

Civil Society Support Initiative

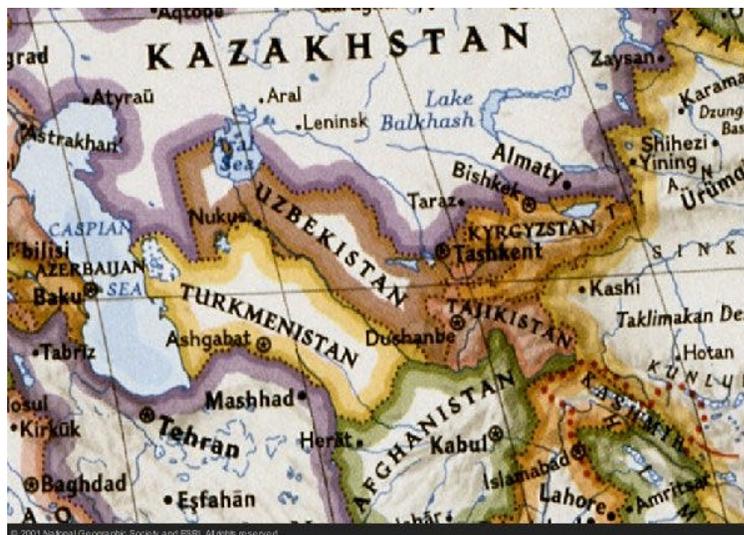
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan



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Period of Activity: July 1 – Sept 30, 2003

Grantee: Counterpart International

Collaborating Partners: ICNL
Urban Institute
Social Impact

Award Number: 115-A-00-03-00020-00

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COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

To strengthen the democratic culture of citizens and institutions in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

Kazakhstan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Public Organization Aq Bota Conducts Successful Fundraising for Invalid Children

In May 2003 the public organization *Aq Bota* launched the project *Building a Swimming Pool for Disabled Children* with funding from the Counterpart's *Healthy Communities* program. In the course of project implementation the organization encountered a problem with the installation of a cleaning system – an item not included in the original project budget. Utilizing skills gained through trainings, consulting and technical assistance from the CSSC *Zhalghas-Counterpart*, the focus NGO conducted a fundraising campaign to supplement project funds. As a result, they signed an agreement for \$6,000 with one of the biggest local businesses - *TengizChevroil*. These funds were used to purchase and install a cleaning system for the pool that is compliant with technical and sanitary codes.

Counterpart Approach Endorsed through Government Grants

In accordance with the decree *On Program of state support to NGOs in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2003-2005* issued on March 17, 2003, the Ministry of Culture, Information & Public Accord organized a contest for NGOs providing services in one or more of the following social areas: Infrastructure development in nonprofit organizations; institutional development in nonprofit sector; realization of cultural and educational programs; support to social-oriented campaigns; development of civil initiatives in rural areas; promotion of democratic reforms and civil society building; scientific practical research in issues of civil society development in Kazakhstan; support to initiatives on preservation of historical and cultural heritage; and support to other social significant initiatives. In addition to the above topics, rural issues were also given greater consideration. Many of the 120 proposals sought to implement interventions espoused by Counterpart, including community mobilization, social partnership, and public awareness, women rights and ecological issues. The review committee's decision was based on recommendations from independent NGO and international organization experts. In all 20 proposals were funded, including projects submitted by CSSC *ZUBR* in Oskemen, CSSC *Association of NGO of Qostanai Oblast*, *ECOCENTER* in Qaraghandy, and the Focus NGO *ZHARIA* in Astana.

Volunteerism

Volunteer Centers Help Prevent HIV/AIDS

Populated urban areas grapple with the increasing number of drug-addicted youth and the resultant increase in incidences of HIV/AIDS. In 2000 there were a reported 8,000-10,000 drug addicts in Astana. That figure is now over 15,000. Recent openings of public health centers and the introduction of syringe exchange programs have barely made an impact on these numbers. Working closely with these issues, the public organization *Saqtan* designed a project to establish mobile units affiliated with trusted volunteer centers. To do this, *Saqtan* used skills in *Project Design*, *PCA*, and *Volunteerism* developed through trainings and technical support from the CSSC *ASTRa*. As a result, *Saqtan* got a \$16,000 grant from Soros-Kazakhstan and mobile units are exchanging syringes to prevent further spread of HIV/AIDS and educating and consulting local youth about the dangers of drug-addiction.

Media/Outreach

CSSC ECOCENTER Improves Public Image Through Social Partnership

For the last ten years there have been no discussions about better interaction between NGOs and state bodies in Qaraghandy Oblast. The CSSC *ECOCENTER* conducted an extensive media campaign and organized the Oblast Conference *Cooperation of State Bodies and NGO Sector: Challenges & Perspectives*, held on August 14. Participants included high officials of local government and representatives of over 100 public organizations. Moreover, a number of proposals were introduced at the meeting and are to be discussed at forthcoming Civil Forum for which Ms. Khaisha Atakhanova, the Director of *ECOCENTER*, was nominated as a delegate.

Social Partnership

Support Center ZUBR Initiates Broader Partnership with State Bodies

While there is broad interaction between NGOs and state executive bodies in Oskemen, joint implementation and actual cooperation is limited to a few municipal akimat structures, such as the departments of internal policy & social sphere and ecology. As such, NGOs had limited access to the decision-making process. To address this, a working group of NGOs, jointly with the Oskemen municipal department of internal policy & social sphere, organized the “First Constituent Conference on Establishing a Board of Interaction with NGOs”. The meeting resulted in the adoption of regulations for a Board consisting of five local officials and ten representatives of various NGOs. The CSSC *ZUBR* spearheaded the formation of the working group and the subsequent Board and provided support to the Board during its founding, including proposal development support and access to information about local NGOs maintained in the database. The resultant body now provides an ongoing mechanism for NGOs to provide input and influence decision-making in the social field and.

