development*.
- The CSSC took part in implementation of the *Healthy Communities Program* (collection of applications and letters of interest, consulting in the program's issues, organization of PCA training, and conducting monitoring & evaluation).
- In the framework of the CSSC's sustainable development, agreements were signed to deliver trainings ordered with NGO *Baspana* and the resource centers of Kzyl-Orda NGOs, Peace Corps and ACCELS.
- 68 consultations in project design, legal issues and the *Healthy Community* program were provided by the CSSC.
- Galym Zhukupbayev, Program Coordinator left the CSSC in June and his duties were reassigned to Aziza Imangaliva, Program Assistant. Askar Kaliev, former volunteer, was appointed to Program Assistant.
- On June 3, the CSSC provided its training room to the public organization *Association of Disabled Women Shyraq* for the seminar Objectives of the Crisis Center against Violence.
- On June 6, the INTRAC donor meeting was held in the CSSC's training room.
- On June 9-13 the CSSC organized its training room for computer classes initiated by IREX.

Community Outreach

- The CSSC's activity focused on information support to the national advocacy campaign.
- Follow-up evaluations targeted the following community projects:
 - The project Heating System Building in the Community Hostel *Zhas Kanat*, managed by the public organization *Baspana*, was evaluated, and revealed the need to create a local Consumers Cooperative.
 - *Building of Children' & Teens' Sport Complex* (by *Baspana*) is under full operation and resulted in creation of two initiative groups in neighboring community.
 - *Water Supply in Bes Aghash*, implemented (by *Baspana*), resulted in building additional 100m of road and 2,300m of pipe, enabled 100 households to have access to water.
 - *Water Supply* (by NGO *Salauat*) showed sustainable social partnership of the community and state bodies.
 - *Processing of Agro Products of Incubator Community* (by *Union of Rural Women of Talghar County*) is under full operation due to installment of grain-processing equipment and improves living conditions of locals, involved in the project.
 - *Major Repairs of Irrigation Canal* (by *Union of Rural Women of Talghar County*) provides with water over 111 hectares of apple garden.

- *Creation & Development of Organization of Relatives having In-Patients* (by NGO *Asar-Service*) enabled 20 people to get job and the NGO to set social partnership with municipal body.
- *Making of Souvenir Ceramics by members of Nadezhda Community* (managed by NGO *City Center for Women Initiative*) is under full operation and cooperation with the municipal artisan department.
- *Building of 15-meters depths Well* in the community *Azamat* (by NGO *Nesip*) mobilized neighboring communities including 42 families.
- In April, ZHALGHAS Program Coordinator assisted representatives of *Baspana* in designing of partner project that raised \$20,000 in the framework of the World Bank's program for innovational ideas.
- In April-May, ZHALGHAS Program Assistant informed local nonprofit social organizations about the activity of the NGO Forum on Law draft On NGOs. The Forum was held on April 23 and initiated collection of signatures to prevent adoption of given law by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In addition, informational support to the campaign was provided via web site www.ngo.kz.

2. *Agency for Social Technologies & Development (ASTRa)*, Aqmola Oblast, Astana

Internal Capacity Building

- In April the CSSC designed Action plan on *Healthy Community* program (for April – June 2003) and work plan in further activity with INTRAC and UNDP.
- Designed project proposal *M&E Promotion* was granted \$7,895 by the Eurasia Foundation. The project *Conducting Information Fairs of NGOs in Astana* was granted by the World Bank.
- On April 15, the CSSC staff met Elena Gaetskaya (IREX) to discuss further cooperation in Internet access in the ASTRa resource center.
- A regular meeting of Board of Directors of ASTRa was held on April 19 to discuss interaction between members of the Board and share the report on the Center's activity for January-April.
- The CSSC staff met with a journalist from the local newspaper *Oko* and agreed to publicize future NGO events.
- Two focus groups were held to research service delivery to the newly opened and developed NGOs in the region. 38 NGOs were included in the CSSC database.
- 301 visits were registered in the Center.
- ASTRa assisted Exxon Mobil Company in the search of a public organization that will conduct charitable campaigns for vulnerable people.
- The CSSC staff participated in the following seminars and gatherings:
 - *State Support of NGO Development for 2003 – 2005*, organized by Academy under State Service of the President of Kazakhstan.
 - NGO Info-center's meeting of April 9.
 - April 16 press conference *Perspectives for Astana NGO Development*, organized by Department of Information & Public Accord.
 - Conference *Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Programs in Central Asia* held by INTRAC/Interbilim on April 28-29 in Bishkek.
 - *Accounting* training held by Counterpart-Kazakhstan in Almaty on May 27-31.
 - May 7 of Consultative Council under the Authority on Human Rights in Kazakhstan.
 - May 16 the World Bank's roundtable for NGO working in poverty reduction programs, and in Round table *Legislative Regulation of NGO Interaction and State Bodies*.
 - May 23rd International Scientific Conference *Interaction of the State and Human Rights NGOs*.
- On April 24, ASTRa organized NGO Forum that gathered 31 representatives of local NGOs and mass media.
- June 12-13, the CSSC Director and Manager conducted training in Project M&E, financed by Eurasia Foundation for 20 officials of the State Agency Temir Zholy and Department of Labor, and Employment and Peoples Social Protection.

Community Outreach

- The CSSC's staff conducted follow-up M&E of the following five community projects:
 - *Sport & Cultural Center "Rodnik"* in Uspeno-Yur'evka Village of Aqmola Oblast. The center was opened, and its initiative group plans to register a NGO.
 - *Uyut* (Comfort) in Moskovsky Village of Aqmola Oblast resulted in building of mini-farm and rural club that aimed at involvement of local youth in social activity.
 - *Zhivaya Voda* (Life Water) in Atbasar Town resulted in formation of several initiative groups among medical workers and teachers who arise public awareness about healthy and social active lifestyle in the region.
 - *Social Center Nadezhda* (Hope) in Prigorodny Village operates on full basis for the needs of local children and teens.
 - Implementation of the project *Center for Mutual Aid* showed sustainable development of its initiative group's activity.
- The CSSC staff participated in a roundtable discussion on May 7 held in the framework of community project *Creation of Public Center Aidyn*, being implemented in Prigorodny Village. The event gathered 14 representatives of initiative groups of Zarechny, Tonkeris, Prigorodny Villages, volunteers of NGOs *Nadezhda* (Hope), *Aidyn*, the CSSC *ASTRa*, Society of Disabled Children, and covered volunteerism development issues.
- On May 27-28, the CSSC assisted in organization of NGO volunteerism training, conducted by trainers from the NGO *Arlan* and Kazakhstan Bureau of Human Rights for 15 NGO representatives.
- On April 24, the CSSC staff organized a meeting of the NGO Forum in the framework of the national advocacy campaign. 28 local NGOs were informed of initiatives of Joint Platform of Civil Society Organizations, and legal expertise concerning law draft On NGOs. All participants signed the Statement to prevent adoption of the Law.

3. Entrepreneurship Development Agency SMEDA, Aqtobe Oblast, Aqtobe

Internal Capacity Building

- In April the CSSC expanded its office space and created a separate training room.
- The CSSC continued its technical service delivery on chargeable basis (copy, printing, fax).
- NGO Forum was held in the CSSC *SMEDA* and gathered 13 local non-governmental organizations.
- Olga Nazarova, an Independent Evaluation Expert, conducted assessment of the CSSC *SMEDA* and meetings with the Center's constituency, clients and former members.
- Action plan on capacity building and service delivery development was designed in May.

Community Outreach

- The CSSC' activity was focused on participatory M&E of the community projects and advocacy strengthening. PM&E activities were conducted with the following:
 - *Overhaul of Water Pipes* in buildings of Consumers' Cooperative *Mukomol 26* of Aqtobe was successfully completed in resulted in improvement of living conditions in the community.
 - *Planting the Neighborhood with Trees* in Aqtobe mobilized the community in additional actions and strengthened social partnership.
 - *Building of 8 Play & Sport Grounds* in the neighborhood of Consumers' Cooperative *Sel'mash* of Aqtobe resulted in design of the project *Creation of Grand Sport Complex* submitted to local Akimat.
 - *Building of Drinking Water Storage* by NGO *Kamkorshy* in Shubarkuduk Village of Temir County showed impact by social partnership development with local authorities.
- In connection to legislation draft On NGOs, the CSSC *SMEDA* organized NGO Forum to publicize its critical view about the Law that needs to be prevented from adoption by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. 13 local NGOs signed the relevant Statement.

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

Internal Capacity Building

- The CSSC IRIS provided six consultations in project design.
- The roundtable, held by the CSSC, was aimed at discussion of the draft Law *On NGOs*, and the collection of signatures of 20 local NGOs. In addition, a Head of the Support Center made an official Appeal to Deputy Minister to include consideration of the given legislative base in Regular Council on democratization & civil society development.
- The CSSC informed local NGOs about the *Healthy Community* program and beginning of its second round, and assisted in the design of application letters. In this connection, PCA & CAP and Project Design seminars were delivered to the local health NGOs.
- In April, the CSSC conducted Project Design training for employees of Dostoevsky Museum.
- The CSSC staff participated in the following events:
 - Grant Committee, organized by UNDP. The Support Center was financed to develop Grant Plan on strengthening of NGO projects.
 - The seminar *International Standards in Financial Reporting*, organized by Institute of Professional Accountants & Auditors in Almaty.
 - May TOT session in Oskemen ZUBR.
- The Support Center met the British International organization *Mouchel* to discuss the action plan for their joint project *Sustainable Land-Use* financed by DFID. In the project's framework, the CSSC implements its activity in areas in close proximity to former nuclear testing sites. The \$20,000 project aims at PCA/PRA research, CBO development and community mobilization through participatory design of action plan on sustainable land use in the given counties.
- In May, the CSSC consulted the Association of Youth & Children Organizations in design of the project *Creation of Youth Info Center in Oskemen* and branch of Kazakhstan Association of Young Lawyers in organizational development and health project design.
- *IRIS* staff assisted Qaraghandy *ECOCENTER* and International organization *Safe Energy Institute* in conducting of Deep Ecology training.

Community Outreach

The CSSC staff conducted follow-up monitoring & evaluation of community projects:

- *Potato Cultivation* in the boarding school for sight-impaired children in Semey showed its sufficient sustainability and beneficial impact on the daily lives of community members.
- *Kausar Bulaq* (Pure Spring) in Begen Village mobilized its community in cleaning the neighborhood, planting it with trees and created local committees for better organized actions.
- *Moidodyr* (Clean) in orphanage Podrostok of Semey enabled the community to improve sanitary and technical base and set cooperation with other regional NGOs.
- *Improvement of Sanitary & Living Conditions* in the Semey Center for Rehabilitation & Adaptation of Minors followed their action plan and working order of all equipment.
- *Repairs of School Windows* was carried out in Sarzhal Village of Abai County, and showed its full completion evidenced by significant improvement of the school conditions, and initiated a formation of local public organization *Asar*.
- *Making of Tasty & Healthy Bread* in Buras Village is on the way of relocation by NGO *Initiative Women of Besqaraghai County*.

5. *Social Corporate Fund ZUBR*, East-Kazakhstan Oblast, Oskemen

Internal Capacity Building

- In April, the CSSC signed agreement with Department of Translation Theory & Practice of East Kazakhstan State University to organize student internships in the Support Center on quarterly basis.
- *Basics in NGO Management* seminar of April 10 was conducted for leaders of nonprofit organizations and initiated by Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord in participation of Department of Internal Policy of East Kazakhstan.
- The CSSC staff participated in the following seminars and events:

- April 21 – 22, *Consulting Services Development*, organized by *Pragma* Corporation on April 21 – 22.
- April 8th, *New Standards in Tax Reporting*, organized by Department of Statistics of East Kazakhstan.
- April 11th Conference Financing of Small & Medium Businesses, organized by *Pragma* Corporation in partnership with Akimat of Oskemen.
- April 17th Municipal Akimat's round table on discussion of legislative draft on *State Social Delivery*.
- International conference *Local Self-Management on Kazakhstan: situational account & perspectives for development*, organized by Urban Institute, Soros-Kazakhstan Fund and Moscow Public Scientific Fund on May 21-23.
- Seminar *International Standards in Financing Reporting*, held in Almaty on May 27-31.
- The Sixth Annual Conference of trainers and consultants *Inter Training* (June 9-14).
- Dialog Club meetings of local NGOs (June 6) to set a partnership with state bodies under Akimat of Oskemen;
- Several training methods were provided to experimental lab *Technology for Training Seminar Addressed to Mature Audience* in the framework of *Summer School – Social Process Management*, financed by the Soros-Kazakhstan Fund.
- Analysis of activity of Social Corporate Fund *ZUBR* was included in the book *State Youth Policy in East Kazakhstan: background, challenges, decision making (practical recommendations)* published in April 2003.
- On April 21-22, two focus groups *Elections to Oblast Maslikhat* were carried out by order of Ministry and Oblast Department of Culture, Information and Public Accord.
- On April 24, *ZUBR* conducted seminar *Business Planning* in Kokpekty Village for 40 managers of youth rural organizations and initiative groups. The seminar was organized in the framework of joint project *Creation of Info Youth Services* by Department of Internal Policy and NGO *For Future of Kazakhstan*.
- The CSSC *ZUBR* delivered 94 consultations in fundraising, project design and *Healthy Communities* program.
- A training room was organized for the seminar *Scouting Introduction*, conducted by Scouting Movement Organizations of Kazakhstan and Department of Internal Policy on April 26-27.
- Over 20 signatures of local NGOs were collected in the framework of advocacy campaign to prevent adoption of the Law *On NGOs*.
- Effective May, the CSSC launched the project *Civil Participation in Improvement of the Territory of Kazakhstan* in partnership with public fund *Decent* (Pavlodar) Association of NGOs of Qostanai Oblast and Institute for Development of Local Self-Management (Petropavlovsk). The project is supported by Soros-Kazakhstan Fund.
- TOT was conducted by the CSSC *ZUBR* on May 21-23.
- *ZUBR*'s Board of Trustees met on June 3 and discussed activity results. It is planned to make the increase the Board membership to 7 experts and set a strategy for Summer School 2003.

Community Outreach

The CSSC' staff conducted follow-up monitoring & evaluation of community projects:

- *Leisure Time Organization & Management for Teens Risky To be Alcohol & Drug Abuse And Vagrancy*, by Consumers' Cooperative *Ellada* in Oskemen resulting in the creation of a sport and fitness club and computer center that are constantly attended by over 50 young locals.
- *Comfort & Safety*, by Consumers' Cooperative *Lenin-50* in Oskemen mobilized 90% of the community dwellers in initiation of new project to repair heating system and install heat meter.
- *Hope in Future* by socio-corporative fund *Shyghys* ("East") and *Participatory Community Action* by Consumers' Cooperative *Ellada* were well organized and under a proper realization.

6. Association of NGOs of Qostanai oblast, Qostanai

Internal Capacity Building

- A total of 79 consultations, mainly in project design, organizational development, legal issues, and the *Healthy Communities* program, were delivered by the Support Center.
- April 25th meeting with representatives of Coordination Council on economic and social development of Qostanai was aimed at discussion of the CSSC proposal on complex development of the city through conducting of 5 pilot projects.
- In April, the CSSC signed partnership agreements with Urban Institute to help implement its programs in the region, and with UNDP to conduct the project Civil Society Organizations Capacity Building to Participate in Election to Maslikhat of Qostanai City.
- The CSSC was in close coordination with ZUBR in realization of the project *Civil Participation in Improvement of the Territory of Kazakhstan*, supported by Soros-Kazakhstan Fund.
- The CSSC extended its staff members by including new Program Coordinators – Igor Zuev and Anna Belous.
- The CSSC assisted Oblast Department of Information in search of sustainable projects to be proposed to Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord. Gathered grant committee of May 14 submitted 2 projects out of 9 collected proposals.
- Being trained in TOT Qostanai trainers conducted an NGO & Community seminar in Oskemen on May 29-30.
- The CSSC staff participated in the following meetings and events:
 - May 21-22, the final contest of the program *Innovational Ideas* of the World Bank in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The grant committee approved the project on creation of local corporate charity fund.
 - May 21-23, the Conference *Local Self-Management in Kazakhstan: situational account and perspectives for development*, organized by Soros-Kazakhstan Fund and Urban Institute.
 - *Accounting* training in Almaty (May 26-31).

Community Outreach

The CSSC's activity was focused on follow-up monitoring & evaluation of the community projects:

- *Development of Folk Art* (by initiative group of Kazakh repatriates from Mongolia in the public organization *Oralman*) enabled the project's 14 executors to get jobs in a wood-processing shop and set sustainable social partnership and mass media outreach.
- *Children Dairy Kitchen-Shop* in Auliekol Village and *Jobs Placement in Sewing & Shoe Works* in Borovoi Village revealed the lack of skills in financial management and strategic planning. In this connection, the project managers were advised to take part in relevant CSSC trainings.

7. Qaraghandy Regional Ecological Center ECOCENTER, Qaraghandy oblast, Qaraghandy Internal Capacity Building

- Ordered by Holland HIVOS performance appraisal of *ECOCENTER's* activity was carried out the Russian Company Process Consulting on April 21-May 1.
- The following seminars were organized and conducted during the reporting period:
 - April 14-18, *Internet* training for librarians of Qaraghandy, initiated by Informational Center of Soros-Kazakhstan Fund.
 - May 26-30, *Internet* training for Children's Home named Nadezhda Krupskaya. The training was financed by IREX through Info Center of Qaraghandy.
 - May 2-7, seminars on manual design for ecological education of *Eco School*.
 - *ECOCENTER* staff participated in the following events:
 - April 23-25, the second sub-regional consultative meeting *Ecological Education for Sustainable Development in Central Asia*, held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).
 - The Fifth Conference on the Environment in Europe in Kiev (May 21-23) and the following seminar on SPARE (Norway) program.
 - June 5 roundtable table on radioactive waste issues with the Ministry of Nature Preservation and Semey NGO *IRIS*.
 - Seminar-training *Principles of Partner Project Design*, organized by Central Asian Regional Eco Center on June 12 – 14 in Almaty.

- Counterpart’s Training Coordinator and Financial Manager monitored the CSSC training program and financial documentation on May 5 – 8.

Community Outreach

The CSSC’s activity was focused on CAG follow-up monitoring & evaluation:

- *Nash Dom* by Public Center *Enthusiast* in Dubovka Village and *Women Club Podrugi* in Temirtau Town were successfully completed achieving the projects objectives.
- On April 14, the CSSC held the NGO roundtable on the draft law *On NGOs* and collected 26 signatures of local public organizations.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	ZHALGHAS-Counterpart	ASTRa	SMEDA	ECO CENTER	Association of NGOs of Qostanai Oblast	IRIS	ZUBR
Number of visitors	41	129	133	107	92	208	105
Number new visitors	6	36	23	43	14	30	12
Number of visits	188	301	312	263	138	353	161
Number of NGOs receiving services	787	83	81	57	51	45	39
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	58	31	28	30	11	11	24
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	1	0	0	1	5	0
Number of trainings	5	4	5	6	9	6	12
Number of consultations	95	51	125	599	79	195	94
Number of times Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	520	158	132	601	27	330	53
Number of times copy machine was used	85	98	82	360	37	60	60
Number of copies	0	10386	1120	1905	1440	5100	401
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	118	37	13	282	18	21	22
Number of PCAs conducted	0	0	0	6	1	0	0
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Kyrgyzstan

Activity Overview

The Hub Office conducted a training seminar on *Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability* for 12 members of governing bodies of CSSCs of Talas, Kara-Balta, Naryn, Karakol and Kant, and focus NGOs Bayastan and BCSI in Issyk-Kul on April 27-29. The same seminar for 13 members of governing bodies of CSSCs of Kerben, Jalalabad, Osh, Nookat and Batken, as well as the focus NGO Chintamani was held in Jalalabad on May 28-30.

Within the framework of the new TACIS-funded project *Promoting Entrepreneurship at a Grass-root Level*, the DCCA program staff has delivered a training seminar for 10 people from the CSSCs of Kara-Balta and Nookat on June 3-4, consisting of 4 modules: (1) Introduction in what is SHG, membership criteria, etc., (2) Savings and loans, (3) Filing System in SHGs, and (4) Rotation of

Internal Loans, Repayment Mechanisms, External Credits. Following this seminar, training on interview techniques was conducted in June 5-6 in Kara-Balta by the local consulting firm Expert.

Mrs. N. Aldasheva, the Manager of Batken CSSC, Mr. T. Khamdamov, the Manager of Kerben CSSC, and Mr. I. Gubaidullin, the Coordinator of Jalal-Abad CSSC, participated in the conference *Attacking Poverty*, which was held in Bishkek on June 16-20. The main goal of this conference, attended by representatives of governments and civil society of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, was to overview PRSP process and identify entry points for civil society participation, and eventually to forge links among participants. The participants also discussed the future action plans within the PRSPs.

1. Batken CSSC (BT)

Activity Overview

- On May 26, BT staff in Leylek together with UNDP local Office and Leylek State Administration conducted a forum, where more than 100 people, representing civil society organizations, state institutions, and local self-governing bodies took part. They analyzed activities of main international agencies with on-the-ground presence, local NGOs and credit unions, operating in the Rayon. The cooperation between different players in prioritizing local problems was also discussed. The participants re-elected the Advisory Committee on Local Development and its Secretariat, where the BT Assistant A. Aikynova became a member.
- On June 16-20, N. Aldasheva took part in the WBI-funded Regional Conference titled *Attacking Poverty* conducted in Bishkek. The participants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan discussed issues of Monitoring and Evaluation of Poverty Reduction Strategies by Civil Society in Central Asia.
- On June 25-26, BT conducted follow-up seminar for the leaders of target communities in institutional development, where they were introduced to the concept of community foundations. To better use actual experience of each target community, the participants have decided to establish a public union- community network.