The NGO Garden Conducts Fundraising Campaigns for The Needs of Disabled Schoolchildren

There are 625 invalid children in Astana, over 40 of which attend school. The NGO *Garden*, a social service organization providing aid to mentally retarded children, participated in Counterpart’s trainings on Fundraising and Social Partnership, and jointly with the public organizations *Society of Invalid Children* and *Union of Big Families*, conducted two campaigns with financial support from the international companies *Chevron-Texaco* and *Exxon-Mobil*. As a result, these groups organized a charitable show and the invalid schoolchildren were presented with a complete set of stationery for school.

Community Mobilization

Community Project Implementation Leads To Social Partnership and Fundraising

There are many social problems in the remote Oksemen suburb of Prombaza. Using skills developed through consultations with the CSSC *ZUBR* under the *Healthy Communities Program*, a working group of the public organization *Ellada* designed a project proposal as received \$5,000 from Counterpart. Project implementation enabled the NGO to engage in effective social partnerships, attracting funding from the business *KazZink*, the committee of self-management, the family physician ambulatories, and the city center for healthy lifestyles. Through increased funds, *Ellada* has involved more than 2,000 people in its projects and has attracted an additional \$3,000 in funding.

Pensioners Benefit from New Approaches

Pensioners NGOs in Astana have had difficulties adapting to new technologies in social activity, and subsequently lack sufficient experience in designing and implementing programs. Programs have been primarily supported through state institutions like the House of Pensioners. Working in cooperation with the CSSC *ASTRa* and participating as a member of the trainees’ working groups, the recently formed initiative group of the NGO *Pokolenie* has gained skills in project planning and design based on focused community needs appraisals. Using these skills, the NGO participated in the charitable program contest of *Exxon Mobil Corporation* and received a grant to launch a charity program has thus far enabled over 100 vulnerable elders to get free lunches.

Community Mobilization Resulted In Successful Fundraising For The Needs Of Disabled Children

The public organization *League AqBota* received grant through the Counterpart *Healthy Communities Program* to launch the project to build a swimming pool for disabled children. In the course of project implementation, the initiative group identified ways to improve the pool including equipping it with additional services and utilities. Using skills developed through consultations and trainings from the CSSC *ZHALGHAS*, the *League* designed an action plan to attract additional funds. As a result of their effective fundraising campaign, 14 businesses provided 1,361,660 KZT (\$9,263), allowing the initiative group to follow through on the improvements.

Advocacy

Association of NGOs of Qostanai Oblast Influences State Budget

In practice, the design of social programs in Kazakhstan has been up to executive bodies. Despite a concerted effort to build closer NGO/State cooperation in Qostanai Oblast, there has been little change. The CSSC *Association of NGOs of Qostanai Oblast* initiated an action group of NGO representatives to force a more solid NGO support program. As a result of NGO mobilization and partnership between the *Association* and the Department of Internal Policy, NGO support programs have a budget of 4,600,000 KZT (\$30,983) for the 2003-2005 budget period. These funds will support NGO grants and were approved during the *maslikhat's* July session.

Kyrgyzstan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Opening of the Informational Resource Center

At a June 14 meeting of the 46 active NGOs from the *Issyk-Kul Rayon*, participants identified the lack of access to resources and information as a leading hurdle to implementation of their activities. In order to use the Internet and office equipment, NGO workers travel over 60 miles – creating a cost burden every time they need to check e-mail or photocopy a grant application. The NGO *Jologon*, well-versed in NGO management skills thanks to the *Karakol* CSSC, lead the charge and designed a project proposal to establish an *Informational Resource Center*. The Democratic Commission of the US Embassy funded the project with \$5,725. On July 18 all parties attended the opening ceremony of the *Informational Resource Center for NGOs of the Issyk-Kul Rayon*. As a result, these 46 NGOs now have access to the Internet, a library, and basic office equipment.

Fundraising, Fundraising, Fundraising!

The *Jologon* Charitable-Social Fund identified the following three problems as top problems for residents of the 1,800-person *Jarkynbaevo* village in the Issyk-Kul Rayon: A dilapidated water system; a non-existent cultural-educational center; and limited access to information. Having attended a number of Counterpart trainings at the *Karakol* CSSC, *Jologon* developed proposals to resolve these problems. As a result, the NGO secured the following funds: \$3,800 from the World Bank to implement water supply repairs; \$700 from Soros-Foundation Kyrgyzstan to establish a Charitable-Social Fund; and \$1,200 from the *Democratic Commission of USA* to Open a Resource Center. As a result of these initiatives, 212 households have water and 490 people have visited the local library.

Social Partnership

Successful Partnership

The social infrastructure of the Chui Rayon town of *Tokmak* is deteriorating and the state budget resources are unable to manage the problem. Because of this crisis residents are living in poverty, and refugees from the nearby Tajikistan are faring even worse. The *Kant* CSSC has been steadily increasing the capacity of local NGOs to address these types of problems. For example, in 2002 the NGO *Yrus Kenchi* was established to provide general support to refugees and to help acquire Kyrgyz citizenship. At this moment more than 100 refugees have acquired Kyrgyz citizenship with the help of the NGO. Additionally, the organization cooperates with international donor agencies in order to attract resources to rehabilitate the social infrastructure and improve living standards. As a result of cooperation, the NGO was able to design and implement projects and resolve essential problems all with joint participation from the community, state structures, mass media and donor agencies.

Community Mobilization

Working Together to Improve Life

The Jaiyl Rayon village of *Ak-Bashat* identified access to clean drinking water as their priority problem. Working with the local NGO *Ak-Dakan*, the initiative group used skills gained through consultations and trainings received at the *Kara-Balta* CSSC to develop a project proposal. As a result of this increased capacity, the initiative group and NGO received \$4,900 from the *Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan* to lay 1,500 meters of water piping. Grant funds supported the purchase of cement pipes, which were joined to an artesian well in order to receive clean water. The villagers participated actively, with the majority of the work completed by hand. The community collected and contributed \$700. While the project is still being implemented, already 272 villagers (40 households) enjoy clean water and have indoor plumbing.

Joint Efforts for Healthy Education

As a result of PCAP exercises conducted in the Jayil Rayon village of *Kara-Tube* by the *Kara-Balta* CSSC, school roof repair was determined as the priority problem, as 164 of the 500 villagers attend the school and the leaky roof contributed to increased rates of sickness. The village initiative group, with direct support from the *Kara-Balta* CSSC developed the project *Education is a base of society development* for \$5,774. The project was co-financed by Mercy Corp. (\$2,914), Counterpart (\$1,320), and the community and their partners (\$1,540). As a result of these efforts, the roof was successfully repaired and the sickness rate for children has decreased.

Now Students Only Suffer Their Lessons, Not the Elements!

A leaky roof, leaky ceiling, broken windows, and absence of a heating system all threaten the health and welfare of the 286 students of the only school in the Naryn Rayon village of *Jerge-Tal*. These harsh conditions contributed to the rise in the number of students with acute respiratory disease, rheumatism and other diseases. In an effort to address this problem, an initiative group, working with the NGO *Hud* used skills gained through Counterpart consultations and trainings to develop a grant proposal to improve the conditions of the school. The project *Health of Children is Worth Everything* was funded by *Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan* with \$969.76, and an additional \$250 was provided by the community and village administration. As a result of the project the roof and windows were repaired, heating system was added.

New Dining Room ... Better Nutrition

One of the greatest problems in the Uzgen Rayon village of *Eski Pokrovka* was the lack of a dining room – contributing to an inability to address nutritional needs of the students. In an effort to address this problem, an initiative group, working with the NGO *BakBu* used skills gained through Counterpart consultations and trainings to develop the project *Construction of dining room in school of Teshebaev*. The project was funded by *Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan* with \$2,694 and community contributions exceeded \$1,500. As a result of successful implementation of the project, the school's dining room opened on June 26, 2003 and is providing daily nutrition to the 480 students of this 1,587-person village for free.

Provision of clean drinking water.

In the Jetti-Oguz Rayon village of *Boz-Beshik*, access to clean drinking water has been a problem for the past nine years. Villagers have had to travel 2-2.5 km to get water from the river or spring. The lack of clean drinking water caused an increase in the number of infectious disease in the village. Thus the NGO *Ak-Kuduk* sought to resolve this problem. Using newly acquired skills in project design and community mobilization, the NGO developed the project *SOS for Clean Drinking Water* that was funded by *Soros-Foundation Kyrgyzstan* with \$3,000. As a result, pipes were built and are providing clean drinking water to the 2,020 villagers. In addition *Ak-Kuduk* gained people's trust, evidenced by the recent election of one of the NGO members as the head of the village. Another positive unintended consequence is that people in neighboring villages are looking to replicate these successes by working together to resolve their own problems.

Community Initiative

The Aktaly Rayon village of *Ugut* was identified as a target community by the *Naryn* CSSC stakeholders' council in 2001 because of the gradual deterioration of the village infrastructure. After conducting PCA exercises, the community identified rehabilitation of schools and the village bathhouse as the priority problems. After attending Counterpart trainings the initiative group designed the following project proposals: 1) Reconstruction of the village bathhouse, financed by *Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan* in the amount of \$ 1,000; and 2) *School Rehabilitation Project*, financed by Mercy Corp. International, in the amount of \$1,800. These projects were successfully implemented with the active support and initiative of the 838 community residents, 240 of which are students. One of the impacts is that the community is aware of resource mobilization to resolve their problems, and they now initiate ideas to enhance their standard of living. For example, the community established a Community Fund with primary capital of \$210 compounded at 10% - today it has grown to \$950. Additionally, village youth created their own fund, accruing assets from the proceeds of three hectares, received from the village administration.

Advocacy

New Route Opening

The Jala-Abad CSSC conducted PCA exercises during which the greatest problem was the need for additional transportation routes. The residents collected signatures, formed coalitions, and appealed to the government in a variety of ways. The coalition with the volunteer center *Step to the Future* the Agency of city transportation, and the CSSC proved to be the most effective. As a result of the community's efforts route #15 was opened and a resolution on route openings was made by the Agency of city transportation. The successful realization of this advocacy campaign benefited the people of this town as well as created a bridge between *Sputnik* and *Kugart* districts.

Turkmenistan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

NGO Furthering the Development of Teachers

One of the major ways to improve the qualifications and quality of teachers is to train teachers to use interactive techniques in the classroom. The teachers' association *Alma Mater* assists educators to find information, increase their knowledge and adjust to new methods of teaching. *Alma Mater* has limited financial and informational resources and turned to the Ashgabat CSSC for help. The CSSC staff helped them identify a partner organization abroad and arranged visa documentation. Using newly developed skills in project design and fundraising, *Alma Mater* raised funds to bring a professor from the Institute of Professional Development for Educators in Moscow to Ashgabat for a training. The professor provided consultation services to teachers and conducted two seminars on *Critical Thinking* for 60 teachers from the Ashgabat and Lebap regions. Further, six Counterpart trainers participated in this seminar in order to continue to conduct trainings applying new interactive techniques.