Internal Capacity Building

- The Contract Trainers A. Karabashev, E. Kalykov and BT Assistant P. Suranova took part in the ILO training *Start Your Own Business*, held in Bishkek on March 31- April 3. They got new knowledge in business planning to be applied while delivering training to local NGOs and CBOs. Despite the Assistant P. Suranova left her position three weeks later, she is still available to deliver training workshops on business planning on a contract basis.
- The former volunteer Ms. G. Temirova was chosen as the most successful candidate to fill the position of the BT Assistant. As a first step of her capacity building, she participated in the training in Business Planning held by the Village Investment Project of WB in Osh on April 23-27.
- In April, the BT Grant Manager A. Kochorbaev moved to a new position to be based in Kerben (Jalalabad Oblast), and after series of interviews, Mr. K. Dyikanov was hired to fill this vacancy.
- On May 15, the BT staff visited the CSSC of Nookat to learn their experience in diversifying funding sources. The received information will be used in developing plan for BT financial sustainability.

Community Outreach

- On April 21, BT conducted a meeting of Local Grant Committee (LGC), where two projects of the communities of Yntymak and Kok-Tash were approved and sent to the Hub Office for final approval.
- The refugee NGO Radjab Ata (Kyzyl Kyia) implemented two community projects aimed at renovating potable water supply and providing consultative services to refugees. On April 24, BT Manager N. Aldasheva, A. Karabashev and A. Kalykov conducted the follow-up seminar in business planning in Kyzyl-Kyia for 20 refugees, of which 15 have finalized their business plans during the seminar.

- BT consulted more than 150 refugees and new citizens on citizenship grants, and 20 refugees were consulted in citizenship obtaining procedures, 8 refugee families received one-time assistance totaling 8,000 soms.
- On June 11, A. Aikynova took part in the seminar on participation in public hearings held in Bishkek by NDI. Next day, she participated in the public hearings on mass media held in the Jogorku Kenesh.

2. Bishkek CSSC (BS)

Activity Overview

- BS assisted INTRAC in preparing and conducting the Regional Conference entitled *Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs in Central Asia: Who Win?* held on April 28-29 in Bishkek.
- On April 4, Mrs. A. Sasykbaeva, Director of Interbilim, and Ms. E. Voronina, PR Assistant, met with representatives of International Alert and discussed activities of NGOs working in the area of conflict prevention and resolution, and their cooperation with governments and international organizations.

Internal Capacity Building

- The Hub Office staff conducted 4th OD assessment for BS on April 13-16. The interviews with clients, CD members and staff were conducted. The assessment resulted in revision of the Action Plan on Institutional Capacity Building and Service Delivery with emphasis on intensifying activities towards ensuring financial sustainability and developing external relations.
- On May 23-31, the BS Manager B. Murataileva took part in the international seminar on *Fundraising* held in Kiev by the Philanthropy Center of Ukraine. The most important was that the participants from throughout NIS shared their actual experience in developing effective fundraising.
- In order to improve information services, the BS staff is updating a list and contact information of Bishkek-based NGOs and representative offices of international organizations.

Community Outreach

- On May 16, B. Murataileva took part in the solemn ceremony devoted to the successful completion of the water supply project in the new residential area Archa-Beshik-35.
- Close-out and follow-up evaluations have been conducted for the water supply project in Ak-Bosogo and the project aimed at renovation of the gravel road in Archa-Beshik. Close-out evaluation was conducted for the gravel road project in Keremet.
- BS took part in the public hearings in Prospective of *Gold Mining in Kyrgyzstan- Contribution of the Kumtor-1 to the Economy of Kyrgyzstan*, held on April 16 in Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament).
- On May 21, BS staff conducted a roundtable devoted to the introduction of amendments to the Election Code in the oval hall of Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament). Deputies, representatives of local NGOs, international agencies and Central Election Committee (CEC), attended the roundtable.
- B. Muratalieva participated in the roundtable to discuss a new bill on legal basis of lobbying in the government institutions. The Deputy Mrs. T. Borombaeva and NDI staff conducted discussions on June 18.

3. Jalalabad CSSC (JA)

Activity Overview

- By April 15, JA collected 34 applications of local NGOs, which then were sent to the Soros Foundation, and 4 of them were approved for funding within the Soros NGO Support Programme.
- JA conducted a roundtable titled *Interaction of Three Sectors through Mass Media* on April 18. Representatives of state and independent mass media (newspapers and TV companies) along with the local officials and civil society discussed ways how mass media can strengthen intersectoral partnership.
- The JA Manager took part in the meeting of the Advisory Board of FINCA, where the FINCA presented a report on its activities in Jalalabad Oblast. The participants representing mostly

international agencies and local NGOs shared their feedback and provided recommendations for future activities.

Internal Capacity Building

- On April 14, the Hub Office Senior Program Officer E. Ubysheva and PC C. Akmatova visited JA to monitor community outreach program and conduct an audit of the grant files. Based on meetings in two target communities, they made recommendations to improve information exchange between grantees and JA and procedures of keeping financial records.
- On April 25- May 16, the JA Manager E. Mavlyanova participated in the internship on the theme *Maintaining Peaceful Dialogue and Preventing Conflicts* funded by USAID and administered by IREX. The NGO Legacy International based in Virginia hosted her.
- The Coordinator N. Saparbaev took part in the training seminar on Conflict Management held by IREX in Osh on June 28.
- JA continues providing training workshops on a cost- sharing and contractual basis- in line with the contract with NGO *Spravedlivost*, JA conducted two training seminars for staff of *Spravedlivost* and its partners.

Community Outreach

- On April 29, the JA Grant Manager conducted a meeting with leaders of 5 target communities to ensure information exchange. The plans for conducting close-out and follow-up evaluations were also discussed. Since then 4 close-out and 13 follow-up evaluations have been conducted for community projects implemented by the target communities. The next round of follow-up evaluations was scheduled for September 2003.
- The JA volunteers coordinated an advocacy campaign on re-opening the route #15 of public transport, which links new residential areas and the downtown. The volunteers collected 546 signatures on the appeal to the city transport department, the private TV company *Echo Manasa* translated special reels. Resulted from the advocacy activities, the city administration issues a decree on re-opening the route #15 on April 15.

4. Kara-Balta CSSC (KB)

Activity Overview

- The KB staff provided assistance to the Jayl Rayon State Administration in conducting a meeting of NGOs with the newly appointed Akim Mr. G. Davidenko held on April 1. Representatives of 13 NGOs made brief presentations on their activities, outlined problems they face. The participants then planned some joint actions with the State Administration.
- Together with INTRAC, KB conducted a meeting of the representatives of target community of Kara-Tube and the local government on April 4 to discuss concrete actions in establishing common understanding and developing partnership between this CBO and the local government.
- KB hosted a roundtable with participation of 37 NGOs of Jayl, Panfilov and Moscow Rayons to discuss issues of strengthening contacts within the NGO community. The KB staff made a brief presentation of their activities. The participants made a decision to conduct a NGO forum in September, and compiled a list of their training needs.
- On May 7, the KB staff assisted Urban Institute in conducting a seminar on budget hearings, attended by 20 NGO representatives. On May 15, they took part in the budget hearings in the Kara-Balta Town administration.

Internal Capacity Building

- The Hub Office staff conducted 4th OD assessment for KB on April 7-9. During the assessment, interviews with NGOs, CBOs, governments, and media were conducted. The assessment resulted in revision of the Action Plan on Institutional Capacity Building and Service Delivery, as well as in revising the Strategic Plan.
- KB made a decision to hire Ms. Ainagul Narynova as the Field Coordinators for the TACIS IBPP Project. She was chosen based on interviews with applicants conducted during the reporting period. The contract started on Mid April 2003. The KB staff conducted orientation with her, the

job description was finalized. Ms. Narynova took part in the TOT on Business Planning conducted by SBDC Consult on April 9-13.

- The Training Coordinator L. Keldibekova took part in the training seminar titled *Lobbying Bills on Gender Development*, conducted by NDI on May 27. The participants discussed current laws on gender equalities, met with the Parliament Deputies and NGO representatives involved in pushing a gender agenda.

Community Outreach

- On April 18, The KB Manager K. Abraliev conducted a meeting with refugees in the Pervomay Vl. (Panfilov Rayon). The meeting was attended by 22 refugees, representatives of Legal Clinic, Swiss Project LARC, and the village government. The issues of citizenship acquisition were discussed. The LARC (Legal Assistance to Rural Citizens) staff made presentation of their activities and informed participants that they provide legal consultations on land issues at no cost. On May 15, KB hosted a roundtable titled Promoting citizenship acquisition by Tajik refugees, where 11 refugee leaders participated. They discussed issues of strengthening information exchange and coordination between NGOs, and encumbrances in updating the citizenship database records.
- KB conducted a meeting of refugees with Mr. M. Sabirov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Kyrgyz Republic, where they discussed issues of obtaining Kyrgyzstani citizenship and repatriation. This was a first meeting of refugee NGOs with the Ambassador, who expressed willingness to cooperate.
- Within the TACIS IBPP Project, KB selected three pilot villages after consultations with main local stakeholders- Ak-Bashat, Zaria and Kara-Tube. During April- May, KB completed baseline studies in all pilot locations as described in the workplan, the baseline study reports were finalized in June.
- KB conducted PCA in the villages of Kaldyk and Jayl in April, resulted in prioritizing the problems facing these communities, electing an initiative groups, and establishing CAPs.
- On June 19, KB participated in the roundtable Role of NGOs in Social Mobilization, attended by 41 people, representing 30 NGOs and CBOs, 10 ayil okmotus (local self-governing bodies), and the Rayon Administration. The participants discussed the Presidential Decree on Social Mobilization issues on April 8. The participants elected a working group, consisting of 7 people representing NGOs, CBOs, ayil okmotus and Rayon Administration, to coordinate activities on developing social mobilization and intersectoral partnership.

5. Kant CSSC (KN)

Activity Overview

- T. Temirova participated in the Regional Conference entitled *Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs in Central Asia: Who Win?* held on April 28-29 in Bishkek by INTRAC and InterBilim. The participants representing NGOs from all Central Asian countries shared their experience in M&E.
- Mrs. A. Joldosheva, the member of the Stakeholder Committee, took part in the training seminar on *Protection Rights of Journalists*, held by AED in the mountain resort *Kashka-Suu* near Bishkek on June 24-25. During the seminar, participants met the US Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Mr. J. O'Keef.
- Ms. M. Fannett, the Coordinator of Training Program on Women Leadership of MASHAV, visited KN on June 25 to familiarize herself with the activities of Alga and KN. She met with the staff and introduced them to the MASHAV programs. There was a very interesting discussion how to scale up activities towards promoting women leadership in Kyrgyzstan.

Internal Capacity Building

- In order to develop the staff capacity, KN made a contract with Center for Training and Consulting (Bishkek) to conduct a special training program for KN staff. On April 7, the staff participated in the seminar on *Presentation Skills*, on April 11- *Strategic Document of an Organization*.

- The Hub Office staff conducted 4th OD assessment for KN on April 15-18. During the assessment, interviews with NGOs, CBOs, governments, and media were conducted. The assessment resulted in recommendations to address areas for development encountered during the interviews.
- On June 23-24, the KE Assistant A. Dunganaeva took part in the training on Business Planning organized by the CSSC of Karakol and held in Karakol. The training was conducted by Mr. A. Leebin of MASHAV (Israel). The most interesting thing was that the software to assess profitability of the business idea was presented to the participants.

Community Outreach

- On May 29, KN conducted a meeting with leaders of target communities to discuss preparation and conduction of PM&E in target communities.
- KN hosted a meeting with refugees' NGOs on May 28, where they discussed main achievements and problems encountered during the implementation of the community outreach program that will end in June 2003. The implications of the citizenship activities have also been discussed. KN staff recommended refugee organizations revise their activities as most of their clients received the citizenship, and they have to be proactive in attracting new financial sources, other from UNHCR and Counterpart. The participants also talked about celebrating Refugees' Day on June 19 in Kant.
- KN has slightly revised procedures of distributing emergency assistance to refugees and re-elected the Commission designated to review and approve applications. To date, 29 applications were approved, totaling 11,300 soms.
- On June 20, the KN Manager T. Temirova participated in the consultations on the Village Investment Project (VIP) by WB. The issues of involving the target communities were discussed among others in the agenda, and a decision was made to include target villages of Otogon and Chon-Daly as pilot locations of the VIP.
- The NGOs Booruker-Urmat and Duvana received a NDI grant to conduct the advocacy campaign, aimed at simplification of citizenship acquiring procedures. They organized and facilitated roundtables with participation of militia, passport offices, local governments, and deputies of local representative bodies in Bishkek on May 12 and 21, Kara-Balta on May 28, and in Tokmak on May 21. The agenda was to discuss how to simplify existing procedures of obtaining citizenship. The final roundtable was held in Bishkek on June 4, where the participants summarized results of the previous roundtables. A written statement of support in adopting this law was forwarded to the President Akaev, Parliament and Ministry of Justice.

6. Karakol CSSC (KR)

Activity Overview

- B. Abdieva participated in the presentation of the new TACIS project entitled Regional Development of Issyk-Kul Area on April 1. One of the key objectives of this project is to develop tourism based on local communities. On the following meetings of April 16 and 25, the issue of establishing independent tourism information center was discussed.
- By April 15, KR collected 23 applications of local NGOs, which then were sent to the Soros Foundation.
- On April 28, KR conducted a roundtable on Social Partnership in Aksu Rayon, attended by 13 ayil okmotus (village governments), 4 representatives of the Rayon State Administration (including Rayon Akim Mr. S. Mambetov), and 5 NGOs. KR presented its experience in fostering social partnership at this meeting.

Internal Capacity Building

- The KR Deputy Manager I. Rachmanova took part in the TOT on Business Planning conducted by SBDC Consult on April 9-13 in Cholpon-Ata.
- The KR Manager B. Abdieva took part in the training seminar on *Developing Marketing Plan* conducted by the local consulting company Marketing Service Bureau with support of USAID and PRAGMA Corporation. She got new skills in ensuring marketing communications, analysis of the market situation, vendors and competitors.

- On the staff meeting of May 19, KR developed a questionnaire to conduct needs assessment among their clients. The survey is being conducted, results are expected to be ready in July.
- On May 28, KR hosted a meeting of the Advisory Board (of 7 members), where KR staff reported to its members on their activities for the past three months, presented a brief report on Strategic Planning training workshop held in Chok-Tal VI. The activities on developing a governing body were also discussed. The participants re-elected the Chairman of the Board and slightly revised its responsibilities.
- I. Rachmanova took part in the training seminar *The Role of NGOs in Involving Youth in the Election Process*, held by Gazah Resource Center (Azerbaijan) in Baku on June 9-14. The trainers from *Voters Committee* (Ukraine), *Youth Initiative Center* (Serbia), and *TEAM* (Lithuania) conducted this seminar.

Community Outreach

- On April 9, KR conducted a meeting of LGC, where five applications were considered, of which two projects were approved and sent to the Hub Office for final approval.
- On May 13, the first meeting of Micro Credit Agency Committee of Collaboration with Kumtor Operating Company was held to discuss basic principles of crediting policy, procedures and rules of awarding grants, some internal procedures. The second meeting took place on June 20, where 29 grant applications and 8 credit applications were reviewed. The decision to approve 12 grant applications was made, and decisions on all credit applications will be made later, after submitting additional information.
- On June 5-7, KR conducted training in PM&E for 19 facilitators from the target communities. The participants received basic knowledge in PM&#, stakeholders analysis, etc. They also did practical session in the community of Kyzyl-Suu to better master their skills.
- On May 15-16, KR conducted a training seminar on Impact Monitoring, based on materials of the TOT conducted by Mr. P. Sauer, consultant of Counterpart Deutschland.
- KR together with *Legal Information Center* and NGO *Union of Entrepreneurs*, conducted a roundtable called *Effectiveness of Advocacy Campaigns*, which was attended by 40 people, representing NGOs, private business, Tax Inspection, Social Fund. They discussed social insurance benefits, and compiled a list of organizations to be exempted from paying the benefits. An attention of the fiscal officials was driven towards unfair conditions of the new regulations towards small enterprises.

7. Kerben CSSC (KE)

Activity Overview

- The ALLAVIDA Representative in Kyrgyzstan Ms. E. Osmonalieva visited KE in June 6 to learn about activities of local civil society. She met with several NGOs in the KE office, and introduced them to the ALLAVIDA plans to support institutional development of local NGOs.
- On June 9, KE participated in the forum of NGOs from Jalalabad and Aksy Rayon to discuss situation in border areas. The meeting was organized by the NGO *Peace Building Group*. The participants discussed such issues as passing through custom checkpoints, citizenship when one marry citizen of the neighboring country, violation of rights of residents of border areas, etc.
- KE received a guarantee letter of the Rayon Administration stating that the Fund of Economic Development of Aksy Rayon allocated 100,000 soms for supporting local communities, and these money will be administered by KE.

Internal Capacity Building

- In April 14, the Hub Office Coordinators visited KE to monitor community outreach program and conduct an audit of the grant files. Based on visits to seven target communities, they made recommendations to improve information exchange within the target communities through publicizing information about the project developments to better inform the community members.
- The Training Coordinator A. Shamshiev took part in the TOT on Business Planning conducted by SBDC Consult on April 23-27 in Osh. The seminar aimed at building skills of participants in developing income-generating activities of NGOs to support realization of their missions.

- KE has been intensifying fundraising activities- two project were submitted this quarter: (1) the project aimed at ensuring sustainable development of communities of Aksy Rayon was sent to OSCE, and (2) the project focused on educating people in migration issues was sent to IOM.
- The Program Manager of Peace Corps A. Japarov visited KE to learn about conditions and scope of work of a volunteer to be placed in KE in August.

Community Outreach

- KE conducted three seminars on Social Partnership in Kara-Jygach (May 19), Kerben (June 6), and Kosh-Dobo (June 13), attended by representatives of 12 aiyl okmotus (village governments), Aksy Rayon Administration, local initiative groups. During these seminars, participants came to common understanding what the social partnership means, made SWOT analysis for developing partnership, and developed action plans, inclusive of delivering training workshops to main stakeholders, establishing a coordination council, etc.
- KE held the roundtable *Development of Volunteerism Is a Key for Success* on June 21. The participants, representing local NGOs and CBOs shared their experience in recruiting volunteers, managing them, and emphasized their key role in successful implementation of community projects. The participants also noted that it is very important to match needs of an organization with expectations of volunteers.
- During the quarter, 4 close-out and 8 follow-up evaluations have been conducted for community projects implemented by the target communities. The main conclusion was that the income-generating projects brought first positive results-
- On May 28, KE conducted a roundtable devoted to taxation issues. The main aim of this meeting, attended by 20 representatives of NGOs and Tax Inspection, was twofold- (1) to discuss tax exemptions and how they should be applied, (2) to discuss obligations of NGOs imposed by current tax legislation.

8. Naryn CSSC (NR)

Activity Overview

- By April 15, NR collected 44 applications of local NGOs, which then were sent to the Soros Foundation.
- On May 29, NR participated in the roundtable entitled *Strategy to Alleviate Information Isolation of Mountainous Areas* held by the Institute of Physiology under National Academy of Sciences. The participants decided to hold regular information exchange meetings as the information vacuum was recognized as one of the priority issues to be addressed.
- The ALLAVIDA Representative in Kyrgyzstan Ms. E. Osmonalieva visited NR on June 2 to learn about activities of local civil society. She introduced NR and representatives of several NGOs to the ALLAVIDA's plans to support institutional development of local NGOs.

Internal Capacity Building

- The NR Manager E. Karypbay Uulu took part in the seminar titled *Publication of Independent Materials in Central Asia*, held in Warsaw (Poland) on April 7-18. The participants from all five Central Asian countries obtained new knowledge in designing bulletins, brochures, booklets, flyers and other printing materials. Resulted from the performance at the training, the Manager was awarded with portable computer, which then was sold to buy 2 desktop computers for the office.
- On April 25-28, the member of the Advisory Board of NR Mrs. A. Okosheva took part in the training on *Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability*.
- The NR Coordinator A. Naymanbetova took part in the TOT on *Business Planning* conducted by SBDC Consult on April 9-13 in Cholpon-Ata.
- NR continues providing training workshops on a contractual basis- on June 26, NR reached an agreement with the *Save the Children* (UK) about conducting paid training workshops for its target groups.

- NR has been revising its strategic plan based on feedback from local NGOs received during the roundtable discussions, held to get recommendations from the NR clients on how they see the NR in future.
- On May 13-15, E. Ubysheva and C. Akmatova visited NR to provide coaching on designing logframe, and selecting project ideas.

Community Outreach

- On April 18, NR conducted a meeting of LGC, where one project, submitted by the community of Yugyut, was approved and sent to the Hub Office for final approval. The project aimed at conducting a conference with participation of local communities and governments to share experience gained during the CAG implementation.
- On April 18-19, the CO Coordinator A. Kyrgyzbaeva took part in the Forum of Local Communities, held in Talas, and aimed at discussing issues of common concern and identifying ways to address them. The forum was well attended by local administrations, as well as by representatives of international organizations and media.
- On May 14, C. Akmatova held a mini training seminar and coaching for the NR contract trainers in conducting PM&E.
- NR participated in the roundtable to discuss a new bill on legal basis of lobbying in the government institutions. The Deputy Mrs. T. Borombaeva and NDI staff conducted discussions on June 18. A roundtable on these topics was scheduled for the first half of July in Naryn.

9. Nookat CSSC (NO)

Activity Overview

In May, *Save the Children* (UK) made a partnership contract with NO on providing paid training seminars for their target groups.

Internal Capacity Building

- NO made a decision to hire Ms. Asida Salaidinova as the Field Coordinators for the TACIS IBPP Project. She was chosen based on interviews with applicants conducted during the reporting period. The contract started on Mid April 2003. The NO staff conducted orientation with her, the job description was finalized.
- On May 28-30, four member of the Advisory Board of NO took part in the training on *Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability*, held in Jalalabad.
- On May, two contract trainers signed short-term contracts with Urban Institute to conduct training seminars on preparing budget hearings.