NGO Prevents Spread of a New Virus

In response to the threat of SARS that originated in China, the *Health Center* under the Women's Union of Lebap developed a textbook on prophylaxis of atypical pneumonia for family physicians. Using the Lebap CSSC's Internet access, the *Health Center* gathered the most useful and complete information on atypical pneumonia and established contact with some doctors from Russia. Volunteers of the Lebap CSSC facilitated these contacts and research and provided translation services. The resultant textbook was translated into Turkmen, approved by the Ministry of Health and published in a timely manner. Representatives from the *Health Center* distributed the textbook to family physicians and Hospitals in Turkmenabad city and four etraps of Lebap velayat. As a result patients were prescribed prophylaxis and imports were monitored for potential contamination.

Increasing The Quality of Service

The Ashgabat CSSC has found creative and practical ways to facilitate professional development of its core team of 19 trainers. As funding for training and the availability of quality programs is spotty, at best, the CSSC has tapped into its relationship with EdNet to provide opportunities for trainers to increase their skills and, therefore, enhance the training services provided through the Center. For example, recently five contract trainers completed a series of trainings on the methodology of critical thinking that was conducted by trainers from Uzbekistan. To share new approaches master trainers carried out a workshop for another ten trainers and ten NGO representatives. As a result, trainers and participants expanded their skill set of interactive methods and obtained new skills in working with clients.

Partnership Brings Self-Reliance

There are few NGOs operating in the Mary velayat and those that do operate struggle with limited access to information and resources. For one Mary NGO, *In a Single Row*, these challenges inhibit their ability to deliver services to their constituents - the hearing and visually impaired. Using skills gained through consultations and trainings at the Ashgabat CSSC, *In a Single Row* established partnerships with other NGOs. One such partnership with *Junior Achievement* and the *Economists Union* resulted in the development of program to provide small enterprise development opportunities to the hearing and visually impaired. *Junior Achievement* conducted a series of small enterprise development trainings for *In a Single Row* constituents. As a result, 20 disabled-women now support themselves and their families by producing and selling carpets, souvenirs, and clothes. The director of the main bazaar signed an agreement to provide these women with a permanent kiosk in the bazaar.

Social Partnership

Small Steps Lead to Big Change

In order to foster real change in environmental practices, all sectors of society must work in cooperation. This level of cooperation rarely occurs as information distribution networks are weak. The NGO Boldumsaz's Ecological Club *GEO* took steps to overcome these weaknesses. They launched a three month campaign to raise community awareness and train residents to identify the cause-effect relationship of different factors of ecology, sanitation and health. The most active community members initiated activities to maintain clean streets and prevent burning of trash and foliages. Throughout this campaign, *GEO* remained in close contact with local authorities and advised the local utility department on ways to improve sanitation. This campaign attracted attention from local authorities – the Deputy Khakim organized a meeting with the heads of key departments (Sanitary and Epidemiology, Municipal, and Water Canal) as well as local hospital and *GEO* representatives. Together they agreed to expand the scope of *GEO*'s original campaign to include all central streets and to conduct training and community awareness meetings. The joint action plan is being implemented by *GEO*, community activists and local representatives of the Sanitation and Epidemiology Department.

Roundtable Sparks Change

The health and education of youth in the Turkmenbashi etrap suffered as a result of limited coordination and access to information among government organizations and public initiative groups. Using the skills gained in Counterpart trainings the *Center of Social Partnership* held a roundtable with representatives of 10 key local government and public initiative groups working on youth health and education. They discussed the need for effective coordination and designed a plan of cooperation. Ten months later, local authorities and initiative groups have designed and implemented three collaborative projects that have provided 1,135 young people with health consultations, education on healthy lifestyles, and small enterprise development. In addition, a newly established Coordination Board of government and NGO representatives meets bi-monthly to review issues of youth development.

Community Mobilization

Distance is not an Obstacle to Solve Common Problems

The *Dashoguz* CSSC facilitated a community needs assessment in three villages where community members identified the need for access to potable water in remote areas of the Dashoguz velayat.. A United Rural Committee was established from representatives of the three villages to develop an action plan and oversee the building and rehabilitation of a deserted water supply system. This one-year project involved 800 adults from the villages and was implemented in partnership with the local Khakimlik. The Khakimlik provided construction materials, technical expertise, labor, and consultation of engineers and other specialists for the project as an in-kind contribution. As a result, the old water-supply system, including the pump station, was rebuilt and potable water is now available to all 2,479 members of these remote villages.

Refugees Take Care of their New Community

The NGO *Keik Okara* utilizing the knowledge and skills of work with communities, obtained in Counterpart training and assessment, is working with the rural refugee community in the Akhal velayat. *Keik Okara* assessed the needs of 800 refugees in this community of 1,350 people. An initiative group of representatives of the local authority and community leaders was established and developed the project *Water is Life*. The initiative group, with support from *Keik Okara* received \$5,400 from the German Embassy in Turkmenistan and a bulldozer-excavator to implement their project. The community contributed \$10,000 in labor and materials while the NGO contributed \$3,300. As a result of these combined efforts in fundraising and project management, the initiative group was able to provide the whole community with access to potable water.

Advocacy

Entrepreneurs Have Rights

The development of small and medium business in Turkmenistan is restrained by regulations, bureaucracy, and heavily levied taxes and dues. While few organizations to protect and promote the interests and rights of entrepreneurs, the *Entrepreneurs' Union of Turkmenistan* is making great strides. To build their capacity, the *Entrepreneurs' Union* has been an active participant at Counterpart trainings, meetings and consultations. Over the last six months, the *Entrepreneurs' Union* conducted a range of meetings and roundtables on matters of taxation and registration with the appropriate government representatives and public organizations. As a result, representatives of the Registration Chamber have started reviewing applications from entrepreneurs in a timely manner and registering new enterprises in a shorter time frame.

C. CSSC NETWORK/ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional Overview

A. Capacity Development

A.1. *CSSC Performance Assessment*

To address the USAID requirements outlined in the RFA, Counterpart has developed and conducted an initial assessment of current and potential CSSC partners for CSSI program in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. An M&E specialist and Capacity Development expert were involved in the process of CSSC performance assessment throughout the first reporting quarter. The assessment included the following six objectives:

1. To provide demand-driven quality services to a diversified client base including NGOs, CBOs, other community structures, government and business;
2. To be organizationally strong through a democratic governance structure, strong leadership, performance-based management, and a customer-focused approach to service delivery;
3. To be financially sustainable through a diversified funding base including government and donor contracts and grants, fee-for-service activities, social enterprise initiatives and philanthropic donations;
4. To manage a diversified portfolio of grants for USAID and other donors;
5. To facilitate linkages and partnerships among Civil Society Organizations and communities and become a focal point for dialogue on the most urgent needs for civil society development and a catalyst for action planning
6. To be an active, dues-paying member of the CSSC Network Association and part of its democratic governance structure

The objectives, indicators, and criteria for selection were finalized for Counterpart's CSSI program. It is assumed that these criteria and indicators will guide the assessment of performance of CSSC at the different stages of CSSI, including selection, periodic assessment and subsequent capacity development plans. The regional MIS will be re-designed to assist in further assessments. It is necessary to mention that the proposed process is one of the steps in the regional strategy for Performance based Organizational Capacity Development (POD).

Throughout the Assessment process, we have articulated that all organizations must have the capacity to work in CSSI program – meaning they can provide the full package of services such as trainings and workshops, consultations, facilitation, M&E, technical assistance, provision of information, hiring and training of volunteers, and advocacy.

All three Hub centers successfully conducted and completed performance assessments of 23 organizations (8 in Kazakhstan, 11 in Kyrgyzstan, and 4 in Turkmenistan) during the last three months.

Based on the Assessment results, the Hub Centers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan have determined they will continue working with their current network members. Kazakhstan selected one new partner in the west of country, NGO TAN.

B. Monitoring and Evaluation

B.1. CSSC Assessment

From July to September 2003, the selection assessment for CSSCs took place in three countries. The purpose of the assessment was, based on the information gathered, to select CSSC partners for the CSSI Program. A pilot selection assessment was conducted on July 22nd in the Kara-Balta CSSC in Kyrgyzstan to test the assessment tools and instruments. The involvement of regional and Kazakhstan staff in the field assessment helped further refine the process and make adjustments to evaluation formats for the CSSC assessment. The general assessment process involved a team of two evaluators from the respective Hub Centers conducting site visits to each potential partner CSSC. This team visited each potential partner and conducted meetings and interviews with staff, leaders, clients and other stakeholders. The team gathered feedback from stakeholders, and reviewed supporting documents such as training participant evaluation sheets, PCA reports, M&E reports, Visitors Registration LogBooks, board charters, operational manuals, internal control policies, job descriptions, other materials. The focus during these meetings was on performance and experience of the organization in the fields related to the six Program Objectives. The assessment findings have been summarized by country teams in the Evaluation Reports and the full questionnaires were submitted to the Regional Office. The results will also be shared with the CSSCs during the first network meeting.

The format proposed for selection assessment was discussed during a two-country senior staff meeting on September 25-26. It was agreed that program staff will review this format against weaknesses and difficulties revealed for measuring and verifying data, with the aim of modifying and using it for future CSSC assessments over the life of the program. The assessments provided the baseline information for Counterpart to track capacity over time.

B.2. Performance Plans

The process for developing the Performance Plans began in July with country staff drafting the Plans with assistance from regional staff. The drafts of Plans were discussed at the regional Country Directors meeting on August 7-8, 2003. The revised Performance Plans were distributed to the program partners. Urban Institute and Social Impact made solid contributions for finalizing project implementation measures and milestones – three new performance indicators have been included in Kyrgyzstan Performance Plan reflecting input from Urban Institute based on their work there. The partners also proposed establishing specific measurement and verification tools for performance indicators. Country offices developed a table describing what measurement tools they will use to verify performance indicators.

B.3. MIS and Database

The Regional Database and MIS system had to be adjusted to reflect the program emphasis on quality and demand-driven services, performance-based organizational development, and advocacy. The existing Database report formats have been revised with the aim to adapt them to the new program. The CSSC Report on service provision underwent some important renovations and changes to make it more user-friendly, and allow the tracking of services provided in addition to CSSI program, funded by other donors and demonstrating the overall organizational capacity of CSSCs. The CSSC training report format was also changed in order to track funds leveraged by the CSSCs for training. Next quarter the CAG MIS will be revised to incorporate the advocacy component.

C. Cooperation

- Meetings with Peace Corps in Kazakhstan to plan for the upcoming training and placement of volunteers in the country.
- Cooperation with IREX on the 5-country Institutional Grant Program. The process is underway on the makeup of the Grant Review Committee, sectors for the first solicitation, guidelines for the process, and other additional needs to begin funding in early 2004.
- Cooperation with other Counterpart programs is ongoing to ensure that monitoring and evaluation activities capture correct data for the database/MIS system.
- Plans are underway in anticipation of the arrival of Social Impact's in December to conduct Network development workshops in the three project countries
- Plans are ongoing to have an OD specialist come to the region in the end of November for a regional training in performance based management.
- Ongoing coordination with the World Bank in DC to assess several aspects of conflict in the CAR including history, ongoing activities, resources, and potential.