Community Outreach

- The Refugee Coordinator A. Abduraimov visited refugee communities of Dedek-Bubu, Naiman and Karimberdy every month to inform them about the UNHCR project for 2003, to discuss an intervention plan to be based on the specific needs of those refugee communities, and to provide consultations on citizenship acquisition, emergency assistance, project design and business planning. Three refugees were placed in a job with assistance of NO.
- Within the TACIS IBPP Project, NO selected three pilot villages after consultations with main local stakeholders- Dong-Kishlok, Naiman and Ak-Shaly. During April- May, NO completed baseline studies in all pilot locations as described in the workplan, the baseline study reports were finalized in June.
- On May 21, NO conducted a meeting of LGC, where two projects were approved and sent to the Hub Office for final approval.
- On June 11-13, NO hosted a conference of community leaders from Fergana Valley to identify common problems hampering community development (social and economic) and ensure networking among different communities, especially from different countries.

10. Osh CSSCs (OS)

Activity Overview

- By April 15, OS collected 48 applications of local NGOs, which then were sent to the Soros Foundation.
- The ALLAVIDA Representative in Kyrgyzstan Ms. E. Osmonalieva visited OS on June 9 to learn about activities of local civil society. She introduced OS in the ALLAVIDA's plans to support institutional development of local NGOs.
- On June 10, the Manager K. Khasanova took part in the presentation of the Village Investment Project.
- K. Khasanova took part in the roundtable titled Development of capacity of CBOs for Strengthening Participation of Communities in Poverty Alleviation, held by UNDP on June 7 in Osh. The participants discussed issues related to stimulation of community participation in social and economic development.

Internal Capacity Building

- The OS Manager K. Khasanova participated in the regional training seminar *Organizational Development and Change* held by INTRAC on May 28-30 in Almaty. The participants representing NGO support organizations from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan obtained new skills in OD, for example management through organizational changes, reasoning the problems, etc.
- The OS Coordinator P. Manasov left his position to work three weeks later, nevertheless he is available to deliver training workshops on a contract basis. The former volunteer Mr. B. Junusov was chosen as the most successful candidate to fill this position, and as a first step of his capacity building, he participated in the training in *Project Design* held in Osh on June 11-12.

Community Outreach

- On April 7, OS staff visited the Kuu-Maidan community to discuss the issue about legal registration. The community members decided to establish a NGO, which then will establish a micro crediting agency in line with current legislation as micro crediting was recognized as one of the future directions of activities. Thus, the community will have chance to implement infrastructure project through the NGO and income-generating project through a micro-crediting agency. Both legal entities have been registered in May 2003.
- OS conducted a meeting with 13 leaders of 5 target communities in the village of Eski-Pokrovka to ensure exchange of experience and information between target communities. The participants discussed issues of ensuring sustainability of community projects promoting transparency in distributing small loans, and keeping the project records.
- OS facilitated the next meeting of the leaders of target communities held in Bek-Jar on June 12. The community leaders shared their experience in implementing income-generating projects, and discussed possibilities to address the problems encountered in distributing/collecting payments.
- On April 16, OS conducted a meeting of LGC, where three projects, submitted by the communities of Kara-Kochkor, Bek-Jar and Eski-Pokrovka, were approved and sent to the Hub Office for final approval.
- During the quarter, OS was focusing on providing consultations in registration to the target communities. As a result, all 7 target communities were registered as public unions (3 communities), and public foundations (4 communities).

11. Talas CSSCs (TL)

Activity Overview

- On May 14, the TL Consultant A. Turdukulov took part in the seminar *Third Investment Matrix* conducted by the Oblast State Administration. Vice-Prime-Minister J. Otorbaev, who is in charge of attracting investments, made a brief presentation on the Matrix.
- According to the partnership agreement with IFES, TL distributed questionnaires among school students to participate in summer democracy camps.

- On June 18, together with the Mayor's office, and Urban Institute, TL conducted a roundtable for initiative groups of house owners to discuss issues of establishing and developing condominiums.
- The roundtable of health NGOs held in May resulted in developing a specific action plan to establish partnership between health NGOs and state-owned health institutions. TL assumed a coordination role and undertook an obligation to collect information about health NGOs and circulate it among health institutions.

Internal Capacity Building

- The TL Assistant A. Saparaliev took part in the TOT on *Business Planning* conducted by SBDC Consult on April 9-13 in Cholpon-Ata.
- In June, TL started publishing a newsletter *Our Rights and Opportunities*, which provides information about civic rights and citizens participation in political, social and economic transformation. The newsletter is being sponsored by the Democracy Commission of US Embassy.

Community Outreach

- The Kairat community successfully conducted a communities' forum of Talas Oblast to discuss issues of common concern and identify ways to address them. The forum was attended by local administrations, as well as by representatives of international organizations and media. The participants elected a coordination council of Talas Oblast communities, designated to prepare papers for
- The communities of Yntymak and Kairat have been involved in income generating projects, they formed a credit portfolio being managed by the credit committee and applied mechanisms of group lending. In order to legalize micro crediting activities, the members of these communities are about to start the process of legal registration.
- On June 11, A. Turdukulov took part in the seminar on participation in public hearings held in Bishkek by NDI. Next day, he participated in the public hearings on mass media held in the Jogorku Kenesh.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Indicator	BS	BT	JA	KB	KE	KN	KR	NO	NR	OS	TA
Number of Visitors	103	310	186	329	218	179	243	454	440	198	512
Number of New Visitors	19	40	58	45	72	28	71	84	111	64	105
Number of Visits	115	357	252	701	724	278	314	895	742	165	693
Number of NGO receiving services	98	62	81	134	82	35	123	88	237	115	68
Number of CBO, initiative groups receiving services	6	49	22	40	102	12	93	91	69	5	57
Number of volunteers recruited for NGO	1	0	0	24	0	0	3	26	33	9	20
Number of Training Workshops	4	9	10	3	8	4	5	6	3	4	9
Number of Consultations	56	114	125	232	440	245	314	148	203	49	391
Number of Times of Computer/Internet/E-mail Was Used	13	41	29	274	138	116	1,438	58	90	21	672
Number of Times Copy Machine/ Printer Was Used	14	84	50	342	288	103	81	66	161	90	706
Number of Copies (for Copy Machine and Printer)	87	945	557	3,478	3,410	1,684	1,556	499	2,777	724	14,426
Number of Times Phone/Fax Was Used	7	15	19	70	27	33	73	35	34	4	1,009
Number of PCAs Conducted	0	4	0	4	1	1	3	1	0	0	3
Number of CAPs Developed	0	0	0	4	11	1	2	0	0	0	9

Tajikistan

Dushanbe CSSC/The Third Sector

Activity Overview

- In April the CSSC Board of Directors met to reconsider the staff of the Board and designate Elena Chastukhina (Acting Director) Director of the organization.
- Agreements have been signed between CSSC and Counterpart for an extension of the institutional grant and implementation of health program.
- Contracts for extension period have been signed with the CSSC staff
- CSSC has provided a cycle of training for the beneficiaries of the project “Women Empowerment and Socio-Economic Development”. Some modules have been translated into Tajik.
- In May the DCSSC’s main focus was the preparation of the social partnership conference with the Mayor of Dushanbe
- Within the framework of the Volunteer Development joint project with NRC some trainings have been conducted for groups of volunteers
- The conference on the topic Community empowerment network has been conducted in the framework of CEN project. The goal of the conference was the discussion of community problems, challenges, needs and developing recommendations for organizations dealing with CDD.
- 48 proposals have been considered and recommended for Health grant program.
- Video film devoted to Social Partnership has been prepared and presented by DCSSC in the network meeting in June

Internal Capacity Building

- The DCSSC has developed the price-list of fee for services.
- Director has met with IOs (IREX, NDI, and OSCE) to discuss the prospects for cooperation.

Community Outreach

- The DCSSC has developed questionnaires for closing evaluation on NGO Support Grant and CAGs. The questionnaires allow tracking the fulfillment of the project objectives, the degree of participation of different components in the project implementation, to track the sustainability of the project.
- The DCSSC staff has conducted 9 close out evaluation of completed projects. Recently all of the staff is trained to conduct M&E and make reporting.
- Evaluation of project results has acknowledged that social partnership on the community level gives tangible results. Local governmental officials participate actively on all stages of community projects and make a weighable contribution.
- Summarizing the results of project evaluation, special newsletter, covering Community Outreach project impacts has been issued by DCSSC.
- The results of 4 projects (site visits) have been introduced to Arlene Lear Harry Dorcus from CI, Washington.
- In Tursunzoda district, Local Khukumat a new department responsible for coordination of work with IOs has been established as the result of Social Partnership Conference held in February in Tursunzoda.
- The Social Partnership Conference with the mayor of Dushanbe was held in May 27. 530 participants from different sectors of the society participated in the conference. As the result of the conference Coordination Committee has been established, including Mayor, other key governmental officials, donor organizations, NGOs and Mass Media.
- One of the follow up activities after SP conference in Dushanbe was a roundtable discussion on the topic of partnership initiatives with participation of NGOs, IOs, responsible authorities and Chairman of local Khukumat of Zheleznodorozhnyi District of Dushanbe city. It’s been decided to organize meetings on the regular meetings.
- 4 new volunteers have passed probation period. They’ve been introduced with volunteers policies and job descriptions.

- In April and May DCSSC volunteers updated the database.
- Within the framework of the joint project with NRC DCSSC trained a group of volunteers on appropriate topics.

2. Khujand CSSC “Consortium of Initiatives”

Activity Overview

- The third issue of the network newsletter “Tajnet” has been published and disseminated.
- Action plan and draft of the budget for Health Program have been submitted to HP PC.
- Contract between Counterpart and CSSC has been signed in April to launch implementation of Health Program.
- Health Program trainings have been organized by CSSC for grant applicants.
- Consulting services and technical support has been provided for grant applicants. 33 proposals have been considered, provided consultation and sent to Counterpart Tajikistan Office.
- Within CEN project research activities, training for community leaders and the conference with participation of community leaders, IOs, governmental officials, Mass Media representatives have been conducted by CSSC. Database of 50 CDD organizations has been created by staff.

Internal Capacity Building

- Program Coordinator Bahrom Faizullaev participated in the training in Dushanbe on the topic “Development of Membership organizations”. He provided a session on the topic for CSSC staff.
- CSSC program staff negotiated with INTRAC to participate in their specific training program for Support Organizations.
- CSSC took active part in developing the charter of the Association
- Arrival of Health Program Coordinator helped staff to clarify some issues of the program. He participated in the meeting with NGOs responding questions and providing consultations.
- CSSC office has been visited by M. Khaidarova, ICNL representative who provided juridical consulting for staff.
- CSSC provided a cycle of trainings for fee to OSCE, ABT, RRDP, and Shelter for Life.
- CSSC provides representation services and other intermediary assistance to IOs for fee.
- Program staff participated in network meetings in April and June.

Community Outreach

- 12 close out and 5 follow-up evaluations of NGO Support Grants and CAGs were conducted.
- CBO and Initiative Groups receive on-going consultation and technical assistance.
- CSSC launch the second round of the program “Volunteering Development”. Within the program 42 young people benefited from the program attending trainings, participating in Center activities, Charity events and Volunteers Forums. Volunteers visited a number of schools conducting meetings on drug issues, AIDS and volunteering development.
- In May 17 the CSSC organized the Forum of Volunteers where 42 trained volunteers were certified and awarded recommendation letters. Recently more than 10 volunteers were hired by local NGOs. Volunteers applied to Majlisi Oli (Parliament) requesting to announce May 17 as a Day of Volunteers in Tajikistan.
- CSSC has prepared two short version video films on volunteering development that were presented in the network meeting.
- On a monthly basis CSSC organizes Press Club jointly with SOROS Foundation branch in Khujand on different important issues like Referendum, Publication issues and freedom of speech.
- The working group established as a result of the social partnership conference has met to discuss the idea of creation SP Public Board, the goal of which will be enhancement of Social partnership between sectors and coordination joint actions.

3. Kurghon-Teppa CSSC/Fidokor

Activity Overview

- Within the quarter CSSC provided on-going services to NGOs, CBOs, Initiative Groups, IOs and local Khukumats.
- The most significant event for CSSC was construction of training room, completed and equipped mostly with the resources of the Center.
- A number of trainings have been provided to governmental officials for free as it's been agreed in Social partnership Conference, held in December 2002.
- CSSC staff participated in the research work ordered by INSIFT and NGO *Zerkalo*.
- NGO Club meeting have been organized on a monthly basis to discuss different important issues and share information.
- In June CSSC made a presentation of the new building, hosting representatives of IOs, NGOs, governmental officials and other stakeholders.
- CSSC conducted research to create CDD organizations database, trainings for community leaders and a Conference on Community Empowerment Network issue.
- CSSC staff developed and translated into Tajik training modules on "Leadership development", "Micro funding in the conditions of market economics" jointly with NGO "Sitorai Najot".
- CSSC provided assistance and consulting services to the clients in the framework of Health program and as the result 31 proposals have submitted for consideration.

Internal Capacity Building

- CSSC made efforts to improve conditions and facilities of the office constructing a new building.
- CSSC provides free of charge e-mail, internet to the clients due to partnership with IREX.
- CSSC provides services for fee (trainings, Facilitation services, organization of meetings, database, and consultation) to International Organizations.
- CSSC program staff participated in the Strategic Planning workshop organized by Counterpart.
- CSSC staff is proactive for fundraising activities. Financial Sustainability Plan has been developed by the staff.
- CSSC staff has developed a new proposal "Equal rights – equal opportunities, for funding to Urban Institute.
- Program Coordinator Rustam Bahridinov participated in the International Conference "M&E of Development programs in CA". CSSC Director participated in CEN regional conference in Bishkek.
- CSSC Director participated in the workshop "Improvement of legal education of journalists" organized by the Presidential Office.

Community Outreach

- Video film devoted to Social Partnership has been prepared and presented by DCSSC in the network meeting in June
- CSSC promoted CBOs and Initiative Groups to close –up projects and present the results through presentations.
- CSSC continues to provide trainings to local Khukumat officials at the district level.
- Program staff accomplished work related to monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Volunteers of the Center are actively involved in the program activities of the organization. Some of them are mature enough to conduct training, join the group for monitoring and evaluation and make a reporting.
- CSSC organized a Press Club in Shartuz region with participation of different sources of Mass Media devoted to the role of the NGO in the Society.
- CSSC staff initiated public presentation of the successfully implemented projects by NGOs, CBOs and IGs. Project implementations have been awarded acknowledgement certificates.
- Social Partnership Conference has been held in Shurabad district.
- CSSC conducted training on Referendum issues in 10 communities of Khatlon Region.

4. Kulob CSSC/Shahrvand

Activity Overview

- CSSC staff participated in the network meetings, organized by Counterpart.
- CSSC signed a Cooperative agreement with Counterpart to implement Health program.
- CSSC staff organized the Strategic Planning workshop to develop Strategic Plan for 2003-2005.
- CSSC program staff developed an action plan for July-August 2003.
- CSSC program staff participated in the implementation of CEN project conducting research work, capacity building training for community leaders and CEN Conference.
- CSSC program staff participated in the development of the charter for CSSC Association.
- During the quarter CSSC provided trainings within CEN project, Health Program, Civil Society Project.
- CSSC organized and conducted training on legal issues, ordered by ICNL.
- Within Health Program 16 proposals have been reviewed and submitted for consideration.

Internal Capacity Building

- Program staff has developed a proposal for funding on school construction that was submitted to Japan Embassy.
- CSSC has signed a contract with RRDP for partnership activities: provision of trainings for Jamoat development Committees.
- CSSC provided services for fee including trainings, research work, organization of meetings to ICNL, RRDP, WFP, INSIFT.
- CSSC Director and Program Coordinator participated in the training Membership Organization Development.
- Cooperative Agreement was signed with the Urban Institute to implement the project *Development of local governments in CAR*.

Community Outreach

- CSSC has completed evaluation of projects (NGO Support Grant and CAGs).
- CSSC promoted organization of ceremonies devoted to the completion of CAGs, implemented by CBOs and Initiative Groups. Representatives of Government, Mass media and NGOs participated in the events.
- CSSC made a video film “Unity is Our Power” devoted to the achievements of community projects. Video film was presented in the last network meeting.
- During conducting activities in the framework of advocacy campaign related to action against early marriages and self immolation, Women Initiative Group has been established. The group was trained by CSSC to assess the needs of the community and develop action plan. Recently the group of women developed a proposal for Health Grant Program.
- Chohtemur Community Women were trained on the issues of family planning and received contraceptive items Within Advocacy Campaign against early marriages initiated by CSSC.
- CSSC has signed cooperative agreement with WFP to provide Initiative Groups, CAG implementors with food in the framework of the project “Food for Work”.
- CSSC has developed an action plan on Social Partnership as a follow up step after SP conference.
- CSSC has signed an agreement with Oblast Khukumat, representatives of NGOs and business about establishment of the SP Public Board.
- Social Partnership follow up Conference has been held in Shurabad district by Kurgon –Teppa and Kulob CSSCs.
- CSSC has trained 10 volunteers on different modules. Two of them were offered job in CSSC, others were recommended to local NGOs.
- Volunteers of the Center are involved in organization of the events, like trainings, round tables and conferences, program activities.
- Conducting training within CEN project promoted mobilization of communities and in the result 6 Initiative groups have been established.

- CEN Conference organized by CSSC was a good opportunity for different groups discuss community problems and suggest the ways of their solution.

5. Khorog CSSC/Kalam

Activity Overview

- During the quarter CSSC has been engaged in research work, conducting training and conference within CEN project.
- CSSC has signed cooperative agreement with Counterpart to implement Health Program.
- CSSC provide consulting services to Health Grant Program Applicants and facilitated PCA activities.
- CSSC provided cycle of training within Health Program.
- CSSC Program Staff participated in the network meetings, organized by Counterpart.
- CSSC participated in the Information Campaign “No to Drugs” initiated by a coalition of local NGOs.
- NGO *Vahdat* leader attended the workshop “Role of Civil Society Organization in Poverty Reduction” in Bishkek. After returning he conducted one-day session for CSSC staff.
- CSSC coordinated with ICNL to organize and conduct training on legal issues.
- CSSC Director participated in the Forum of Entrepreneurs, organized by Oblast Khukumat.
- CSSC Director negotiated with IREX to establish Resource Center for journalists.

Internal Capacity Building

- CSSC is implementing project “City over the Gun-Powder” funded by Democracy Foundation.
- CSSC has repaired new office, installed telephone lines and equipment.
- CSSC has developed an action plan for the next 6 months.
- CSSC participated in the Strategic Planning workshop, organized by Counterpart.
- New employee with medical background has been hired to coordinate Health Program.

Community Outreach

- Video film devoted to Social Partnership has been prepared and presented by DCSSC in the network meeting in June
- Despite of the completion of all projects CSSC continues to maintain contacts with project implementers to track the results and sustainability of projects. All evaluations have been done and reported to Counterpart Office.
- CSSC used to assist Initiative Groups to get juridical status, providing them information about procedure, fee and other formalities, checking charter and making amendments.
- CEN project activities have been integrated into Counterpart programs extending target groups and increasing the range of interventions. As the result a number of new communities benefited from training and consulting services.
- Immediately after CEN project training for communities, two communities managed to repair irrigation canal by their own resources. CSSC has got appreciation letter from Ishkashim District for the initiative to train people.
- Volunteers of the Center have been involved in the implementation of Health Program disseminating information, package of documents, assisting grant applicants to type the proposals.

6. Penjikent CSSC/Association of Eastern Women

Activity Overview

- CSSC has signed Cooperative Agreement with Counterpart for Health program implementation.
- CSSC staff participated in the network meetings organized by Counterpart.
- CSSC staff has developed strategic plan for 2003-2005.
- CSSC participated in the implementation of CEN project conducting research, training and conference.
- CSSC conducted 3 advanced training within Civil Society Project.

- During the quarter CSSC staff provided information consultation and technical assistance to NGOs, CBOs, Initiative Groups and representatives of other sectors.
- CSSC staff provided consultation to Health Grant program applicants. 10 proposals have been reviewed, consulted and submitted to Counterpart for consideration.
- CSSC plays a role of the intermediary organization providing information and data for International Community.

Internal Capacity Building

- CSSC Director visited Dushanbe CSSC within the week to gain experience. He was provided orientation on the specifics of the work, guidelines and practical aid by visiting communities and participating in the Centers events.

Community Outreach

- CSSC staff facilitated PCAP activities within Health Program.
- CSSC conducted the first CDD Conference with participation of Community leaders, NGOs and Governmental Officials who discussed community problems and opportunities for community empowerment.

Table of Services:

Service	Dushanbe CSSC	Khujand CSSC	Khorog CSSC	Kurghon-Teppa CSSC	Kulob CSSC
Number of Visitors	543	587	201	233	172
Number of Visits	750	726	479	284	345
Number of NGOs Receiving Services	383	122	51	80	120
Number of CBOs, Initiative Groups Receiving Services	62	27	19	41	33
Number of Volunteers Recruited for NGOs	0	0	1	4	5
Number of Trainings	13	13	11	20	15
Number of Consultations	361	316	161	114	262
Number of Times of Computer/Internet/E-mail Was Used	115	22	32	78	63
Number of Times Copy Machine/Printer Was Used	156	168	45	110	68
Number of Copies (for Copy Machine and Printer)	1456	1512	409	4335	5870
Number of Times Phone/Fax Was Used	8	158	10	108	42
Number of PCAs Conducted	0	6	5	5	9
Number of CAPs Developed	0	0	5	5	7

Turkmenistan

1. Ashgabat CSSC

Activity Overview

- During reporting period the Ashgabat CSSC conducted three Information Clubs for 75 participants from different NGOs and initiative groups.
- On May 29, the Ashgabat CSSC conducted a roundtable on follow up activities from the Volunteer Forum. Forum participants presented action plans on volunteer development and implementation.
- Ashgabat CSSC gathered information for the database of experts and identified nine people available to consult on CAG projects in various specific topics.
- The database of NGOs was updated with forms from 45 organizations collected.