D. Grant Activities Oversight

In this start-up period of the CSSI project, Counterpart awarded 22 short-term grants to the Civil Society Support Centers in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan for a total of \$55,900. These grants provided short term funding to the Support Centers during the assessment period.

In cooperation with IREX, Counterpart managed 13 two-month bridge grants to Civil Society Support Centers in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for a total of \$22,000. This funding was to provide a bridge to Support Centers until IREX was able to provide the funding directly.

Based on the requirements of the CSSI project, Counterpart's Regional Office, in cooperation with the Country Offices, revised the Community Action Grant package to reflect the enhancement of advocacy in this program. Counterpart also updated the long-term grant documentation packages for the Support Center grants.

D.1. CI SNGO Grant review process with IREX

Work was begun to develop the processes and documentation needed for the other grant programs in the CSSI program. Included in this effort was the development of proposed topics and timelines for the Sector Specific Institutional Grants, which were presented to IREX and USAID.

Kazakhstan

A. Capacity Development

As described in the regional report above, Counterpart Kazakhstan conducted organizational development (OD) assessments of the seven existing CSSC partners and a potential Atyrau partner – the NGO *TAN*. The dates of these assessments were (in chronological order):

- Qaraghandy *ECOCENTER* (July 29 – 30);
- Astana *ASTRa* (July 31 – August 2);
- Qostanai *NGO Association of Qostanai Oblast*
- Atyrau *TAN*, a prospective CSSC in Caspian region (September 15 – 17);
- Oskemen *ZUBR* (September 16 – 17);
- Aqtobe *SMEDA* (September 17 – 19);
- Semey *IRIS* (September 18 – 20);
- Almaty *ZHALGHAS* (September 23 – 24).

The OD assessment process described in the regional report above showed sustainable organizational development in all the Support Centers and ranks them per the objectives accordingly:

GENERAL RANKING OF CSSC CAPACITY IN KAZAKHSTAN

Indicators	Almaty	Aqtobe	Astana	Atyrau	Oskemen	Qaraghandy	Qostanai	Semey
Objective 1 (services)	5	3	5	6	4	5	1	2
Objective 2 (organizational structure)	5	5	3	5	3	2	4	1
Objective 3 (financial sustainability)	1	1	4	2	3	4	3	3
Objective 4 (grant administration)	5	2	2	6	3	1	4	4
Objective 5 (social partnership)	6	2	5	5	1	4	3	1
Objective 6 (networks)	4	2	1	5	3	1	1	3
Overall Capacity Ranking	4	1	6	7	2	5	3	2

From August 18-22, the Community Development & Advocacy Coordinator conducted research on the informational and analytical data of advocacy promotion, which included analysis of identified advocacy resources and data from corresponding websites. In addition, a draft manual for advocacy training was designed and presented to participants of Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan regional workshop held on September 25.

B. Network Management –PMU

The NGOs included in the assessment process will be founders of CSSC Network of Kazakhstan.

C. Cooperation

August 11-12 and 15, the Community Development/Advocacy Coordinator participated in three meetings on the evaluation of the advocacy component conducted by the independent consultant Lorel Donaghey. Ms. Donaghey reviewed existing materials on advocacy promotion in Kazakhstan, including advocacy impacts, success stories, training modules and information on local communities having advocacy technologies.

Analysis of the *Resource Book on Advocacy* revealed a gap on the legal aspects of advocacy activities. As such, the Community Development & Advocacy Coordinator consulted with the NGO *Legal Initiative* to adjust the *Resource Book* to include a number of official legislative documents. The Community Development & Advocacy Coordinator is also coordinating with his colleague in Counterpart Kyrgyzstan to share information about the revision of the *Resource Book on Advocacy*.

D. Grant Management

D.1. Grant Review Committee

In accordance with the new Program of Civil Society Support Initiatives, Counterpart has decided to deliver short-term (three months) institutional grants to seven CSSCs that cover the following activities, conducted by Counterpart staff:

- Assessment of Civil Society Support Centers to match the criteria for participation in CSSI program;
- Design and realization of the work plan of Civil Society Support Centers.

The Country Grant committee was held on September 30, 2003. The required grant documents were compiled and distributed to the Support Centers. Committee members include the Country Director, the Senior Program Officer, the Capacity Development Coordinator, the Community Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator, and the M&E Coordinator. The observers were the Regional OD Coordinator and the Grant Manager. According to the results of CSSC assessments, seven existing Civil Society Support Centers were selected to participate in the new CSSI program. In addition, the Atyrau NGO TAN was selected as Counterpart's partner Support Center there. Effective October 1, all grants are to be signed for the following three months.

D.2. CSSI grant statistics

CI Institutional Grants

During past quarter Counterpart Kazakhstan granted seven Civil Society Support Centers with the aim to conduct initial assessments and to select CSSCs for participation in the new Civil Society Support Initiative Program. All grants cover salary, office rent, communication, office supplies, and some consulting activity:

Grantee	Amount
1. Social Corporative Fund "ZUBR", Ust-Kamenogorsk	\$ 1,860.00
2. Entrepreneurship Development Agency "SMEDA", Aktobe	\$ 1,860.00
3. NGO Association of Qostanai oblast, Qostanai	\$ 1,860.00
4. Karaganda Regional Ecological Center "Eco-Center", Karaganda	\$ 1,860.00
5. Nuclear Tests Victims' Union "IRIS", Semipalatinsk	\$ 1,860.00
6. Astana Civil Society Support Center, Astana	\$ 7,375.00
7. Association of Non-Commercial Organizations "Zhalgas-Counterpart", Almaty	\$ 5,683.00

Kyrgyzstan

A. Capacity Development

As described in the regional report above, the regional office developed assessment tools to conduct performance-based OD assessments of CSSCs and presented them to the Hubs. Consultants from the regional office participated in conducting actual assessment of the CSSC in Kara-Balta together with the Hub's coordinators and then discussed best practices and lessons learned to be incorporated into the final tool. During the reporting period, the performance-based OD assessments (POD) of all 11 CSSCs were fully completed, the scoresheet compiled and sent to the regional office.