- Three Newsletters *VMESTE* of the Ashgabat CSSC were published and disseminated – two in Turkmen language. Two of the digests contained information about grants, trainings, and seminars.
- New rubric of Ashgabat CSSC publications created on Information Stand, which is regularly updated with NGOs Newsletters, Booklets, information provided by local NGO.
- On April 14, one of the Ashgabat CSSC volunteers participated in the Peace Corps roundtable discussion and presented the achievement of the Ashgabat CSSC in volunteer development.
- During the reporting period the Ashgabat CSSC conducted 10 subsequent evaluations of CAG projects in Gyavers etrap, Ruhabat, Herrikgala, Ashgabat, Annau, Makhtumkuli etrap, Geokcha, Abadan.
- The Ashgabat CSSC conducted monitoring of Support Grant Projects implemented by Nature Protection Society of Mary Velayat. and *Komek*.
- The Ashgabat CSSC carried out a training needs assessment and the 40+ questionnaires distributed will be analyzed next month.
- Several information materials were developed and distributed in Turkmen language. The materials highlight the CSSCs successes in CAG implementation, social partnership development and community mobilization.
- Ashgabat CSSC identified 5 candidates for CAG Grant Committee.
- Ashgabat CSSC in collaboration with ICNL prepared and distributed to NGOs packet of Documentations on NGO Legislation in Turkmenistan.
- On May 26 the Program Coordinator of the Ashgabat CSSC conducted a mini-training in Time Management for CSSCs and hub office.
- Ashgabat CSSC staff attended activities carried out by Initiative Group of School #16 of Annau and Initiative group of Rukhabat Etrap.
- 19 project proposals for Counterpart Support Grant developed by NGOs with consultative assistant of Ashgabat CSSC.

Internal Capacity Building

- Oguldursun Annanepesova started to work for Ashgabat CSSC as an Assistant of Project *Healthy Communities* on June 2th.
- On April 1-2 Ashgabat CSSC participated in the Network meeting held in Ashgabat. The Manager of Ashgabat CSSC together with Managers of Lebab and Dashoguz CSSCs carried out Retreat for Hub and CSSCs.
- The system of management of volunteers of Ashgabat CSSC had been changed. The database of volunteers with information about 48 volunteers will be used widely to link NGOs and initiative groups with volunteers.
- On May 26, Ashgabat CSSC staff took part in the workshop on “Lessons learned” organized by Hub office to discuss the ways of increasing effectiveness of PCA and M&E.
- The CSSC discussed ways to improve the quality of trainings.
- On April 12, the CSSC’s twenty volunteers participated in the seminar *Youth Volunteerism Development* organized by AED/USAID.
- US Embassy Volunteer Stephanie Tansey conducted eight English Clubs for Ashgabat CSSC volunteers in April-May.
- Ashgabat CSSC staff participated in the Counterpart trainings Volunteers Management, and Membership Development.
- On April 1-7 the Program Coordinator of the Ashgabat CSSC participated in the training of trainers in Kiev and June 16-22 in Almaty under the program of National Council on Economic Education with funding from the United States Department of Education in coordination with United States Department of State.
- On May 2-4 Ashgabat CSSC staff and volunteers participated in Volunteers Forum in Ashgabat.
- On May 12 the Ashgabat CSSC Program Coordinator participated in the training “Public Relation” conducted by Ed Net.

- On May 24, Ashgabat CSSC Program Coordinator attended VIP Seminar on the theme: “Using of Economic & Business Theory for Economic Development of Turkmenistan” provided by Ed Net.
- Orientation was conducted for the new CSSC Assistant and included topics such as the range of consultations on the issues concerning the current work of Ashgabat CSSC and the *Healthy Communities* Program. The Action Plan of Professional development completed.
- On June 19 A CSSC Manager and *Healthy Communities* Program Assistant participated in the seminar «SIDO» on Women rights protection – performance and practical application conducted by ABA/CEELI .

2. Dashoguz CSSC

Activity Overview

- Three Discussion Clubs were conducted. At the last meeting the issues of Dashoguz CSSC reporting and planning were discussed to inform clients and keep the feedback loop alive. The topic of the next roundtable is social partnership.
- On April 11 the Dashoguz CSSC visited the delegation from British Embassy. They organized a meeting with NGOs and initiative groups and a visit to Sarygamysh offices in Turkmenbashi city.
- The training needs assessment was carried out by distributing questionnaires, call to NGOs and establishing training stand. The training schedule for the next months will be based on result of this assessment.
- During April the Center consulted on the design of 10 Project proposals for the Counterpart Support Grant Program. Two projects of Beekeepers Club and *Dovletiyar* were approved by the Grant Committee.
- Two Dashoguz CSSC Newsletters issued.
- Databases on local experts for CAG consultation and on volunteers are installed and working.

Internal Capacity Building

- Rozylyul Ermekova started to work for Dashoguz CSSC as an Assistant of the *Healthy Communities* Project on June 1
- On April 1-2 the Dashoguz CSSC participated at the Network meeting organized by hub office. The Manager of Ashgabat CSSC together with Managers of Lebap and Ashgabat CSSCs carried out Retreat for hub and CSSCs.
- Dashoguz staff and volunteers participated at Volunteers Forum held on May 2-4.
- The OD Coordinator and Financial Manager conducted internal audit for Dashoguz CSSC and submitted the report to the Country Director.
- During this reporting period the Center conducted 6 training monitorings and provided feedback to the local trainers.
- The Dashoguz CSSC staff participated in Counterpart’s training NGO and Community, Project Design, and Membership Development.
- On May 2-4, 2003 staff and volunteers of Dashoguz CSSC participated in the “Volunteer Forum” hold in the Ashgabat.
- Dashoguz CSSC Program Coordinator trained in Quick Books and together with Financial Manager systemized all financial documentations.
- On May 23 Dashoguz CSSC participated at the workshop “Lessons Learned” and the mini training Time Management organized by hub office.
- British Embassy presented Dashoguz CSSC equipment to get access to BBC/CNN broadcasting service which was installed in the Resource Center of Dashoguz CSSC.
- The Beekeepers Club connected to Dashoguz CSSC server and get access to free e-mail, Internet.

3. Lebap CSSC

Activity Overview

- For reporting period Lebap CSSC conducted two meetings for Lebap NGOs and initiative groups. Issues of establishing partnerships, exchanging experiences and information sharing were highlighted.

- The special version of Lebap CSSC newsletter issued into Turkmen language and was spread among the communities and NGOs of Lebap velayat.
- The Lebap CSSC carried out self assessment on organizational development of Lebap CSSC among 14 NGOs. Analyze of collected questionnaires will be considered as well as during planning as in daily work.
- For reporting period 53 consultations were provided for NGO's and Initiative group's and 18 project proposals were developed for Counterpart's NGOs Support Grant Program with Lebap CSSC assistance.
- Three monitoring of CAG project carried out in Bash Saka of Lebap velayat. Evaluation of CAG project carried out in Goldav of Lebap velayat conducted by M&E Coordinator.
- The training needs assessment was conducted and 40 questionnaires were distributed. The new proposed training offered by Lebap CSSC will consider NGO's requests.
- There was installed the databases of Lebap NGOs, of Lebap CSSC volunteers and of CAG experts, which include the information on 15 NGOs, 30 Volunteers and 5 CAG experts.
- Three Newsletters and two digests on grant opportunities were published.
- In June 25 the Lebap CSSC was visited by British Ambassador Paul Brummell and Third Secretary Justin Tait and Project Officer Shemshat Mekhametkuliieva. During the meeting the issues of Lebap NGOs activities and particularly NGOs which work in education sphere, access to informational resources, volunteerism development discussed.

Internal Capacity Building

- Tagandurdy Charyev started to work for Lebap CSSC as Project Assistant for the *Healthy Communities* project, on May 30. New staff member oriented with a Health Project, policy and procedures and the current work of Lebap CSSC.
- On April 1-2 the Lebap CSSC program staff participated in the Network meeting in the Ashgabat. The Manager of the Lebap CSSC together with the managers of Ahal and Dashoguz CSSCs conducted the special sessions concerning the issues of the current work of the staff during the staff retreat.
- On May 2-4, Lebap CSSC program staff and volunteers participated in the Volunteers Forum in Ashgabat.
- On May 26, 2003 Lebap CSSC participated in the workshop on lessons learned on PCA, M&E, CAG Grant Committee and mini training on time management and planning conducted by hub office.
- On June 10-12, 2003 Yazgylych Charyev, Country Director, Catherine Pryahina, finance and administrative manager, Suray Atayeva, OD Coordinator, conducted internal audit. During visit staff consulted on the issues of program management, team building, financial resources management.
- The new volunteers of Lebap CSSC left to form the Volunteer Center *Bridge*.
- In May new equipment was installed (CD RW). This equipment was used to make copies of the library CD disks. This new type of service was used by 4 NGOs for making copies of the necessary disks.
- The Program Coordinator of the Lebap CSSC mastered the new computer programs "Corel draw", "Adobe Page Maker", "Adobe Photoshop" which are used extensively in designing the Lebap CSSC newsletters, digests and bulletins.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	Ashgabat CSSC	Lebap CSSC	Dashoguz CSSC	Hub	Turkmebashi Resource Center
Number of visitors	749	180	201		
Number of visits	925	749	808		
Number of NGOs receiving services	171	90	77		
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	115	30	15		
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	23	15	3		
Number of trainings	4	4	3	2	2
Number of consultations	374	53	111		
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail users	503	251	95		
Number of times copy machine was used	435	439	110		
Number of copies	4530	6005	920		
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	74	57	66		
Number of PCAs conducted	0	0	0		
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	5(after completion of CAGs)		

Uzbekistan

1. TASHKENT Agency of Social Researches "ITA FACT" (Partner)

Activity Overview

- In May 13, the CSSC Coordinator participated in the roundtable organized by NGO *Our Home* under *CASP* Program where Coordinator presented the CSSC activity.
- In May 23, the CSSC Coordinator met with the leader of NGO *Women and Democracy development* to discuss cooperative organization of the Conference *Innovations and Women* under the support of Israel Embassy.
- In June the CSSC rendered assistance to Regional Counterpart in preparation of the regional training on *Promotion and Marketing of NGO services* to be conducted in July 2003.
- In June from 18 to 20th, the CSSC Manager participated in the roundtable conducted for crisis centers in cooperation with *Soros Foundation* and *Winrock International*. They presented a practical manual for monitoring and evaluation for organizations working on decreasing of violation against women. The CSSC Manager composed this manual.
- April 28-29 the Agency director participated in the Central Asian Conference on *Monitoring and Evaluation* conducted by INTRAC.

Internal Capacity Building

- In April of this quarter, three additional telephone sets have been purchased.
- In April of this reporting period the CSSC Volunteer conducted a work on updating the list of International organizations located in Tashkent. The telephone survey of more than 80 organizations was conducted and as the result contact information of 50 International Organizations was renewed. The work was finished by May 2003.

Community Outreach

- During the reporting Quarter Evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted
- 2 PCAs were conducted this quarter with the help of the CSSC. One in Akhangaran Oblast facilitated by the NGO *Center Bunyodkor Ayol* and the other in Makhalla "Buston" of

Akhangaran-city by the NGO *Bunyodkor Ayol*. The latter resulted in the development of a CAP during which a committee of 11 people met to develop a plan to address the deterioration of the physical maturity and health of children. As a solution suggested is to create sport-sanitary complex for mothers and children.

- In April 10, a meeting with the organization's volunteers was conducted. The purpose was to discuss the prioritization of activities for each volunteer, compose the list of activity for the CSSC volunteers, and distribute tasks according to the individual interests and to develop a schedule of work.
- CSSC Volunteer provided NGO Magris with specialized consultation on keeping internal documentation.

2. **KOKAND Civil Society Development Center (Partner)**

Activity Overview

- April 6 the CSSC Coordinator participated in the celebration of the International Day of Health.
- April 18 the CSSC organized the NGO roundtable for *Peace Corps* purpose to introduce with NGO situation and necessity of the NGO development program planned by *Peace Corps*.
- April 25 the CSSC the Coordinator visited the NGO *Nafis* to get acquainted with the organization. Based on visit results, the Coordinator provided recommendations on some of the aspects of the organizational development to *Nafis*.
- May 1 meeting of the NGO Network of Fergana Valley was conducted. All four organizations participated in the meeting. There was discussed network issues such as if there are needs to be in existence as a Network, present and future perspectives of Network interactive communications, and coordination of its activities among members. Kokand CSDC was chosen to be a Coordinative body of the Network and it was agreed to formalize interactions via Memorandum of Understanding.
- In May 1, the CSSC trainers meeting were conducted. At the meeting was discussed new structure of trainings, revised schedule of trainings for two months, and updated plans for professional development of trainers.
- In May 23, NGO Club meeting was conducted in the office of the CSSC for Kokand-city Khokimiyat and local NGOs to inform them about current updates of NGO activities, information exchange among NGOs, and discuss services providing by CSSCs.
- In June 8, the CSSC Coordinator participated at the meeting of NGOs working in the trans-boarder regions of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. As the result of the meeting it was decided to develop memorandum of the network and conduct joint projects.
- In June 27, the CSSC Program Assistant participated in the meeting devoted to the Conflict Mitigation conducted in the Center *Ishonch* in Fergana-city.

Internal Capacity Building

- In April the CSSC Volunteer was hired by the CSSC as Program Assistant.
- In May the repair works have been made in the office of the CSDC
- In April new organizational structure was developed.

Community Outreach

- April 9 – roundtable on *The best Social Partnership project* was conducted with participation of NGOs, Counterpart and CSSC representatives as well as state structures with the purpose to present the winner of the Contest for the Best Social Partnership project.
- In the reporting period Quarter Evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted
- One PCA was conducted with the help of the CSSC in the Village “Shakhimardonobod” of Ferganskiy rayon led by the NGO *Toza suv*, after which an initiative group of 11 persons met to develop solutions to the lack of drinking water. The solution suggested was to establish water-supply pipeline.
- Network of Medical NGOs *Sado* organized the celebration of the International day of Health in partnership with Kokand-city Khokimiyat, *Kamolot* Foundation, Party *Fidokorlar*, *ABA*, *ZdravPlus*, private firm *Solvay Pharma* and other business organizations.

- April 25, another meeting of the CSSC Volunteers was conducted to update plans of individual development and to define the next steps of the Volunteer's Club activity.
- CSSC Volunteer provided consultation to NGO *Mekhr-sakhovat* on how to work with the software program AVP Scanner
- CSSC Volunteer corrected application for participation in the training conducted by AED/START for IG *VITA*.
- CSSC Volunteer rendered assistance to the NGO *Mekhr-sakhovat* in searching the updated application form in the Internet
- CSSC Volunteer helped to NGO *Nuroni* in typing a financial report of the organization
- CSSC Volunteer provided consultation to NGO *Nafis* in project design and how to work with donors.
- CSSC Volunteer assisted in translating project application from English into Russian for two NGOs *Mekhr-Sakhovat* and *Shans*.

3. NUKUS Civil Society Development Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- In April of this quarter group consultation was provided to the Khokimiyat specialists of Takhitash-city on the topic of interaction of state structures with Public Associations.
- In June 16 was conducted the Round Table devoted to the main achievements and results of the MIP and Phase III programs in Karakalpakstan.
- In May 2003 oral agreement with NGO *Center of Public Researches* on provision of consultative and informational support to the CSSC clients on human rights was achieved.
- During the reporting Quarter the CSSC provided the rent of video/photo camera to the following NGOs for their activity purposes: Association of Chernobyl Victims, NGO Karakalpakstan Women-Scientists, NGO Karakalpak branch of Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health, Society of disabled people, Society of Soldiers-Internationalists, IG Azamat.
- In the frames of the cooperation project with UNICEF, trainers conducted orientation on creation and activity planning of the Association of teachers and parents in April.

Internal Capacity Building

- April 21-25, the CSSC Manager participated in training course conducted for NGOs passed the first tour of *Soros Foundation* grant program.
- In May, UNICEF staff and CSSC trainers set an agreement to enhance services provided to the clients of CSSC that would strengthen the potential of the CSSC.
- In May the structure and regulation form of the Advisory Board of the organization was defined and developed.
- In May 29, meeting of the CSSC trainers was conducted where was presented results of the trainings program in the frames of the phase III Program. Professional development of trainers and *League of Trainers* project issues were also considered.
- With the end of the surveying process of the services provided to CSSC clients, there was made related revisions for improvement in workflow of the Center.
- In June 2003 the guest-rooms in the office premises have been equipped.

Community Outreach

- During this reporting quarter, evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted.
- Coalition of local NGOs was created to solve the issues related to the lack of technical equipment.

4. BUKHARA Information and Cultural Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- April 19 was conducted another NGO Club Meeting. Agenda of the meeting included entrepreneur activities development among NGOs in Bukhara Oblast; discussion of the regulations rules of the NGO Club's activities; activities planning for the Club for the year 2003.
- In April 23, there was conducted Press-Club for Bukhara Oblast journalists. The hot issue of the meeting was *Problems and difficulties of the mass media representatives in their professional development*.
- In April 26, consultation group was conducted for the Coalition of Medical NGOs on *Development of the paid services*. The purpose of the consultation was to discuss the situation with fees-for-services provided to organization by the Coalition members and to develop related recommendations.
- During the quarter informational bulletin of the Center Partner was prepared and issued on the monthly basis.
- May 23, group consultation on *Stakeholder Analysis. Project Design* trainings was conducted for partners of the Crisis Center *Oydin Nuri*. Office stationary supply, organization of lunch and coffee breaks was provided by *Oydin Nuri*.
- May 24, the meeting of NGOs interested in creation of the branch of International Public Organization *International Socio-Economic Alliance* was organized. As the result of the discussion participants came to the point to prepare comments, suggestions and recommendations on creation of such a branch.
- In June meeting with deputy director of the City Department of Culture was conducted to define main directions of cooperation. As the result a group consisting of 15 representatives of libraries, clubs and Culture Houses was defined for participation in the training program.
- In June all the Manuals to trainings have been printed out and bound for more convenient usage.
- During the Quarter the CSSC worked closely with INTRAC and Participated in the Central Asian Conference on *Monitoring and Evaluation*; Participation in the regional work group of consultants on Strategy of INTRAC activity in Central Asia; Participation at the work group meeting; Participation on the regional training on Organizational Development; Participation in the evaluation of the *INTRAC* training program; and Providing logistics for *INTRAC* when meeting with NGOs on Social Partnership.

Internal Capacity Building

- April 28-29, 2003 – the CSSC Manager participated in the Central Asian Conference on *Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs in Central Asia. Who benefits?* The Conference was conducted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and organized by INTRAC (Great Britain) and *Interbilim* (Kyrgyzstan)

Community Outreach

- During the reporting quarter evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted
- Coalition of NGOs called *Lets save Bukhara for other generation* unified to conduct informational campaign on saving cultural and historical heritage of Bukhara. In the frames of the campaign the following events have been conducted: exhibition of old photocopies of Bukhara; Round Table on “*Who benefits?*” and meeting with children from *UNESCO* school with the purpose of organizing volunteer movement on saving the cultural heritage; children photo-exhibition *World in my eyes* and others.
- Advocacy campaign on protection of rights of residents living in Makhallas located nearby Tuberculosis Hospital of Kanimekhskiy rayon of Navoyi Oblast was conducted by local NGO.

5. International Scientific Society “Al Khorezmi - Vambery”, URGENCH (Partner)

Activity Overview

- April 2 the CSSC director participated in a Conference organized by the Union of Women *Olima*.
- April 3 mini training on *Social Partnership* was conducted for the main stakeholders of the NGO Women Center *Ikhlos* – rayon Khokimiyat, rayon Labor Agency, Chamber of Entrepreneurs, directors of two schools, and heads of Makhalla Committees.
- April meeting with the CSSC trainers was conducted to discuss the Trainers Contract Form and to develop plans for the quarter.
- 23 consultations were conducted for representatives of the NGO *Olima* on NGO activity and fundraising.
- In May group consultation for leaders of 6 NGOs on Project Design was conducted.
- June 10, CSSC acting Manager participated in the Round Table devoted to the development of the women movement in Uzbekistan and opportunities of cooperative activity on solving social problems in Khorezm Oblast. Local NGOs made a suggestion to the CSSC to create Coordinative Council of Khorezm Oblast NGOs.
- May 5 the organization’s Director met with the head of *PRAGMA* to discuss cooperation between two organizations on development of small and medium business.

Internal Capacity Building

- In April 2003 CO Coordinator was appointed as acting CSSC Manager.
- May 12-23, 2003 – the CSSC acting Manager participated in the program of the *Polish- Czech-Slovakia Solidarity Foundation* on development of the publishing activity conducted in Warsaw. In the frames of the program participants studied experience in publishing activity of the leading NGOs working in Poland.
- In June the premises for the CSSC were purchased and now repair work is being made.

Community Outreach

- During the reporting quarter evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted

6. SAMARKAND Civil Initiative Support Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- In April 26, the CSSC Manager gave an interview to the Oblast Radio station about the activity of the organization.
- In April the Center organized meeting of the investigator from *EHESS Institute* (France/Italy) with two youth NGOs dedicated to youth movement issues in the region.
- May 28, the organization’s Director gave an interview for the new film about Uzbekistan women to be prepared by journalist of Danish radio. The topic of the interview was on the problem of self-immolation.
- June 13, NGO Club meeting was conducted in Djizak-city.
- June 18, NGO Club meeting was conducted in Samarkand. Presentation of the informational bulletin issued by the CSSC in the frames of *IREX* project on *Development of the informational space for NGOs and promotion of partnership and participatory approaches* was conducted. Also, presentation of the Recourse Center was conducted; questions on NGO reporting to the Department of Justice and others were discussed.
- From March 31 to April, 3 seminars for press secretaries were conducted in the office of the CSSC. The International Republican Institution under the US Embassy support organized it. The CSSC provided logistical support on fee-for-service base.
- In April 28 to 29, the CSSC Coordinator participated in the Central Asian Conference on *Monitoring and Evaluation* conducted by INTRAC.
- April 28 the CSSC rendered assistance to the NGO *Khayot* to conduct a roundtable for the NGO.
- In April 28, the organization’s Director met with the representatives of *Immigration Appeals Board* and *Norwegian Immigration Directorate* conducting researches of social and political situation in Uzbekistan.

- In May the Center in cooperation with local TV station and NGO *Khayot* the talk show was prepared and shoot. At the shooting the CSSC Program Assistant participated. The topic of the talk show was *Accessibility of the Infrastructure to disabled people*.
- In May 2003 negotiation on cooperation with *PRAGMA* has been conducted. Preliminary agreement on cooperation was achieved.
- In May 2003 – negotiation with *UzBAT* on providing training services to the *UzBAT* staff was conducted.
- June 12-13, 2003 – the CSSC conducted the first paid training on *Communication skills development* for staff of *UzBAT*.
- June 28, 2003 – the CSSC rendered logistical support to the National Democratic Institute in organization of the training.

Internal Capacity Building

- In June 2003 the Center’s Director participated in the first of three training under the program *Social development analysis* conducted in Almaty.
- In June 2003 Program Assistant participated in the training on *Advocacy. Network building* organized by *Europe Aid* under *TASIS* project. The CSSC provided logistical support in organization of the training.

Community Outreach

- During the reporting Quarter Evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted.
- 1 CSSC Volunteer typed a Charter for IG *Good will People*
- 1 CSSC Volunteer typed a Charter for IG *Khamkor*
- 1 CSSC Volunteer translated documents into Uzbek for NGO *Khayot*

7. NAMANGAN Civil Society Support Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- April 25 the CSSC Coordinator participated in the meeting on *Prevention of conflicts and Coordination of programs in Fergana Valley* conducted in the office of Mercy Corps (Fergana) initiated by USAID.
- April 10 the CSSC, in cooperation with NGO *Shabnam* and administration of the secondary school No.10 of *Yangikurganskiy* rayon of namangan Oblast conducted a roundtable on *Advocacy: Prevention of the increase in the number of self-immolation and crimes among teenagers of Yangikurganskiy rayon of Namangan Oblast*. Representatives of International Organizations, State structures, local authorities, polyclinics, schools and mass media participated in this event. As the result of the Round Table two programs have been developed: 1) Program of events on prevention of the increase in the number of self-immolation and crimes among teenagers of Yangikurganskiy rayon of Namangan Oblast; 2) Program of conduction of the monthly event *Children are our future* for May 2003.
- June 23 National Democratic Institute conducted training in Namangan-city. The CSSC rendered assistance in logistics.

Internal Capacity Building

- In May the premises for the office of the Namangan CSSC has been purchased. In June equipment and furniture has been purchased. Repair works are going on.
- In May copy machine for the Resource Center was bought.

Community Outreach

- During the reporting quarter evaluation of all the CAG projects has been conducted
- CAPs developed are:
 - In village *Mamay* of Yangikurganskiy rayon of Namangan Oblast. Initiator – Public Association *Mamay*. 9 people participated. The problem was lack of clean drinking water on

the territory on Makhalla *Bog*. The solution suggested was repair the first bore-hole and connect it to the water-tower.

- In Makhalla *Buston* of Andijan-city. Initiator – NGO *Najod*. 11 people participated. The problem was lack of professional handicraft center. The solution suggested was to create such a center.
- In Makhalla *Kurama* of Andijanskiy rayon of Andijan Oblast. Initiator – NGO *NUR*. 13 people participated. The problem was lack of supply Makhalla *Kurama* with clean drinking water. The solution suggested was to connect to the circle water-line.
- April 20 the CSSC in cooperation with NGOs and IGs of Namangan-city conducted action devoted to the development of the Volunteer movement in Namangan-city by means of introducing Volunteers of different organization, and attracting new Volunteers to the organizations.
- May 13 the CSSC Coordinator participated in the meeting organized by the *ABA/CEELI* and devoted to the finding out the opportunities for students of Juridical Faculty of the Namangan State University to work as volunteers and/or probationers in NGOs. The students have been given information about the opportunities. Student having the experience of working in NGOs shared their experience.

TABLE OF SERVICES

Service	Kokand	Nukus	Bukhara	Urgench	Tashkent	Samar-kand	Naman-gan
Number of visitors	178	669	222	153	332	201	166
Number of new visitors	2	221	21	18	57	31	33
Number of visits	382		880	481	1099	464	452
Number of NGOs receiving services	93	99	133	115	152	121	75
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	42	62	46	32	158	24	33
Number of volun-teers recruited for NGOs	7	0	0	0	1	3	0
Number of trainings	9	8	9	9	10	10	8
Number of consultations	47	93	125	58	106	415	30
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	141	112	426	80	1039	115	236
Number of times copy machine was used	231	200	286	100	889	115	272
Number of copies	2786	2862	2230	771	20655	1055	3141
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	202	117	175	250	179	88	198
Number of PCAs conducted	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Number of CAPs developed	1	0	0	0	1	0	3

E. FOCUS/TARGET NGO OVERVIEW

Kazakhstan (Focus NGO)

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

Activity Overview

- In the reporting period, CNOK conducted its activity according to the plan designed by the Founders: development and promotion of mechanisms of interaction between state bodies and NGO, Parliament outreach, NGO coordination in socio-significant projects, development of international relations, and public awareness.
- The meeting of the Head of CNOK and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan resulted in agreements to conduct the National Civil Forum of NGOs in September 2003, to discuss reformation of systems of social protection and support, to discuss the significance of adoption of the Law *On State Social Delivery* and the Law *On NGOs*, and to take into consideration issues on the complex development of charitable culture and of long-term corporate charity. All these issues were included in the Statement made by the President on April 4.
- CNOK participated in a workgroup of designers of the Laws *On NGOs* and *State Social Delivery* and discussed the legislation issues with officials of Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord, Ministry of Justice, Law Department of the President's Administration, Institute of Legislation, Ministry of Education & Science, Ministry of Labor & Social Protection, and Ministry of Economy & Budget Planning.
- CNOK consolidated the regional NGOs working in partnership with UNICEF under the Asian Development Bank's project on iodizing salt to improve children's nutrition.
- The Confederation conducted three oblast-level seminars on labor and socio-economic rights in Aqtobe, Kokshetau, Qostanai. The seminars were addressed to oblast akims, regional state officials, and leaders of NGOs and professional unions.
- CNOK supported its social partnership with international and foreign organizations, particularly with UNV to develop a volunteer network and with *Partnership Arizona-Kazakhstan* to create mechanisms for better interaction among government, business and NGO sectors.

Internal Capacity Building

- CNOK provided Kazakhstan's NGOs with required materials and recommendations in preparation to NGO Forum and legislative base development.
- The head of CNOK represented Kazakhstan at a conference State Duma of the Russian Federation on the pro and cons of economic and democratic development.
- A partnership proposal to create joint Russia/Kazakhstan civil society projects was developed with the Center of Social Partnership (Moscow) and funded by the Moscow government.

2. *National Consumers League of Kazakhstan*

Activity Overview

- During the reporting period 860 clients – representatives of NGOs, state bodies and mass media were consulted during the reporting period. 456 from 142 organizations utilized the League's resource center (computer, communication, copy, printing).
- A number of meetings with representatives of societies of consumers' rights protection, antimonopoly committees, association of entrepreneurs of Astana, Aqtau, Qaraghandy, Kurchatov were conducted to develop a general policy in the field of protection and promotion of consumers' rights and interest.
- The League's President participated in the design of adjustments in the draft Law *On NGOs* and discussed the draft Law *On Protection of Consumers' Rights* with state officials and representatives of political parties.
- The League's action group of 5 members completed the project design *What Should Entrepreneurs Know About Consumers' Rights?* US Trade Chamber financed the publication of 2000 copies (1000 in Russian, 500 in Kazakh, 500 in English).
- The League staff acted as experts in consideration of the draft Law *On State Social Delivery*.

- The League continues to work in partnership with State Standard to projects on standards of perfume and cosmetic production.
- To advocate consumers' rights, the League President met Minister of Education and presented manuals and submitted official letter on introduction of *Basics in Consumers' Rights* in school and university educational programs.
- Mass media outreach through radio stations (101.1 FM weekly), TV programs (34 reports) and periodicals was continued to raise public awareness about consumers' rights.
- Three issues of the bulletin *News for Consumers* were published with circulation of 3072 copies and e-mail distribution to 345 organizations.
- The League maintained contacts with Consumers' Societies of other countries – Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to exchange expertise on consumers' issues.
- 27 new agreements to launch concerted action with NGOs were signed in the framework of the NGO meeting, organized by CNOK in Astana.
- To develop a network of consumers organizations, there are now two Societies of Consumers' Rights Protection in each region of Kazakhstan.
- On April 4, the seminar *Consumers' Rights & Its Protection Mechanisms* was conducted for 30 schoolteachers of all regions of Kazakhstan.
- The training session *Consumers' Rights Protection as Factor for Business Success* was conducted for 30 businessmen and entrepreneurs.
- The League's continued consulting via *Hot Line* and individual meetings, including 1987 telephone live consultations and 67 investigations.
- The League experts participated in a press conference on problems of genetic modification of products and their distribution in Kazakhstan.

Internal Capacity Building

- New contacts were made as a result of the League President's facilitation of a *Counterpart Project Design* seminar on May 22-23.
- Two employees of the League participated in the seminar *International Standards in Financial Reporting* organized by Counterpart on May 27-31.
- The League's organizational development and constituency was researched in the framework of *Mobile Consultants Program*.
- A database of mediators of international relations was formed to organize interregional meeting on developing effective mechanisms for conflict management.
- To strengthen financial sustainability, the League submitted papers to get a license for chargeable service delivery to legal entities.

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

Activity Overview

- In the framework of fundraising campaign addressed to the 3rd Open Diabetic Athletics Meeting of 2003, over 30 letters were sent to potential sponsors. As a result, partnership agreements were set with the State Agency of Tourism & Sport, the joint-stock companies – *Goroformlenie*, *Rakhat* and *Almaty Nan, Nursat*, and the TV company *Rakhat*.
- The company *Pliva International & AWD* entered the membership of DARK. Inclusion of *Med Service Richter* and *CSC* is under negotiations. All these companies participate in DARK's project to publish a Supplement to the 1st National Diabetes Catalogue. In fact, effective June 1, 19 regional diabetes societies and 6 offices of pharmaceutical companies are DARK members.
- An agreement was signed to conduct research on diabetes medical & social problems and expertise of legislation on public health. Six volunteers from Al Farabi Kazakh State University are involved in the research process. The relevant report was submitted to Ministry of Public Health and Almaty Department of public health & social protection.
- The roundtable *We Are Together Against Diabetes. Its Prevention & Prophylaxis* was conducted on June 4 in the National Center of Medicines Expertise.
- On June 18, DARK hosted a roundtable to discuss new initiatives to strengthen the role of the Association and design of its new regulation.

- 456 people were assisted through DARK's Methodical & Consulting Service.
- DARK, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Soros-Kazakhstan Fund, developed a *Methodical Manual* for educational programs in *Diabetes School*.
- DARK met with a number of top state officials and deputies to discuss ongoing issues of diabetes prevention and prophylaxis and budget planning for public health in Kazakhstan.
- By invitation of IDF Europe, DARK's President participated in the 1st meeting of European Diabetic Associations held in Saint-Petersburg (June 5-6) and shared Kazakhstan's experience in the prevention of diabetes.
- DARK took an active part in discussion of the draft Laws *On State Social Delivery, On Social Partnership, and On Social Protection of Invalids*. In addition, the Association analyzed legislation in the field of social provision and public health and submitted related adjustments to Ministry of Public Health and Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Internal Capacity Building

- Starting in April the Methodical Cabinet was transformed to Consulting Service consisting 7 qualified experts able to render a comprehensive assistance to its clients.
- 2003 Strategic plan was designed on the base of recommendations of Saint-Vincent Declaration, World Public Health Organization, and International Diabetic Federation, experience of national diabetic associations of Russia, USA, and England, updated scientific designs on diagnostics and treatment of diabetes.
- The 12-month project proposal *Public Awareness of Realization of the State Program "Diabetes": transparency in utilization of state and local budgets in the regions with large number of diabetes diseased people* was designed and submitted to the *Contest of Innovational Ideas* of the World Bank for \$42,600.
- The 8-month project proposal *Conducting of Budget Training for 16 Managers to Strengthen Internal Capacity of DARK & Public Awareness and Involvement in Developing of State and Local Budgets* was designed and submitted to the Eurasia Foundation for \$29,430.
- DARK's internal personnel regulations and Charter were adjusted in connection with development of new strategies in medical and social aid delivery, and were designed on the base of recommendations made by ICNL.

4. Young Leaders Association (YLA)

Activity Overview

- YLA took part in a Conference on *Leadership* from May 1-5 in Almaty. The event gathered 257 participants from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan using the *Youth Teaches Youth* methodology.
- The regional contests of the program *UN Model* were supported by an informational campaign conducted by YLA and UN.
- The Sunday meetings on various youth issues were conducted on regular basis in the Association's hub office and regional branches.
- In partnership with IFES, YLA prepared traditional summer camps on the program *Student Action Committees* that are to be organized in North Kazakhstan (August), and Almaty (June).
- YLA staff participated in the program *School Councils* and set the foundation for the creation of a network in Kazakhstan. There are 4 experimental schools in Almaty, Astana, Shymkent, and Ozerki Village of Semey region.
- YLA trainers conducted seminars on *PCA* and *Project Design* in ZHALGHAS-Counterpart.
- Organizational work was done in the framework of UNICEF's program *Equal To Equal*.
- Effective May, a YLA employee was seconded to UNESCO to coordinate their project on civil education for children of Central Asia.
- YLA, in coordination with the parents's organization *Protection of Children's Rights*, implements a Soros-Kazakhstan Fund project to promote local self-management.
- A series of articles covering the Association's activity and programs was published in the newspapers *Vremya Molodykh* (Time of Youth) and *Obuchenie* (Education).
- The head of YLA and branch Directors participated in Kazakhstan's Youth Congress in Almaty.
- In April, YLA conducted a seminar on *organizing summer vacation* for summer camp managers.

- The seminar *Organization & Action of School Councils* was conducted for deputy directors on education in schools and colleges.
- By invitation of the Institute of Educational Matters under the Kazakh Academy of Education, the head of YLA took part in the International seminar on training leaders of youth camps *Integration Through Created Tolerance* held in Narva (Estonia) in May.
- The head of YLA participated in the grant committee review of projects submitted to UI.
- The head of YLA participated in the Central Asian forum on education held in Bishkek in May and presented YLA's *Global Education* program activities.

Internal Capacity Building

- The organization focused on strengthening its branches, extending staff and recruiting volunteers. As such, a number of trainings, consultations and program and informational supports were provided in the regional branches.
- YLA promoted its activity by delivering seminars on new methods for youth outreach and organization of UN & school council clubs for representatives of Departments of Education and Institutes of Qualification Improvement.
- The Taraz branch implemented a project to create groups of eco-leaders among students in Zhambyl Oblast.
- A number of seminars on program and planning issues were conducted for YLA trainers in Almaty on May 18 and 26.
- By invitation of Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord, in April YLA trainers conducted trainings for young soldiers of Almaty.

Kyrgyzstan (Focus NGO)

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

Activity Overview

- BCSI conducted a roundtable on the issues of internal migration on June 19, attended by 42 people, representing National Statistical Committee, City Administration, Regional Center on Migration, NGOs and internal migrants. They shared views on a bill on internal migration, procedures of ownership registration, strengthening a role of self-governing bodies in improving life conditions of internal migrants in new residential areas of Bishkek.
- BCSI conducted a series of seminars *Developing Civic Dialogue in New Residential Areas is A Way to Involve Internal migrant in Protecting Their Rights* on June 5-11.
- BCSI organized a press conference in the office of State News Agency Kabar, devoted to the specific issues of internal migration, for example low quality facilities in new residential areas, and BCSI activities to address them.

Internal Capacity Building

- The BSCI Director participated in the international seminar *Integration Through Created Tolerance* held in Narva (Estonia) in May 25-30. The seminar sought to build the skills of participants to cultivate tolerance among youth.
- On April 25-28, a member of the Board of Directors took part in the training on *Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability*, held in Issyk-Kul.
- BCSI has been successful in raising funds this quarter – it received a GTZ grant of \$2,600 to conduct community mobilization activities in the new residential area Ala-Too, populated mostly with internal migrants. In addition NDI provided \$1,000 to conduct seminars aimed at ensuring a dialogue between migrant organizations and local governments of new residential areas.

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

Activity Overview

- TOFU's Board of Directors met on May 17 to approve date and place of the 4th conference of TOFU members. The conference was held on May 31 with participation of 94 members. The President and Vice-President were re-elected for a new term. The conference was attended by representatives of Talas and Jambyl Oblast Administrations and journalists from five newspapers and three TV companies.

Internal Capacity Building

- TOFU created a working group, consisting of 7 people of the staff and the Board, to revise the TOFU charter. During April-May, the working group consulted with farmer's groups from 16 villages to discuss the amendments and get their input. Based on the farmers' feedback, a decision was made to increase membership fees from 180 soms to 200 soms per year. Regulations on farmers unions in villages were finalized.
- Based on the decisions of the conference of May 31, four new members were accepted to the Board, which now has 11 members.

3. *Bayastan*, Naryn

Activity Overview

- The Bayastan psychologist conducted courses in eight classrooms of two Naryn schools. The main themes covered by the psychologist include self-esteem, psychological hurdles, and basic children's rights.
- Together with the Teachers Retraining Center, Bayastan conducted a roundtable on May 22, to discuss problems facing local schools and the inclusion of new subjects in curricula. The roundtable was attended by 22 teachers.
- The local authorities have been supportive of Bayastan's projects. Five schools in Naryn contracted with Bayastan and the branch office of Young Lawyers Association to deliver courses in legal issues and child rights to students. The classes started in April, 14 students of the Law Faculty of Naryn University have been involved in conducting classes.

Internal Capacity Building

- Bayastan successfully developed its relations with the media, for example, during the quarter information about their activities was regularly broadcasted through the radio station *Almaz*.
- April 27-29 the members of the Board of Directors took part in the training on *Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability* held in Issyk-Kul.

4. *Chintamani, Tash-Komur Town*, Jalalabad Oblast

Activity Overview

- Two issues of the bulletins *Voice of Nature* and *Eco-plus* were published (16 in total). The volunteers play a key role in collecting information for the bulletins and in disseminating them among local governments, NGOs and schools.
- The staff of the NGO conducted a series of trainings on advocacy for pensioners and sufferers of the Chernobyl accident. The training resulted in development of a statement to the Town Administration and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection on providing information services and medical services at reduced prices.

Internal Capacity Building

- May 28-30 the members of the Board of Directors took part in the training on *Strategic Planning and Financial Sustainability* held in Jalalabad.
- The last OD assessment indicated that Chintamani has been successful in attracting volunteers- currently it has about 30 volunteers who take an active part in the organization's activities, such as collecting materials for the newsletter and raising public awareness of environmental issues.

Tajikistan (Target NGO)

1. NGO *Umed*

- Continued implementation of the micro credit program *Supporting Entrepreneurs Families*
- Continued implementation of the project on "Creating a Journalist Club" in Kulob funded by Gender and Development. Journalists conduct press club monthly.

2. NGO *Sudmand*

- *Sudmand* continues project implementation of the Eurasia-funded *Young Leaders School*.
- The members of the organization participated in the following trainings: Membership Development, Human resource management, Public relation through Mass media, Association Development, and Financial management.

3. NGO *Anis*

- NGO *Anis* was selected as a partner organization to distribute the humanitarian aid.
- The members of the *Anis* participated in the following trainings: Membership Development, Human Resource Management, Public Relations through Mass media, Association Development, and Financial Management.

4. NGO *Hamroz*

- NGO *Hamroz* continues implementation of the project on gender issue supported by Care International.
- Women Associations representatives visited NGO *Hamroz* with purpose of experience exchange. The *Hamroz* members provide a variety of information on NGO activities.

5. *Chashma Women Center*

- The Women's Center *Chashma* completed survey on identifying poorest communities in Qumsangir, Beshkent, Shahritus, and Kabodion Districts of Khatlon Oblast under National Social Investment Fund of Tajikistan (NSIFT) program.
- The leader of the center was selected as a member of the bidding committee of RRDP.
- The Center had initiated development of a project proposal on Medical Station construction for community *Chorbog*. This proposal was supported by Health Community program.
- The Women Center *Chashma* made amendments in their charter and reregistered in the Ministry of Justice as a public association *Chashma*.
- *Chashma* is implementing the following projects: Computer course for local self-governance leaders supported by Mercy Corps; and Poverty Reduction project supported by UNHCR.

6. NGO *Yosuman*

- NGO *Yosuman* reconsidered the list of the Coordination Counsel members. They attracted the leaders of communities Tashabuskor, Kurama, and Umed. During the meeting they discussed urgent issues. As a result of the discussions 2 project proposals were developed and submitted to the Health Community Grant Program.
- NGO *Yosuman* established good working relationship with Economic Development Committee of Buston Jamoat. They are discussing to develop joint projects on solving social problems of Matchoh District.