Local contract trainers conducted 65 training workshops on 20 modules for 1,383 representatives of 768 NGOs/CBOs (Attachment #1). The main accomplishments of the hub office within the context of providing support to CSSCs in administering training programs include:

- CSSCs continue delivering training workshops on a cost-sharing and contractual basis, during the reporting period, CSSCs of Naryn, Osh and Talas conducted 4 workshops and earned \$353.
- Managers of 4 CSSCs (Karakol, Jalalabat, Kara-Balta and Nookat) took part in 2 training seminars of the Village Investment Project funded by WB, where they participated in developing strategy on building capacity of local communities.
- To develop their capacity, the CSSCs' staff actively participated in training workshops being conducted by other international agencies, such as UNIFEM, Pragma, INTRAC, IATP, Urban Institute, etc.

The Hub has been focusing on assisting CSSCs to conduct close-out and follow-up evaluation visits, and in all the CSSCs conducted close-out and follow-up evaluations for 142 CAG projects. All evaluation reports were incorporated to the regional MIS Database, but there are still close-out and follow-up evaluations to be conducted for 9 projects. The leaders of 10 target communities in Kant, Batken, Osh, Jalalabat and Kerben CSSCs participated in the training seminar in *Community Foundation Development* held in Bulgaria on September 8-12, 2003.

September 25-26, a joint Kyrgyzstan/Kazakhstan CSSI meeting was conducted in Almaty to discuss the Institutional Grant Program and revise the Advocacy training manual. The country teams shared their vision and established working groups to finalize the training manual. The next meeting was scheduled for October in Bishkek. The POD scoresheet was presented to joint meeting participants, who came to the conclusion that all 11 CSSCs are in line with Counterpart requirements to fulfil the CSSC Program in Kyrgyzstan. All CSSCs got appropriate scores, but some reservations have been made for the CSSCs of Karabalta, Bishkek and Naryn.

Meanwhile, the training manual in Advocacy was updated incorporating tools and procedures to conduct local advocacy campaigns, for example, local decision-making mechanisms, revoking procedures, etc. The Community Advocacy Development Coordinator drafted a resource book in Advocacy and compiled lists of mass media outlets and NGOs, committed to human rights protection. The key staff of the Hub conducted meetings with *Freedom House* and *NDI* to discuss cooperation in implementing the Advocacy component.

B. Network Management –PMU

The job descriptions and qualification requirements for each PMU staff were developed, including the Program Manager, Capacity Development Coordinator, Community Advocacy Development Coordinator, Grant Manager and M&E Coordinator. The Hub conducted an internal competition to fill those positions for the period till January 2004. The Hub made the following hiring decisions: E. Ubysheva as Program Manager, R. Ashimbaev as Community Advocacy Development Coordinator, N. Satarov as Capacity Development Coordinator, A. Aitbaeva as Grant Manager, and C. Akmatova as M&E Coordinator.

The CSSC Association meeting is scheduled for October 1-3 in Issyk-Kul to discuss the following issues:

- Service quality standards by the members of the CSSC Association
- Re-election of executive staff of the CSSC Association
- The roles of CSSCs, Association and Counterpart Int. in implementing Civil Society Support Initiative Program
- PR strategy of the CSSC Association

C. Cooperation

The CSSCs continue to support networking among communities both within and between regions of Kyrgyzstan, for example:

- The Jalalabad CSSC involved the leader of Tashtak community to conduct a Community Network Development workshop for six target communities in the Jala-Abad oblast. Information on Networking as a mechanism for sustainable community development was provided to participants.
- The Karakol CSSC conducted four roundtables on CBO/NGO Network Development. The participants discussed the advantages and disadvantages of networking. The action plan on Issyk-Kul oblast CBOs/NGOs Network Development was worked out at the roundtable.
- The target communities of Nookat continue to hold the regular community network meetings. During the meetings the network members share their expertise and information on the community development issues.

- Two meetings of the Coordination Council of the Talas Oblast Community Network were held on August 2003. Community leaders discussed and resolved the following issues: membership fees (50 soms per community/month); network charter; internal policies; new membership application form; and executive committee, revision committee and supervisory board member selection.
- The members of four target communities of the Kant CSSC visited Talas and Osh CSSCs and their target communities to exchange experiences on community development and mobilization.
- Target communities of Kerben CSSC discussed the issues of establishing a formal community network of Aksy Rayon at the community meeting conducted by the Kerben CSSC on July 11, 2003. Participants paid an initiation fee of 500 soms, with a 30 soms monthly membership fee.

The Hub Office assisted AED in conducting a training seminar in *Development of a Philanthropy Culture* on September 15-19 in Bishkek that was attended by 23 NGO representatives. K. Miller, the Director of the US-based NGO International Training and Consulting, Inc., conducted this seminar. Several sessions were delivered by Yuri Khvan, ICNL Representative in Kyrgyzstan. The seminar was aimed at educating participants in principles and concept of a philanthropy, and discussing the philanthropy situation in Central Asia.

Within the framework of this seminar, a roundtable on Philanthropy was conducted in September 19 for the trainees and 13 representatives of state agencies, international organizations, and 4 major business companies. Participants discussed factors promoting and impeding philanthropy development in Kyrgyzstan, and recommended developing a system to stimulate entrepreneurs with non-cash methods and to conduct regular meetings of CSOs, business and governments.