7. NGO *Saodat*

- NGO *Saodat* continue implementing the project on improving rural children education supported by San Francisco Women's World Foundation. The training session was conducted on housekeeping, a healthy way of living, and children's right, supportive lessons on English, Russian, and Tajik. Also the partial renovation of the school was done.
- Wheat seeds were distributed among 100 women of Nov district. They get consultation on land processing.
- The NGO *Saodat* implemented a project "Ozod" under support of the Canadian Embassy in Almaty. As it was mentioned in the previous reports the Children Center was established. 15 children from 25 that were amnestied provided with job, and 10 of them are studying at the professional vocational school.
- Under the project *Umed* (Hope), supported by NOVIB/OXFAM Nederland, *Saodat* continue conducting trainings for 25 rural children of Nov and Ghonchi districts from the age of 10 to 15.

- The following trainings were conducted in the penal colony for children under the project "Children in prison": "Children's right", "Healthy way of living", and "Drug addict and HIV prevention" among children.

8. *Development Fund*

- Under a grant from Mercy Corps, *Development Fund* continues implementation of micro credit program in Ghonchi, Gafurov, Rasulov, Nay and Khujand Districts.
- Under "Agrarian Farmers Right Protection" project/ACT Central Asia the *Development Fund* conducted 2 round tables on identifying problems of agrarian and registration of farmers and their association.
- 40 trainers and consultant of Khujand and Kurgan - Teppa Areas were trained on "Legislation for farmers and agrarian farmers right protection" and creation of farms and their association and cooperation.

9. *NGO Yovar*

- The NGO *Evar* opened computer center and provide the following services to the communities: Computer courses. More than 250 youth was trained in computer courses; English and Russian courses; Computer services; and Computer games.

10. *NGO Vahdat*

- The NGO *Vahdat* developed a two-year plan on entrepreneurship development. The Community Initiative Support Center was created to promote entrepreneurship and small business development. The project proposal on poverty reduction was developed and submitted to the US Democratic Fund and it is under consideration now.
- 15 additional women from their target communities were trained on and received small credit (\$200) to create small shops.
- The leader on NGO *Vahdat* participated in course on poverty reduction in Bishkek with further presentation of the received information to NGO target communities. On the meeting was decided to involve youth of the target communities in entrepreneurship and small business development promotion. The project proposal on conducting entrepreneurship and small business development training to youth was developed and submitted to Soros Foundation.
- NGO *Vahdat* members together with volunteers and communities' members of Paschid, Dasht, and Potzrosh participated in reconstruction of irrigation channels.

11. *NGO Madad*

- *NGO Madad* is implementing a project on "Promoting Legal Education" supported by Swiss Agency Corporation. It was conducted a number of training on "Women, Society, and legislation" in Khorog and remote communities of Shugnan, Poshtkala, and Ishkashim districts. More than 100 women were trained.
- The NGO *Madad* provides consultations, technical assistance and information to Michurin, Shohdasht/Khorog, Khabost/Roshtkala district communities.
- *NGO Madad* assisted to the following communities in project development and submitted to Aga Khan Foundation: Community Khabost runs a pipe of 1.5 km under to supply water; and Community Shohdasht will start two projects implementation as soon as they get the row material: one is home canning and another on beekeeping.

12. *NGO Nilufar*

- As it was mentioned in the previous reports the *NGO Nilufar* created a community development center. Members of 4 communities after trainings and consultations developed and successfully implemented the following projects.
- Luliho community (Gypsies) successfully implemented a project "Water is life-spring". The community was provided with safe-to-drink water. Another community project "Electric power for Gypsies" was supported as well.

- Kostarosh community completed "Road reconstruction" project implementation funded by CARE support.
- Gurakha community implemented project "River-bank reinforcement" under support of Ministry of Water and Land Reclamation, and Ministry of Emergency and CARE.

13. NGO *Munis*

- NGO *Munis* jointly with NGO *Odamiyat* in Sovet district/Khatlon oblast implemented a community project on handicraft. Communities produce shoes/felt slippers and weave rags.
- The NGO *Munis* assisted community Kayumov to implement a project on hennery. As a result of the project community women (head of the household) were provided by job.
- The NGO *Munis* developed a proposal on computer courses and small business development for communities, which found support at US Democracy Funds.
- The WFP supported community Karamkul project on landscaping.
- The NGO members participated in a number of conferences and trainings, they exchanged experience and information with other NGOs.
- The NGO *Munis* received from CHAP and Mercy Corps humanitarian aids and distributed to the communities.

14. NGO *Medservice*

- Distributed Humanitarian good and food for 300 beneficiaries
- The NGO members conduct regular medical consultations to their target communities.
- NGO *Medservice* and communities Telman and Shark developed a joint proposal and submitted to the Health Community program.

15. *Harmony of World*

- The NGO *Harmony of World* completed the project Solving Problem of Children Leisure Time in Microrayon #62 in Collaboration with the Local Community and State Organizations funded by Counterpart. Within this project they created the following groups: Touring, Football, English courses, Journalism, Housekeeping and Theatrical Circle. Within each group a lot of events and contest were conducted.

Turkmenistan (Target NGO)

1. *Commonwealth of ECO NGOs*

Activity overview

- Conducted the seminar "Preparation of the offers from public organizations for the Kiev meeting of the Ministers 2003".
- Conducted the ecological action "Eco marathon 2003".
- Organized a meeting between representatives of local NGOs with a representative of the Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (REC).
- Hosted the seminar "Role of local authority and public in development National Program of Nature Protection".
- Held a working meeting on "New funds and programs new resources and services of ECO Center" for representatives of NGOs and IGs in Turkmenbashi city.

Internal Capacity Building

- Representatives participated in the working meeting with the Ministry of Nature Protection and Environment and discussed the issue of future cooperation on National Program of Nature Protection implementation.
- A representative participated in an OSCE-sponsored roundtable.
- Several members of the Commonwealth participated in the Volunteer Forum in May organized by Counterpart and the AED Start project.
- A representative participated at the International seminar for independent experts "Sustainable Development of the Volgo-Caspian Basin and Regional Safety " in Astrakhan.

2. *Junior Achievement Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs Center*

Activity overview

- Two trainers conducted a one-day seminar on technology of critical thinking for NGOs and teachers in partnership with Uzbek trainers from AED, Ednet and DIKS.
- Senior managers went to Almaty for a working group meeting with the CIS Regional Director for Junior Achievement to develop the JA program in Turkmenistan.

Internal Capacity Building

- Two members of the organization completed the one-year program "Study for Trainers", organized by National Advice on Economic Education of USA.
- The Center received support from Regional JA office in Almaty through educational-methodology-literature (500 complete sets comprised of the methodology manuals for teachers and a textbook).

3. *My Right*

Activity overview

- Conducted three seminars for the UNHCR project for refugees.
- Conducted two seminars on consumers rights for Ashgabat residents. The seminars were supported by the Auto Transportation Department of city.
- Two newsletters were published and distributed.
- Brochures were published in Persian on women's rights and questions of domestic violence.

Internal Capacity Building

- Participated in UNHCR seminars.
- Participated at the Association of Lawyers roundtable to discuss taxation issues.
- Participated in the Arkadag roundtable on issues of drug prevention. Participants included representatives of various state structures, international organizations, and public organizations.

4. *Union of Pensioners Arma*

Activity overview

- Each Sunday the Union hosted meetings with members (20-25 people each session) for experts to provide consultations on medical, legal, and pension legislation issues.
- Information regarding legal and medical issues was regularly updated and distributed to members.
- The project "Laundry" is being successfully implemented and the number of served members has increased.

Internal Capacity Building

- One and two-days seminars on "Basic of marketing" and "Basic computer's knowledge" were conducted for members.
- The NGO facilitated meetings in connection with the program "The International visitor" for NGOs to learn about US study tours.
- Organized a visit to the National Museum for members.

5. *Shamchyrag Tukmen Association of Journalists on Social Partnership*

Activity overview

- Organized the roundtable on "Social partnership in operation: experience and prospects" with participation from government, international organizations and public organizations.
- Conducted a seminar on "Journalistic skill" at the summer school of journalism as a follow on to a similar meeting in Kyrgyzstan.
- The NGO facilitated meetings in connection with the program "The International Visitor" for NGOs to learn about US study tours.

Internal Capacity Building

- The Association won a World Bank innovation grant for the project "Knowledge-force. Remote area" to develop a network in etraps.
- Participated in the Second Forum of Eurasian media for journalists and other media personnel.
- Several members took part in the Arkadag roundtable on AIDS prevention.

- Participated in an OSCE meeting on issue cooperation among public organizations.

6. *Family, Mercy and Health*

Activity overview

- Conducted regular trainings for youth groups on health, sports and sewing shop training.
- Conducted several sporting events for youth and children from vulnerable families.
- Created and conducted vocational English and computer courses for children from poor and vulnerable families.
- Provided legal advice to pensioners and young families in crisis.
- Organized a summer camp for children from poor and vulnerable families.

Internal Capacity Building

- Conducted PCA exercises in school #1 to assist initiative groups leaving their communities.
- Several members of the organization participated in regular Counterpart trainings.

7. *Keyik Okara*

Activity overview

- Conducted trainings on medical issues for refugees in Babdurmaz village.
- Provided consultations to women refugees on questions of health.
- Conducted computer skills training and received regular patient visits in the office.

Internal Capacity Building

- The German Embassy approved the NGO's project to lay canal piping in Baba Durmaz.
- Members of the organization participated in the regional training on Community Network Development held in Almaty June 27-30.

8. *Ecological School of Farmers*

Activity overview

- Provided ongoing consultations and recommendations for protecting plants from wreckers to farmers from Geokdepe, Gyavers, and Bayram-Ali etraps.
- Organized a meeting with the head of the House of Health in Farmer's Association to discuss issues related to joint performance and information sharing on preventive drug addiction among rural youth within the project "Health Community".
- Conducted PCA/PRA exercises in the community of the Farmer's Association "Bugdayly" from Gyavers etrap as part of the "Health Community" program.

Internal Capacity Building

- The World Bank funded the organization's project "The Time is Ripe to build Farmer's Knowledge." Start up issues were discussed at meetings with the farmers of Geokdepe etrap and with representatives of the local Farmer's Association *Yangala*.
- Met with members of the initiative group *Altyn cheshme* to discuss partnership issues for working in the community of the Farmer's Association *S.Niyazova*, Gyavers etrap.
- Two members increased their training skills by conducting seminars for Counterpart.

9. *Social Adaptation Center Umyt in Turkmenbashi city, Balkan*

Activity overview

- Received from CHAP and distributed to members humanitarian assistance, mostly clothing.
- *Umyt* members participated in table tennis, chess, and football competitions among Balkan velayat invalids.
- *Umyt* members participated in the best picture competition among children of Turkmenbashi city.

Internal Capacity Building

- *Umyt* members participated in Counterpart trainings and a roundtable discussion hosted at the Resource Center in Turkmenbashi city.
- A volunteer participated in the Counterpart/AED-sponsored Volunteers Forum in May.

10. *Arzuw, Seydi City, Lebap*

Activity overview

- During the summer school examination period, *Arzuw* provided consultations to secondary school-level teachers and pupils on different topics.
- Provided research materials to secondary school teachers through its searchable resource library.

Internal Capacity Building

- *Arzuw* organized a fundraising activity to sell hand made goods and lottery tickets to earn money to repair the organization's technical equipment.
- *Arzuw* volunteers participated in summer camp for pupils at the schools. They organized different types of the activities, such knitting circles, arts and crafts, and field trips.
- *Arzuw* members and volunteers participated in the Counterpart trainings PCA/PRA, NGO and Community and Fundraising.

11. Medet, Turkmenabat City

Activity overview

- *Medet* members and volunteers conducted activities dedicated to Mahtumkuly's Poetry Day and the Day of the Horse, where participants could learn about the history of Turkmen horses.
- Conducted an art competition for children under 12 years.
- *Medet* members and volunteers organized an arts competition refugee children to draw the best picture related to the Day of Ecology. 36 children submitted entries, the top five won prizes.
- *Medet* members, in partnership with UNHCR, marked the International Day of the Refugees with a celebration where refugees sang songs, read poems and shared stories in different languages.

Internal Capacity Building

- *Medet* members participated in the AED training "Critical thinking" in Ashgabat.
- *Medet* members participated in the Counterpart trainings PCA/PRA, NGO and Community, Volunteer Management, and Social Partnership.
- *Medet* members participated in the training "Could we live together?" conducted by the local NGO *Civil Dignity*.
- In June a member of *Medet* participated in the ACCELS "International Conference of the Teachers of English Language" in Turkestan city, Khazakhstan.
- Ten teacher-members participated in the "Interactive Methods of Teaching Languages" training conducted by the training center "Bilgirje" in Ashgabat city.

12. Amul, Turkmenabat City

Activity overview

- *Amul* members produced the film *Bilimli Nesil* for and in partnership with the Department of Education of velayat, dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the President's Policy on Education.
- *Amul* members conducted meeting for the pupils of secondary school #6 on "The image of Mahtumkuly in the Art of Turkmenistan."
- *Amul* members conducted consultations for the pupils of secondary school #18 seeking admission into the Institute of Art in Ashgabat
- *Amul* members and volunteers began to create a web site for citizens of Turkmenabat city, where there will be the views of the city, city news, etc.
- *Amul* members negotiated with local authorities to organize an art exhibition.

Internal Capacity Building

- In June members collected information to develop a training module on producing films, additionally they wrote a script for the film to be used as the training aid.
- Members designed and sold 15 stands for secondary schools labeled "The best student" and "The President's Desk". The revenue earned was used for internal needs of the NGO.

13. Sarygamysh (former WUA), Turkmenbashi etrap, Dashoguz

Activity overview

- Provided potable water to 13,000 community members.
- Met with representatives from the Embassy of Great Britain to replicate the NGO's activities.

- In two villages conducted PCA exercises to help communities to identify priority needs.

Internal Capacity Building

- Together with the village committee of Selmeli kel, they designed a project and received funding from the British Embassy to construct a mill.

14. Uchgun, Turkmenbashi etrap, Dashoguz

Activity overview

- Conducted health training for 69 participants from rural communities and personnel from the local Health House.
- Participated in the Dashoguz CSSC roundtable on health issues in the Boldumsaz etrap.
- Organized a roundtable discussion for medical personnel in Turkmenbashi etrap to discuss prevention activities that communities, NGOs and governmental medical agencies can employ.

Internal Capacity Building

- Organized a meeting to develop the new “Healthy Community” training module on “Problems of Anemia and ways of preventive measures.”
- Regularly participated in the Discussion club of the Dashoguz CSSC.

Uzbekistan (Focus NGO)

Agreements with the Focus NGOs were active through March 31, 2003 and were not extended beyond that date. As such there were no activities with the Focus NGOs in Uzbekistan for this reporting period.

F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Kazakhstan

- The Program staff held a number of meetings to design monthly and quarterly Action Plans as well as to discuss new proposals on *Social Fairs* and *NGO Capacity-building, Country Profile* development, and coordination and logistics issues for the Partners' meeting of June 18-20.
- On April 2, the OD Coordinator participated in the Opening Ceremonies for a new procedure room, organized by the Focus NGO *Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan*.
- The Program staff spearheaded an advocacy campaign to prevent adoption of the unfavorable *Law On NGO* by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Key activities included:
 - A roundtable discussion on May 6, organized by National Democratic Institute, to design joint programs for the advocacy campaigns to adjust the laws on *Non-Governmental Organizations* and *State Social Delivery*. As a result, the Counterpart-led *Joint Platform of Civil Society Organization* remains the only body to advocate on behalf of the non-profit sector in Kazakhstan. Prior to the roundtable, the Country Director met with Julia Cohen of NDI to discuss roles and responsibilities of Counterpart, NDI and other players.
 - A roundtable discussion on May 16, for *Platform* representatives to meet with state deputies and officials of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ministry of Culture, Information, and Public Accord to discuss the critical situation around the adoption of the Law regulating the NGO sector. Prior to the event, there were series of meetings with members of Parliament and officials from the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord: Mr. Oleg Ryabchenko, Senior Vice-Minister, and Mr. Sergei Gmyrya, the Specialist, who were informed of NGO opinion on the draft law and corresponding feedback.
 - An advocacy session on May 19 led by the *Platform's* initiative group for more than 40 deputies of Mazhilis and the Senate of the Parliament. In addition, over 200 NGOs signed the *Platform's* Statement that was presented to the Presidential Administration, Parliament and Councils of political parties of Kazakhstan.
 - A press conference on May 20 in Astana and an informational briefing on May 26 in Almaty to publicize the results of the *Platform's* advocacy campaign.
- The Country Director and Zhalghas Director met with staff from the Central Asia Mountains Partnership (CAMP) to discuss the community outreach component. CAMP also shared information about their funding sources (SDC, Switzerland Agency), Mountain Communities Development program, training and technical assistance for communities, and a small grant program.
- The Zhalghas Director and Report/Project Designer met with officials from the Eurasia Foundation, OSCE, VSO and eco-tourist organizations in April to discuss prospects for partnership in eco-tourism development in Kazakhstan. The Report/Project Designer participated in the Eurasia Foundation seminar *Eco-Tourism Development in Kazakhstan* (April 30).
- From April 4-10, the Grant Manager met with her Zdrav Plus colleague to conduct preliminary project selection for proposals submitted to the Grant Committee under the joint *Healthy Communities* program. On May 7, USAID officials, and Grant Managers from Zdrav Plus and Counterpart Kazakhstan, and the Regional *Healthy Communities* Coordinator planned the awards ceremony for grantees. On May 12 the Grant Manager and a representative of Zdrav Plus developed technical assistance plans for the Program's grantees. On May 15 the Country Director, Grant Manager, senior officials from the US Embassy and USAID, and representatives of the media attended an awards ceremony held at the Kazakhstan Press Club to give grants to *Healthy Communities* grantees.
- The Country Director met with Mr. Kurmangazy Beg Ali, director of the TB Patients Association, to further develop their original submission to the 2002 World Bank contest. The World Bank officially invited and encouraged the Association to participate in their Marketplace Development program. Counterpart is an international partner of the Association for this \$200,000 project that was refined and submitted in May 2003.

- On April 10 the Community Outreach Coordinator participated in a videoconference organized by the Almaty regional office of the World Bank. The meeting sought to exchange expertise in assessment of innovative projects. He subsequently participated in the World Bank's Grant Committee meeting on April 15 to examine semi-final proposals for innovative projects. Based on his solid input at this country-level meeting, he was invited by the World Bank to participate in the Regional Grant Committee Meeting held in Bishkek from May 20-23. 25 of 50 projects proposed by Central Asian NGOs were granted with financial support from the World Bank. In addition to the committee meeting, the Community Outreach Coordinator participated in the conference *Country Innovation Day* and workshop *Approaches to Community Development*.
- The Community Outreach Coordinator served as a respondent during the interview process for the organizational assessment conducted by Alexey Kuz'min from the CSSC *ECOCENTER*.
- Eric Boyle, Country Advisor of the Urban Institute and the Country Director discussed their respective programs.
- Working with Counterpart Washington, program staff and Zhalghas-Counterpart developed the project proposals *Managing Ethnic Diversity in Kazakhstan* and submitted it to the State Department.
- The Country Director met with the AED Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Dennis Lee and Country Director, Ms. Dinara Adil, to discuss changes in the AED training program, including new requirements and criteria, and recommend a list of suggested trainings for the next year.
- On May 16 the Senior Program Officer participated in the grant committee meeting of the Urban Institute (UI). There were six themes/components covered by the UI/Almaty Grants Program: 1) media competition; 2) local partnership projects; 3) public policy development; 4) evaluation of community based economic development councils; 5) new training modules development by Regional Training Centers; and 6) best practices by Consumers Cooperatives.
- In the end of May, the Senior Program Officer participated in meetings between the US Ambassador Larry Napper and local NGOs to discuss human rights.
- On May 30 the Community Outreach Coordinator met with Ms. Jamankulova of INTRAC to discuss the potential for partnership and collaboration for community development and its research.
- On May 27 the Senior Program Officer met with representatives and volunteers of the US Peace Corps and presented Counterpart's new program on *Civil Society Support Initiative in Central Asia*. On May 30, the Senior Program Officer met with Nikolai Slabzhanin, Coordinator of UN Volunteers to discuss cooperation with their regional centers and the status of volunteerism in Kazakhstan.
- From June 2-6 the Country Director visited Atyrau to collect data about local NGOs and their activities and assess the potential for opening a new CSSC in or near Atyrau.
- On June 3, the Project/Report Designer participated in Eurasia Foundation's Ten Years Anniversary Conference *Central Asia & Civil Society, 1993 – 2003: A Cross-Roots Perspectives*.
- On June 6 the OD Coordinator and Zhalghas Director participated in a donor roundtable on *Social Partnership* organized by INTRAC. Among the participants were also representatives of the Support Centers of Oskemen and Qostanai.
- The Country Director traveled to Aqtobe and met with 15 local NGOs and CBOs to discuss the CSSC's role in civil society development in the region.
- The Country Director met with representatives of the University of Michigan to develop implementation plans for their joint project.
- The Country Director attended a roundtable organized by the UN Drug & Crime Control office and Almaty City Akimat and presented Counterpart's new program for the support of healthy lifestyles.
- On June 16, the Community Outreach Coordinator participated in a meeting of NGOs organized by the Volunteer House of Soros Foundation and the UN Volunteer Service to develop an action plan on *Volunteerism Development*. This action plan will be discussed further at the *Civil Forum of Kazakhstan* to be held in September 2003.

Kyrgyzstan

Meetings/Conferences/Contacts

- The Country Director, Citizenship Coordinator, and UNHCR representative J. Lynch participated in a ceremony to present passports to new citizens as a result of the joint Counterpart/UNCHR project.
- The Country Director met with Acacia Sheilds from Human Rights Watch to answer general questions about civil society and NGOs in Kyrgyzstan.
- April 28-29 the Country Director attended and facilitated some of the sessions of an INTRAC conference on M&E.
- The Country Director attended the meeting and facilitated some sessions at the World Bank Institute conference *Knowledge Forum* from May 21-23.
- The Country Director, together with representatives from CSSCs in Jalal-Abad, Batken, Nookat, and Kerben, met with USAID representatives David Hoffman and Igor Tupitsyn.
- The Country Director participated in the *Attacking Poverty Course Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) Policies in Central Asia: The Role of Civil Society* workshop held June 16-20. The representatives from the World Bank Institute, Washington DC and the International Monetary Fund organized this workshop and shared their knowledge and experience. Participants included representatives from the Administration of the President, International Organizations, and NGOs/CBOs from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as a number of reporters.
- On June 24 the Country Director, Senior Vice-President Counterpart International, CFO Counterpart International, and Regional Director Central Asia monitored program activities of the Nookat CSSC.
- On June 30 the Country Director met with Suzan Fritz, USAID/CAR Director Democracy and Media to discuss future project implementation and the roles of Counterpart and the Association of CSSCs.
- The Country Director and Senior Program Officer took part in regular USAID/DM meetings discussing recent activities of USAID contractors and addressing common issues.
- The Country Director, Senior Program Officer and EC Project Manager participated in the EuropeAid meeting in April 11 where the TASIC IBPP and EC DHR projects were presented.
- In order to share experience with similar projects, the Senior Program Officer participated in the SME donors meeting held on April 16, where the TACIS IBPP project was presented.
- The Senior Program Officer participated in a meeting on Social Mobilization in the office of WB on April 23. The meeting was attended by international agencies and major NGOs working with communities. The participants shared their approach to social mobilization and the WB presented their *Village Investment Project*. He also attended a follow up seminar on June 21 where participants discussed possible ways to transfer money from the national level to local level through ayil okmotus and investment councils of ayil okmotus, which most likely will have a status of NGOs.
- On June 27, the Senior Program Officer met with Elmira Shishkaraeva, the Program Director of Soros Foundation, to discuss areas of joint interest to develop cooperative proposals.

Projects

- The new TACIS-funded project *Promoting Entrepreneurship at the Grassroots Level* was launched and the start up phase was completed. After completing baseline studies in six pilot villages near Kara Balta and Nookat, meetings were conducted with potential entrepreneurs and the project team began the process of forming self-help groups. The project team developed the survey questionnaire to select participants. In order to build the capacity of the local CSSC, 10 interviewers from the CSSCs were trained in interview techniques by the local consulting firm Expert. The program staff delivered a training seminar on their approaches for forming self-help groups. The project team also established contacts with the Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC), who may provide additional credits to the project beneficiaries.

- The project #99/0439 with EC funding, 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 well. The sixth volume of the bulletin *Jamaat Demilgesi* (Community Initiative) was prepared, published and distributed among 11 CSSCs. A manual with instructions for using *Impact Evaluation* methodology was designed by the project team and distributed among the CSSCs. During the reporting period, the CSSCs conducted evaluation according to the impact evaluation methodology in seven target communities. A training workshop on *Community Foundations* has been discussed with AED. The Project Manager visited Germany to discuss with Counterpart Deutschland issues, progress, next steps, upcoming consultancies, the project web site, and the *Leadership* training scheduled for July and European study tour in September.
- The UNHCR-funded project 03/AB/KGZ/LS/470 to provide support to refugee organizations progressed as planned. Project highlights to date include:
 - 252 adult refugees of the category #1 have been granted the citizenship of Kyrgyzstan in 2003.
 - 228 refugees received certificates on non-belonging to the citizenship of Tajikistan, of which 150 refugees submitted their cases to the passport offices.
 - The information on refugees who lost passports were collected and analyzed, and a summary table on them was sent to UNHCR.
 - The citizenship contracts with NGOs *Adab* (Sokuluk Rayon), *Chuy Murgab* (Jayl Rayon), *Sozvezdie* (Panfilov Rayon), *Booruker Urmat* (Bishkek), *Yrys Kenchi* (Chuy Rayon) and *Miloserdie Yntymak* (Alamedin Rayon) on providing financial support to maintain citizenship activities were signed and first installments were made.

Tajikistan

- April 4 a Program Coordination meeting took place with participation of the managers from different Counterpart Programs. This activity was initiated by Country Advisor and proved to be useful as there was need to coordinate the work, update approaches and integrate some activities.
- April 6 Counterpart Tajikistan hosted a meeting of WBI representatives with the members of Steering Committee. The deputy director updated participants on CEN activities. Steering group members presented their activities on community driven development. WBI staff was keen to learn more about capacity building interventions for communities, their needs and different approaches for community driven development. They have presented the concept of CENA (Community Enhancement Needs Assessment) and requested Counterpart disseminate terms of reference among interested organizations. Counterpart has been considered as one of the potential partners for CENA activities
- April 7 there was a meeting with WB Washington representatives to discuss IT communication facilities for CSSCs. The Country Advisor and Country Director provided sufficient information about available possibilities and needs of CSSCs. WB representatives were interested to get information in order to include Tajikistan in the project they are planning to develop and suggest CT as a partner.
- April 15 the Country Advisor met with the Chief of the NRC of Tajikistan and Representative of NRC headquarters. The goal of the meeting was coordination of the activities about NGO development in Tajikistan. NRC representatives questioned the Country Director as an organization dealing with NGO development. We discussed the prospective possibility of engaging CSSCs in the activities of NRC and expanding training and micro credit programming.
- April 19 met with the Chief of IOM to provide information about the CSSCs, their services and capacity. I have provided appropriate information enhancing it with examples on the achievements. The CSSC network will be enabled to partner to IOM to provide training technical assistance and consulting/information for NGOs in the framework of People's Traffic Issue
- April 23 the Country Advisor and Country Director attended USAID's Coordination meeting, which was held for the first time with the USAID funded implementing agencies to update on the activities. We made a presentation of activities, including network expansion, registration of Hamkori, Social partnership impacts, CO success stories, WBI projects,

- The Peace Corps is implementing an educational program funded by Kettering Foundation to promote national dialogue on the most acute problems of Tajik society. In the roundtable discussions, staff shared experiences and the results on the 25 dialogues conducted all over the country.
- May 12 the Country Advisor met with USAID and AED representatives on social partnership conference issues. We have discussed budget, contributions and program issues. It's been decided to meet with Khukumat key authorities to agree on the agenda and follow the program. As the result of the repeated meetings with Gov. Officials we managed to keep discussions in the framework of the social partnership topic.
- May 26 the Country Advisor met with OSI/Washington Office representatives. They were interested to get information about donor organizations to support the Network of Entrepreneurship Support Centers.
- June 25-27 met with the Director of the Regional Office Jay Cooper and Arlene Lear, Counterpart International, Washington Office. The goal of their visit was to meet with staff, finalize budgets and action plans for the next three months, management issues, and registration issues. Some decisions were taken regarding registration issue. Andrea Burniske has been designated Acting Country Representative of Counterpart International. Zaro Kourbanbekova has been designated WBI funded CEN Project Coordinator.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council, in partnership with the Public Council in Tajikistan, organized a discussion session of Social Partnership on the issue of "The role of NGOs in Poverty Reduction in Tajikistan" on June 1.
- June 24 the Country Director met with USAID representative Abdurakhim Muhidov regarding the Press Conference on the results and achievements of phase III Counterpart program.
- As a follow-up of the meeting with the representative of IFES, the Director prepared information about the capacity of CSSCs, their field of activities and successes achieved. This information was required to learn more about the network and consider their involvement as IFES partners.
- June 25 the Counterpart Office received International Agencies implementing USAID funded projects. The main topic for discussion was the Referendum held on June 22. Organizations like NDI, Urban Institute, Counterpart and others shared their opinion on the process of the referendum.
- Counterpart Tajikistan was offered by World Bank Institution to lead activities under the short term project "Community Enhancement Needs Assessment". Our staff provided assistance in selection of researchers group, conducting interviews, developing list of the participants from different sectors for Stakeholders Workshop and provision of logistic services to WBI in organization of the workshop. Shoir Zakhurova, Training Coordinator was selected a focal point to coordinate the work of the researchers within two months.

Turkmenistan

- The meeting with Regional Development Director Jean MacKenzie and Turkmenistan IREX's Country Director Bakhar Ataeva held on May 12. The goals of IREX in Central Asia and Counterpart's experience on civil society development through CSSCs discussed. The issue of future cooperation within a new project on regional network development was touched upon. The issue of NGOs organizational development level (registration, financial sustainability, external relations) and major areas of their work discussed.
- Counterpart participates on a regular monthly USAID partners meeting.

Uzbekistan

- In the framework of cooperation between Counterpart-Uzbekistan and CHF, training support assistance was continued.

G. LEVERAGING

Kazakhstan

- \$2,400 for the Hub for financial and administrative support to the CDC/University of Michigan Hepatitis Project (Grant Agreement # DHHA-PHS-C-AGMT).
- \$2,835 for *Zhalgas* in rental fee from Counterpart International.

Kyrgyzstan

- In June, the Hub Office prepared and submitted an amended budget UNHCR to increase contract 03/AB/KGZ/CM/200 (c) by \$9,840. The project provides financial support to Chechen asylum seekers in order to strengthen their self-reliance and self-sustainability. An increase in funds will allow 40 families among Chechen asylum-seekers to receive small individual grants (equal to \$200) for business start-ups or expending existing business. The agreement is expected to be signed shortly.

Turkmenistan

- \$300 from INTRAC for Yazgylych Charyev, Counterpart Country Director, to participate in their Regional Conference held in Bishkek in late April – “Who Benefits: the Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Programs in Central Asia”
- \$1,500 from National Council of Economic Education USA for Irina Mukhammedova, Program Coordinator of the Ashgabat CSSC, to participate in their seminar “Training for trainers” held in mid-June in Almaty.

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

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the ICNL project component is:

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

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

Kyrgyzstan

Negative Provisions Eliminated from the Draft Amendments to the Civil Code

In April 2003 a special working group appointed by the President started working on reforming the Civil Code. Unfortunately, from what they proposed certain provisions could have been interpreted to: (i) prohibit NGOs from conducting economic activities directly, allowing these activities only by establishing a subsidiary; and, (ii) prohibit NGOs and political parties from receiving outside financial assistance (grants, donations etc.). The working group eliminated the confusing provisions from the draft after convincing arguments made by ICNL's expert who participated in the working group.

Tajikistan

Law on State Registration of the Legal Entities was Signed by the President and Entered into Force

On April 22 the law "On state registration of the legal entities" was signed by the President, allowing for a simplified single registration procedure for both commercial and some non-commercial entities. In addition to improvements in the registration procedure, the law reduces non-commercial organization (NCO) registration fees and the period for application review. During 2002 to 2003, ICNL worked closely with the drafters, providing them with technical assistance to make the drafting process transparent and participatory. Broad dissemination of the draft law and an educational campaign conducted by ICNL resulted in dozens of NGOs contributing by presenting their comments and participating in discussions of the draft law with the drafters. The NGOs' advocacy campaign led to substantial improvements in the draft law. For example, provisions requiring yearly re-registration with a state fee payment and a burdensome registration procedure different from the procedure for commercial entities were eliminated under pressure from the campaign.

Law on Charitable Activity was Signed by the President and Entered into Force

In April 2002, the Law on Charitable Activity was signed by the President and came into force. The new law helps to improve implementation of the tax code provisions related to tax treatment of charities. Prior to adoption of this law the tax code provisions on tax benefits for charities were implemented inconsistently, as the tax code did not provide for a clear definition and a mechanism to distinguish between charities and other NGOs. For example, based on the interpretation of a "charitable organization", an NGO could have been taxed in one region, and exempt from tax in another region. Or, previously given tax benefits to NGOs could have been withdrawn with penalties levied, depending on the interpretation of the law by each particular tax inspector. From 2000 to 2002, ICNL worked to educate the NGO community and its legal experts on the issues of taxation and charitable status of NGOs, resulting in a grass roots initiative to draft a law providing a favorable regime for charities. Throughout the drafting process ICNL worked closely with the NGO-government working group providing it with recommendations on the draft law and helping to organize public discussions and public hearings. The new law is another result of the joint drafting effort by NGOs and the government, assisted by ICNL.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional

Central Asia Website (Russian Language)

ICNL has continued to develop its Russian-language on-line resources. The website now contains general and country-specific publications, a calendar of events, laws from each country relating to NGOs, and links to local partner organizations. For more information, please see www.icnl.org/car.

Public Legal Education Initiative Linkages

Law professors from Tajik State University, Tajik-Slavic University, Kyrgyz-Slavic University, and the Adilet School of Law in Kazakhstan are taking steps to open NGO legal courses. In May 2003 they traveled to Budapest, Hungary to participate in the ICNL regional Newly Independent States (NIS) conference “Institutionalizing the law of non-commercial organizations into legal curricula,” accompanied by the ICNL Program Director for Central Asia. In Budapest they exchanged experiences with professors from Bulgaria, Hungary, Estonia, Ukraine, Croatia, and Albania on teaching NGO law. This program was supported by USAID through CEE-NIS linkages funding.

Kazakhstan

Technical Assistance with the Draft Law on NGOs

After the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord made it clear that they were not taking into consideration the comments of NGOs on the “working group” ICNL turned its attention to supporting the then pregnant advocacy initiative of local NGOs.

Enabling Advocates to Speak Against the Draft Law

On April 03, 2003, Mr. Ovcharenko, ICNL Legal Consultant, spoke at a briefing, conducted by OSCE with the purpose of informing international and foreign organizations’ representatives in Kazakhstan about the major problems associated with this NGO draft law prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord. Mr. Ovcharenko made a presentation commenting on the latest NGO draft law. He also distributed ICNL’s comments identifying the key problems with the draft law to the participants. These comments are also available on the ICNL Russian language website. ICNL provided the following additional support:

- Assistance with the advocacy campaign against the draft NGO law to the Platform Initiative Group, an informal association of NGOs engaged in a campaign against the draft NGO law. The on-going assistance includes updates on developments with the draft NGO law as it remains under consideration in the government, assistance with drafting letters and petitions against the law addressed to the President, Government, and other. Leaders. In this initiative group are the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan (YISK), Institute of Development Cooperation (IDC), and Counterpart Consortium Civil Society Support Centers.
- Expert participation in the roundtable discussion organized by the ANNOK in opposition to the NGO draft law.
- Assistance to KNOK, another Kazakh umbrella NGO, in its preparation for a meeting with the government officials. KNOK’s President, Valentina Sivryukova, met with Mr. Tazhin, the First Deputy Head of President’s Administration, and some representatives from key Ministries involved with social sphere to speak about deficiencies in the draft NGO law.
- Expert participation in June 10 conference “On draft law on NGOs in Kazakhstan: pros and contras,” organized by the OSCE. ICNL’s experts presented international experience on forms of social partnership between civil society, business, and government and highlighted legal mechanisms and issues of contracting in Kazakhstan.
- Assistance to the NGO’s coalition with drafting a letter to the President advocating against the draft NGO law, which was signed by the OSCE Ambassador and NGO leaders in June.
- Participation in the June 18 press conference conducted by OSCE and NGO leaders devoted to the open letter to the President signed by the OSCE Ambassador and NGO leaders, requesting he change his directions to the Government on preparing the draft law for NGOs. At the press conference

Advocacy Campaign in the Parliament

ICNL conducted half-a-day training session for twenty (20) members and activists of the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan educating them about the draft NGO law and about alternative good practices. ICNL assisted the National Democratic Institute (the organizer) with aiding in preparatory role plays to further train these young advocates to interact with deputies of the Parliament.

Technical Assistance with the draft Law on State Support of NGOs

ICNL Broadens Interest in State Contracting as a Mechanism of Support

ICNL representatives met with the head of the Medical Association «Healthy Motherland» and agreed to take joint efforts to bring matters of possible development of state contracting in public health area to the attention of the Minister of Public Health. ICNL also met with the Head of Department for Handicapped People of the Ministry of Health and discussed opportunities of broader involvement of Ministry of Health into the drafting process of the law on State Support of NGOs (“State social contracting”). The Ministry officials expressed interest in working with health oriented NGOs to ensure the drafting of a sound law. ICNL and its partners will fully include this Ministry in promoting a sound law, and counteracting objectives adverse to NGOs pursued by other government departments/ministries.

Information on State Social Contracting Televised

On May 26, 2003, Mr. Ovcharenko, ICNL Legal Consultant, participated in a television program on TV station “El Arna” on problems with state social policy in Kazakhstan. This program served to disseminate information about the benefits of greater state support of private social initiatives and as a support to the reasoning behind adopting such a law.

Roundtable on State Support of the Disadvantaged

On June 13, Mr. Ovcharenko participated in the round table discussion on the draft law on state support of handicapped people in Kazakhstan and addressed matters of public associations of handicapped people.

Campaign against Restrictions of the Freedom of Association

At the very base of the NGO legal framework remains one impediment. Informal associations are prohibited under the laws of Kazakhstan (ostensibly making a non-incorporated bowling league or other social club illegal). Up until now there has not been enough local interest in pursuing this basic fracture in the legal basis for civil society. Recently ICNL has been able to establish a coalition of human rights NGOs to work on this issue including: the Almaty Helsinki Committee; Kazakhstan Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law; and, InterLegal/Transparency International. ICNL will move forward with its partners to advocate for legalizing the right of individuals to freely associate without the burden of forming a legal entity.

Corporate Philanthropy in Kazakhstan

ICNL assisted Counterpart Consortium to develop and disseminate a survey to its network of civil society support centers. ICNL also aided Counterpart in assessing the needs of the NGO community as the basis for a proposed training for NGOs on promoting and gaining philanthropic support (to be competitively bid through AED).

Programmatic Mentoring Leads to Increased Capacity of Local NGOs

ICNL Completed its programmatic monitoring of the USAID funded project on development of the law on state social support implemented by the Central Asian Institute for Development (CAID), a local NGO. During the life of the project CAID members gained knowledge on the issues of financial relations between the State and NGOs in Kazakhstan and international good practices on this issue, gained experience in organizing public discussions on the issue, gained some drafting skills and skills cooperating with the government.

Assistance Provided to 20 Local NGOs and International Organizations

Vsevolod Ovcharenko, Legal Consultant for Kazakhstan, aided twenty [24 consultations for 20 different entities] local and international NGOs in resolving legal questions and issues. Issues ranged from registration and taxation to dissolution and labor relations. Consultations were provided to such organizations and institutions as OSCE, USAID, US Embassy, IREX, Counterpart International, and local NGOs Zhalgas, Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (DARK), Special Olympics Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan Debate Center, Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan, IDC, CAID, several associations of handicapped people and others. Through these consultations ICNL has been able to identify those areas of law that prove most difficult for NGOs. Follow-on projects are to include workshops on common questions of NGOs and single page fact sheets for NGOs.

Publications

ICNL's Kazakhstan office arranged for the publication of the booklet *Use of the Term "NGO": Legal Theory and Legislation of Foreign Countries* (500 copies).

Kyrgyzstan

Implementation of the Newly Adopted Tax Code

After more than two years of ICNL technical assistance, on March 8, 2003, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev signed the Law on Amendments to the Tax Code. The new tax code provisions increase allowable deductions for local donors from 2% to 5 %, provide new VAT exemptions for charitable organizations, and eliminate previously existing restrictions on the ability of NGOs to claim tax exemptions for income gained from humanitarian aid, grants, charitable donations, membership and entry fees, and as endowments. ICNL is now working to ensure appropriate implementation of this law in cooperation with government and civil society actors.

As a part of the on-going technical assistance to the drafters of the *Instructions*, with the support of Open Society Institute and Counterpart International, and the cooperation of Bearing Point (formerly known as Barents Group), ICNL organized a workshop for government officials, deputies, and NGO legal specialists to work on developing a Practical Guide to the recently adopted tax code. This Practical Guide, once approved by the Ministry of Finance, would be used as an official guide assisting with implementation of newly adopted amendments to broad range of users, including lawyers, NGOs, and tax officials. The project has the approval and participation of the Ministry of Finance and Revenues' Committee. It is expected that the Practical Guide to Taxation of NGOs in Kyrgyzstan will be published in mid-to-late 2003.

Education and Training on the Newly Adopted Tax Code for NGOs

In April ICNL Legal Consultant held a special legal session for the leaders of Civil Society Support Centers with the main purpose of explaining the substance of newly adopted tax amendments. During the training participants asked ICNL to develop educational materials and to provide technical assistance on the issue of implementation of the newly adopted Law "On tariff of social insurance fees for 2003." In response, ICNL prepared a review/survey of the Law "On tariff of social insurance fees for 2003." This review was made available to interested NGOs.

Legal Drafting and Participatory Practice Seminars Sponsored by the European Union

ICNL participated in the European Union EuropeAid project, "Support for the Centre for Parliamentarism and Legislative Drafting under the Legislative Assembly of the Kyrgyz Republic." In early May, ICNL Legal Consultant, Mr. Khvan, worked in cooperation with this project to conduct a special session on the issue of legislative drafting techniques for the Young Lawyers Association. And, on May 28, 2003, ICNL Program Director for Central Asia, Mr. Borrup, participated in the seminar on participatory practices and gave a speech outlining a framework for participatory practices. ICNL Legal Consultant for Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Khvan, also made a short presentation on current practices in Kyrgyzstan.

Technical Assistance to the Working Group for Modernization of Election Legislation

One of the initiators of amendments to the Election Code, Deputy Kadyrbekov, applied to ICNL to provide technical assistance as it pertains to the rights of civil society actors such as formal legal organizations in the election process. ICNL prepared an overview of NGO involvement in the election process under the current Kyrgyz legislation.

Consultation for US Ambassador

In April, Yuri Khvan, ICNL Legal Consultant and Brian Kemple, ARD/CHECCHI, Chief of the Party, met with the US Ambassador, John O'Keefe, who wanted to learn about Constitutional Reform and harmonization all legislation in accordance with Constitutional reform in the form of different codes. He had some specific questions regarding the drafting process and wanted to know about potential chances for certain negative provisions to be re-introduced again at some point in the legislative process. He was apprised of ICNL's and ARD/CHECCHI's activities in this field and he expressed an interest in being kept informed of the latest news on bill's passing process.

Public Hearing "Developing of Mass Media Legislation"

On June 11 upon special request of the Parliamentary Committee, ICNL participated in the public hearing "Developing of Mass media legislation".

Legal Consultations Provided

ICNL provided fifteen consultations to local NGOs and international organizations. These consultations included consultations on tax, registration, and labor law issues.

Tajikistan

Technical Assistance on Implementation of the Law on State Registration of Legal Entities

The main problem of NGOs throughout Tajikistan remains the lack of adequate information about new laws. On June 6, 2003, in Dushanbe ICNL together with AED conducted a seminar on "Implementation of the New Law on State Registration of Legal Entities." ICNL Central Asia Program Director, Mr. Kevin Borrup, presented information on registration of NGOs in CIS countries as compared to the new law. The main trainer- Mr. Abdulloev Rasul- a member of the draft law working group explained the new definitions and procedures on registration. The other trainer Mr. Davlatkadamov Hushbaht presented on NGO rights in registration. Then, in small working groups, participants discussed with trainers the law article-by-article and defined the differences in the registration of different legal forms and the difficulties associated with this law and possible solutions. ICNL Legal Consultant, Muatar Khaidarova, conducted additional trainings on this issue in: Kurgan-tube on June 9, 2003; Khujand on June 11, 2003; and, Kuliab on June 24, 2003. At each seminar there were approximately twenty-five (25) participants representing NGOs and other local civil society actors. In total more than one hundred people benefited from this series of seminars.

Draft Law "On Non-commercial Organizations" Under Discussion

The draft of the Law "On Non-commercial Organizations" is currently under discussion in the Government Legal Department. This law would allow, in practice, the establishment of NGOs in different organizational forms. The Lower Chamber of Parliament is scheduled to consider this draft law at the end of 2003.

Seminar "The Legal Aspects of the Social Partnership: International and National Standards"

On June 7, 2003 at the seminar "Legal Aspects of the Social Partnership: International and National Standards," ICNL Program Director for Central Asia, Mr. Borrup, introduced participants to the legal aspects of the social partnership in USA and other countries. Muatar Khaidarova and Khurshed Nasirov (a member of the NGO "Society and Law") presented the legal situation on social partnership in Tajikistan. Participants reviewed the Tajik legislation governing these partnerships. Participants also discussed in the small groups the problems and perspectives of social partnership in Tajikistan and its legal basis.

Dushanbe Social Partnership Conference

On May 27, 2003 Social Partnership Conference took place with the participation of NGOs, local community representatives, local government officials, INGOs, USAID, and business structures (500 representatives). Participants discussed challenges and opportunities of establishing and operating in social partnerships. The main moderator was Mayor-Chairman of the Upper Chamber of the Parliament Mr. Ubaidulloev. ICNL's Legal Consultant gave a speech on legal issues of social partnership and presented the draft agreement between local government, NGOs, and business structures. In follow-up, on May 31, 2003 Ms. Khaidarova organized and participated at the NGO "Society and Law" seminar on social partnership and citizens' rights for local government officials and NGOs in Khujand.

Technical Assistance with Social Partnership Agreement

At the request of the Dushanbe Civil Society Support Center (DCSSC) and Counterpart Consortium, ICNL prepared the draft Agreement on Social Partnership between the Dushanbe municipal government and NGOs (DCSSC, NGO "Society and Law", the Center for Supporting, and Development of Small Business). Muatar Khaidarova, ICNL's Legal Consultant and Chairperson of NGO "Society and Law," worked together with Dushanbe Vice-Mayor Tohir Mirzoev and Tajik Vice-Minister of Justice Rustam Mengliev to finalize the draft of the Agreement on Social-Economic Partnership between the Dushanbe municipal government and NGOs. This is only the second agreement of its kind. The first agreement resulted in the Public Council (the National created in 1997 that played a role in re-establishing peace in Tajikistan. This agreement will provide more opportunities for cooperation and partnership between the municipal government, local NGOs, and businesses.

Cross-border Linkages Created

ICNL assisted Ministry of Justice officials with finding resources to travel to Almaty and Bishkek in an effort to promote an exchange of information and experience in the implementation of laws on registration of the legal entities (such as NGOs) between the Ministries of Justice of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The two officials supported by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNHCR were Ms. Tagaeva Sumangul- chief of the Department on NGO Registration and Ms. Elena Ishankulova from the Department on the Drafting of Laws.

Workshop on Legal Aid Legislation Strategy and Programs

On April 9-12, 2003, ICNL participated at the workshop organized by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM on perspectives of cooperation in Central Asia. Ms. Khaidarova was a facilitator for a session on the theme of Legal Aid Legislation strategy and programs in Central Asia.

Legal Consultations to local and international NGOs

ICNL provided 28 consultations to 20 local and international NGOs. Issues ranged from registration, re-registration, labor issues, and taxation, to the discussion of the defense of three NGOs in proceedings initiated by the City Prosecutor for non-payment of taxes.

Publications

- Brochure on "The rules on how to apply to different government structures" (2 pages), published with UNHCR support.
- Copies of the new "Law on State Registration of Legal Entities" in Russian and Tajik languages. One-thousand (1000) copies will be made available to NGOs. The publication is a Ministry of Justice, USAID, ICNL, NGO "Society and Law" publication.

Turkmenistan

Draft Law on Public Associations

ICNL received an anonymous copy of the draft law on public associations. It is suspected that this draft came from the Ministry of Justice. ICNL prepared a commentary to this law and shared it with local stakeholders and USAID. Together with USAID staff, G.Khadyrova, ICNL's local consultant participated in several meetings on Draft Law on Public Associations, initiated by Turkmen Government.

Cooperation with Turkmen CSSCs

- ICNL partner Elena Vasilyeva provided Ashgabat CSSC with materials on legislation regulating Social partnership in Turkmenistan at the coming conference on Social Partnership.
- Consultation of trainers and participants of the training "Membership organizations' Development" on the questions of NGO Legislation in Turkmenistan.
- Consultation for trainers of Volunteer Conference on the questions of Labor Legislation.

Seminar on Interaction of Government Bodies with NGOs in Solving Problems of Refugees

On June 18, 2003 ICNL Legal Consultant participated in the seminar "Interaction of government bodies with NGOs in solving problems of refugees" held by NGO "Bosphor" and UNHCR with participation of government officials from NIDHR and the Tax Service.

ICNL Provides Technical Assistance to Counterpart Turkmenistan's Registration Attempt

On April 2, 2003 ICNL Legal Consultant, Ms. Vasilyeva, participated in the network meeting of Counterpart. Issues covered by ICNL in the network meeting ranged from registration, organization-legal forms of enterprises, tax legislation and registration of foreign technical assistance to licensing.

Nineteen Consultations Provided to International Organizations and Local NGOs

During the last quarter ICNL's local consultant provided 19 consultations to both international and local NGOs on issues of NGO law. Consultations have included the following organizations: CHAP, Counterpart Consortium; Civil Society Support Center of Akhal velayat; Civil Society Support Center of Lebap velayat; "Arzuv", "Keik Ocara"; "Aladja"; "Margiana" Youth center of Lebap velayat, "Altyn Asyr", "Health", "Hemayat" and others. Issues covered by ICNL in these consultations ranged from registration, registration requirements and procedures, taxation, social partnership, licensing to registration of foreign technical assistance.

Uzbekistan

TA Results in removal of Negative Provisions from the draft law on the Public Foundations

Through technical assistance provided by ICNL the drafters of this law have deleted provisions harmful to NGOs. The two-month registration period was changed to one-month, and the number of founders was decreased so that a single physical person may found a public foundation. ICNL's technical assistance has included full and comprehensive hearings held in a round table format on June 6, 2003 dedicated to the discussion of the legal basis of the activities of public foundations as one of the legal and organizational forms of NGOs by the Subcommittee on issues of civil society institutions, mass media, protection of citizens' rights and freedoms of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The structure of the round table divided especially into two parts: international experience of regulation of foundations, presented by Vsevolod Ovcharenko, ICNL expert, followed by an article by article discussion of the draft law on Public Foundations. The draft law is now moving through the Oliy Majlis and was adopted after the first reading during the 11th session of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Development of Law on State Registration of Legal Persons

ICNL met with the Deputy Head of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation with the President to discuss the latest developments regarding the law on state registration of legal persons. The Institute and the Ministry of Justice are the responsible bodies for drafting this law. ICNL was invited to assist with the drafting. It is likely that the drafting process will be started in July-August.

Development of the Draft Law on Charity

ICNL Legal Consultant is continuing the work on the development of the draft law on charity with the working group, additional support to the working is provided under a grant by OSI. While the drafters have progressed with many provisions of the draft law making them more NGO-friendly, the principle issue of the appropriateness of the charity commission certification process for charities chosen by the drafters remains to be valid. The working group decided to choose the charity commission as a certification mechanism to identify charities among other NGOs. While this mechanism proves to be effective in several countries ICNL's experts continue to express concern that the conditions in Uzbekistan might not allow for the effective work of such a commission as an independent non-corrupt body authorized to define who is eligible for tax benefits (charities). Yet, it is still not clear whether the new law will relate to new tax benefits for charities, which is the only reason to adopt such a law.

Consultation to USAID and US Embassy

In June ICNL received a request from US Embassy and USAID to review the charter and minutes of meetings of the human rights NGO "IHROU" to provide them with ICNL's opinion whether the appropriate procedures were followed when members of NGOs elected new leadership. In dealing with this issue, ICNL followed with its status of "honor broker" and gave the expertise to and answered on specific questions of USAID's representatives.

Legal Consultations Provided to 17 Local NGOs and International Organizations

Alexander Galaganov, ICNL's Legal Consultant in Uzbekistan, rendered 17 consultations to local NGOs and international organizations in resolving legal questions and issues. Legal questions and issues provided to these organizations varied from registration and taxation to labor contracts and possible ways of registration of formal/informal association of NGOs. In particular, the specifics of labor contracts and civil legal agreements were in demand by various international organizations. Consultations were provided to such organizations and institutions as, ACDI/VOCA, USAID, CAIP, CASP, CHAP, CHF, US embassy (through USAID), Counterpart Consortium, CSSCs in Namangan, Nukus, Kokand, Bukhara, OSI, and local, "Renaissance", "Hamroh", and "United Research Center".

Publications

Open Society Institute provided cost-share funding for printing 2000 copies of the Manual on NGO Taxation and Accounting and for production of 1000 CDs. However, due to the strong demand among NGOs and government officials for this manual, it is already obvious that these copies are not enough. During June, two-thousand (2000) additional copies of the Manual on NGO Taxation and Accounting will be published with financial assistance of AED.

D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION

Regional

- 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, NDI, Eurasia Foundation, Aga Khan Foundation, Asian Developing Bank, and other organizations.
- ICNL works in partnership with the Center for Corporate Citizenship of the US Chamber of Commerce based in Washington DC on its corporate philanthropy project. In addition, ICNL's Central Asia office utilized informational resources provided by the Council on Accreditation (COA) based in New York on issues of self-regulation and formal accreditation services for non-profit organizations.

Kazakhstan

- ICNL has provided technical assistance to OSCE in activities related to campaign supported by OSCE against draft NGOs law in Kazakhstan in its wording proposed by the Government.
- ICNL has provided technical assistance and monitoring to the Central Asian Institute for Development (CAID) on issues related to the development of social procurement legislation in Kazakhstan.
- ICNL has provided technical assistance to Platform Initiative Group, informal association of NGOs engaged in a campaign against the draft NGO law, in the form of comments to draft law on NGOs and by participating in the Round Table conducted by the Platform in the Parliament where ICNL representative presented analysis of major problems in financial relations between the State and NGOs in Kazakhstan.
- ICNL has provided technical assistance to NDI (National Democratic Institute) in the form of half-a-day training session for twenty (20) members and activists of the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan. ICNL supported their preparation for their advocacy activities in the Parliament by educating them about the draft NGO law and about alternative good practices. ICNL assisted the National Democratic Institute (the organizer) with aiding in preparatory role plays to further train these young advocates to interact with deputies of the Parliament.
- ICNL provided technical assistance to leading HR NGOs in their efforts to bring to attention of the President that the draft law on NGOs prepared by the Government has anti-NGO nature and shall not be adopted. ICNL assistance was provided in the form of comments on the draft NGO law as well as legal analysis of major problems to be resolved in the legislation of Kazakhstan to facilitate growth of the third sector. Mr. Ovcharenko, ICNL Legal Consultant, presented these problems at the Press Conference organized by OSCE and HR NGO leaders.

NGOs

Valentina Sivrukova, President of NGO umbrella organization -- Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (KNOK); Mancia Kainazarova, Chairperson of the Central Asian Institute For Development (CAID) 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; Kuralai Karakulova, ANNOK (Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan); Aybek Dumbayev, Director, the Association of the Invalids Organizations "Zhan"; Kayrat Imanalieyv, Chair, Center of handicapped people having higher education "Namys"; Amanbike Yergaliyeva, Chair, Center of support of hearing disabled people "Umit"; Andrey Andreyev, CEO, the NGO "Legal Initiative"; Gulmira Jamanova, Chair, CASDIN; Inessa Franz, Director, Institute for Development Cooperation; Irina Savostina, Chair "Pokoleniye" Pensioners NGO; Roman Podoprighora, Aleksey Zakharov and Alevtina Kuziarina - "Adilet" Higher School of Law; Gulsum Kakimzhanova, Chief Executive Officer – NGO "IRIS"; Galia Omarova, Executive Board Chair, ASTRA (The Agency of Social Technologies and Development); Dmitry Dey, President, Association of NGOs of Kostanay Region of Kazakhstan; Sergey Zlotnikov, CEO of Interlegal and Transparency Kazakhstan; Ninel Fokina, Chairperson of Almaty Helsinki Committee; Evgeniy Zhovtis, CEO of Kazakhstan Bureau for Human Rights; Saken Sabitov, President of Kazakhstan Association of Young Lawyers; Peter An, Executive Director of the Union of German Youth in Kazakhstan; Sergey Guliayev, Executive Director, Decenta Public Foundation (Pavlodar); Svetlana Savchenko, President, Consumers' Rights Protection League, Yuriy Zaytsev, Executive Director, Feminist League.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliament

Sergey Zhalybin, Deputy of Mazhilis, Chairman of Committee on Legislation and Justice-Legal Reform; Irak K. Elekeev, Head of the Mazhilis Office; Beybit Zhusupov, Deputy Head of Senate Office; Tulebek K. Kosmambetmov, Deputy of Mazhilis; Karasay Turysov, Chairman of Committee on Finances and Budget of the Mazhilis; Victor Nikolaevich Vesnin, the Deputy of Mazhilis, Deputy Chairman of Committee on Finances and Budget; Musiraly S. Utebayev, the Senator, Chairman of Committee on Economy, Finances and Budget of the Senate; Valerian Zemlianov, Deputy of the

Mazhilis; Mukhtar Tinikeyev, Deputy of the Mazhilis; Yerlan Zhumagulov, Acting Director of the Legislation Department of the Ministry of Justice; Oleg Ryabchenko, 1st Vice-Minister of Culture, Information, and Public Accord; Gaziz Telebayev, Head of Department of Internal Policy, Ministry Culture, Information, and Public Accord; Zhan Muratbekov (responsible for updating the State Donor List), Ministry of Economics and State Budget Planning; Nurila Usenova, 1st Deputy Head of Tax Committee of the Ministry of Finance; Viktoriya Dudnikova, Deputy Chief of Department of Methodology of the Tax Committee of the Ministry of Finance; Yernat Mazov, CEO of the Institute of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan; Ulan Tazhibayev, Chief Specialist of the Institute of Legislation at the Ministry of Justice; Zabira Urazalieva, Deputy Head of Legal Department of the Ministry of Finance; Ravkhat Menseitov, Head of Legal Department of the Ministry of Finance; Tagir Sisinbayev, Vice-Minister Finance; Igor Rogov, Head of Legal Department, Administration of the President; Talgat Donakov, Deputy Head of Legal Department, Administration of the President.

Kyrgyzstan

- ICNL local partner Yuri Khvan has become well-known among NGOs, donors, parliamentarians and government officials who consider him as a legal expert on the issues concerning the noncommercial sector. ICNL's effective performance and its activity for these years has not passed unnoticed with the result that many NGOs, international organizations, embassies regularly seek ICNL's assistance on different legal aspects and handling various issues.
- ICNL partner maintains constructive and cooperative relations with the following organizations: USAID; Counterpart Kyrgyzstan; Eurasia Foundation; USIS; ABA/CEELI; NDI; IFES; Bearing Point; Pragma; AED/Start; OSI; OSCE; UNHCR; ADB, UNDP; Freedom House; ARD/Cecchi; Urban Institute; Internews; DFID; TACIS; INTRAC.

NGOs

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; Edil Baisalov, Leader of the Coalition of NGOs for a Civil Society; Svetlana Bashtovenko, Leader of NGO "UMUT", Olga Djanaeva, Leader of NGO "Alga"; Akhmad Madiyev, Leader of NGO "Center for Public Policy"; Elvira Elibezova, Leader of NGO "Center of Public Opinion Study and Forecasts"; Oleg Kim, Director, Public Foundation "The Legal Clinic," Dinara Chochunbaeva, President of Central Asia Crafts Support Association, Roza Aitmatova, Leader of Women Support Center, Banur Abdieva NGO "Leader".

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Abdygany Erkebaev, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the KR Parliament, Kabai Karabekov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policies; Akylbek Japarov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Tax Committee; Oksana Malevannaya, Parliamentarian and Chairwoman of Human Rights Committee; Aleftina Pronenko, Parliamentarian and Chairwoman of the Committee on Competition and Protection of Entrepreneurial Rights; Alisher Sabirov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Religion; Omurbek Tekebaev, the Deputy of the Legislative Assembly, Ishenbai Kadyrbekov, the Deputy of the Legislative Assembly, Murat Ismailov, Deputy Minister of Finance; Adylbek Kasymaliev, First Deputy Director of the Revenues' Committee; Arstan Berdaliev, expert of Social Policy Department of the President's Office, Oktyabr Abdykaimov, Head of Department inspectorial-organizational work of the Revenue's Committee.

Tajikistan

ICNL's partner 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 Refugee Council, World Bank, Asian Developing Bank, Aga Khan Foundation and other organizations. OSCE, UNDP, and UNHCR offices in Tajikistan regularly involve ICNL in NGO development and law reform projects affecting NGOs. ICNL also cooperates extensively with the national government (ministries and parliament) and local governmental authorities. ICNL's local consultant is also regularly invited to and participates in international conferences involving issues related to the work of NGOs.

NGOs

Muatar Khaidarova, ICNL's partner and Chairperson of Society and Law; Elena Chastukhina-Dushanbe Civil Society Support Center; Zarina Khalikova – NRC NGO Support Center; 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"; Nuriddin Khalilov – Center on Human Rights; Mavjuda Rahmanova- Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens.

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; Djumaboi Sanginov –Deputy of the Parliament, 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 Tajikistan Government; Rasul Abdulloev, Chief Legal Expert of the Ministry of Justice; Tokhir Mirzoev – Vice-Mayor of the Dushanbe Local Government; Faridun Usmonov –Economical Advisor of the Mayor of the Dushanbe Local Government.

Turkmenistan

ICNL partner worked in close cooperation with USAID, Counterpart Turkmenistan and other USAID grantees. ICNL provided regular updates to other USAID grantees and international organizations on its activities and plans.

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", Andrei Aranbayev, "Catena", Farid Tukhbatulin, Dashoguz Ecological Club", Olga Shevchenko, "Family. Mercy. Health", Elena Abdalova, Information Legal Center of Lebap velayat.

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 Abdyev, Chief Specialist on Legal Issues, Lebap Velayat; Akja Nurberdyeva, Head of Mejlis Committee on Inter-Parliamentary and International Relations.

Uzbekistan

- ICNL Legal Consultant Alexander Galaganov maintains constructive and cooperative relations with various NGOs and international organizations operating in Uzbekistan. These include the Soros Foundation, USAID, ABA/CEELI, Eurasia, DFID, ACDI/VOCA, CHF and other organizations that have an active interest in ICNL's legislative projects.
- ICNL regularly cooperates with the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan and the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Oliy Majlis (Parliament) in the development of legislation affecting the NGO sector in Uzbekistan.
- In cooperation with the AED and Tax committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ICNL re-published 2000 copies of the manual on NGO taxation and accounting in Uzbek and Russian.
- ICNL together with Committee on democratic institutions, non-governmental organizations and self-governing bodies of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Legal Issues Research Center and financial support of the OSI launched its project aimed to development of charity law.
- ICNL together with Sub-commission on issues of civil society institutions, mass media, and protection of citizens' rights and freedoms of the Commission of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held round-table dedicated to the discussion of the legal basis of foundations. This round table was conducted in the form of public hearings.
- By the special request of the Committee on democratic institutions, non-governmental organizations and self-governing bodies of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan ICNL provided comprehensive review of the international practice of legal regulation of foundations and table commentary to draft law on Public Foundations. This commentary was distributed by ICNL for governing bodies, international organizations and NGOs.

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; Dina Mukhammadieva, NGO "Hamroh".

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; Shukhrat Chulliev, 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 Olyi Majlis (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

- In Kyrgyzstan, ICNL was able to attract \$938 from Open Society Institute (OSI) to share the cost of the Issyk-kul workshop held in June on "Drafting Instructions to the New Tax Code." Counterpart and ICNL provided a combined \$1920. In total the seminar cost \$2858.
- In Tajikistan, the brochure on "The rules on how to apply to different government structures" (2 pages), published with UNHCR support (\$200).