The training module in Community Networking was developed and the training request was sent to AED within its *ICI Program* to conduct *TOT in Networking* among the community leaders and CSSCs with the ultimate goal to design a strategy on development of community networks.

D. Grant Management

Two meetings of the Grant Committee were held on July 10 and 15 and resulted in the awarding of the following eleven Institutional Grants totaling \$16,838.40:

1. **Bishkek CSSC.** \$2,000 to provide the CSSC clients with different information concerning upcoming trainings, conferences, donors programs, consultations, services, conduct 2 training workshops for NGOs in Fundraising and Strategic Planning, and conduct a roundtable for NGOs in how to work with mass media with invitations to journalists.
2. **Osh CSSC.** \$1,529.40 to provide 2 training workshops for NGOs/CBOs in *Constituency Development* and *Advocacy*, conduct final monitoring and evaluation of the CAG projects, introduce NGO representatives to the bill on amendments to the Election Code, and conduct a roundtable on changes and amendments proposed to the Election Code with invitation of deputies, conducted an action called *Day of Open Doors* in the community of Kuu-Maidan with invitation of representatives of the other communities, heads of village administrations, preparing display boards about activity of the community.
3. **Naryn CSSC.** \$1,595.50 to conduct a roundtable to discuss earmarking some funding from the Oblast budget to support local initiatives, to implement actions to improve cooperation between medical, women, and children NGOs, to conduct final and follow-up evaluations of the CAG projects, to conduct training workshops in *Development of Networks and Associations*, *Advocacy*, *Strategic Planning*, *Social Partnership*.
4. **Kant CSSC.** \$808.83 to organize visits and presentations of target communities to the communities of Talas and Osh Oblasts to strengthen networking relations between CBOs and self-governments, to provide consultations on organizational development, registration of Associations, to provide informational support with newspapers, bulletins, to conduct a roundtable *Results of Follow-up Evaluations of CAGs* with involvement of community representatives, and a roundtable devoted to the results of exchange visits.

5. **Karakol CSSC.** \$1,005.00 to provide mobile consultations on project design and financial accountability, to disseminate information about requirements of donor organizations, to conduct training workshop in *NGO Financial Management, NGO/CBO Networking, Social Partnership, Financial sustainability, NGO and Community*, to conduct monitoring of CAG projects, to ensure networking among communities and NGOs of Issyk-Kul Oblast.
6. **Kara Balta CSSC.** \$1,397.00 to conduct 3 roundtables on social mobilization and social partnership in three regions, organize training seminars for the staff members, volunteers and contract trainers, to conduct final and follow-up evaluations of CAG projects, to provide clients with consultative and information support, to deliver training workshops *NGO and Community, Project Design*.
7. **Jalalabad CSSC.** \$1,617.00 to conduct seminar in *Community Foundation's (CF) Development* in 3 target communities, to conduct training workshops in *Advocacy* for representatives of the third sector with participation of 25 members of state and non-governmental organizations.
8. **Nookat CSSC.** \$1,755.00 to provide consultations and training workshops in *Social Partnership, Fundraising, Project Design, NGO and Community*, to provided other technical services: computer training, informational services through the bulletin "Zerkalo Nookata" and "Lastochka", to conduct monitoring of CAG projects, organize meetings in the communities to exchange of experience of Nookat CBOs, to develop a questionnaire to collect information on needs of NGOs in services of the CSSC.
9. **Kerben CSSC.** \$1,666.50 to conduct training workshops *NGO Management, Financial Management, Human Resources Management, Financial Sustainability*, to provide consultation on project design, keeping financial records, fundraising, sustainable development, to pay monitoring visits to the villages to monitor CAG projects, to conduct a roundtables on *Method Ashar* for representatives of state structures, CBOs, NGOs, on *State Structures and NGO Sector*, to conduct impact monitoring in the villages Akjol, Tostu and others.
10. **Talas CSSC.** \$1,944.00 to conducted training workshops for Coordination Council of the CBO network in *Strategic Planning, Advocacy, Project Design*, to conduct final monitoring and evaluation of CAG projects, to provide information and consultative services for NGOs and CBOs of Talas Oblast.
11. **Batken CSSC.** \$1,520.17 to conduct meeting of the Consultative Council, to deliver training workshops in *Project Design, Social Partnership, Financial Sustainability, Team Building*, to hold roundtables with participation of NGOs/CBOs, to monitor CAG projects, to provide consultations on various topics: citizenship, project design, to provide informational support on grant programs, conferences, contest.

Turkmenistan

A. Capacity Development

The assessment team created a new strategy designed to address the unique environment of the CSSCs and then revised and adapted regionally developed assessment tools to reflect the new strategy and the CSSI program goals. The assessment team consisted of two program staff who conducted assessments of the Lebap, Dashoguz and Ashagabat CSSCs and partner organization *Diller Dunyasy* in Turkmenbashi city.

During the assessment, meetings were held with local NGOs, initiative groups, government representatives, volunteers, and staff of the CSSCs. The observations, past work documentation (reports, financial reports, management system, procedures etc...) and database, questionnaire forms were also used during the assessment.

The assessments of the three CSSCs and the Resource Center in Turkmenbashi were compiled with findings and recommendations into a final report that was submitted to the regional office. The resultant Action Plans for Capacity Building for the CSSCs will be implemented simultaneously while the CSSC works on project proposals and begin work on projects. The CSSCs will carry out projects while they build capacity within their staff.

The Hub organized, at the request of the CSSCs, a training session on impact writing. During the session CSSC staff practiced impact identification and writing. The Country Director and Advisor conducted a mini-training on the consultation process and effective time management for Hub staff and some Ashgabat and Lebap CSSC staff.

At a conference on August 12-13, Hub and CSSC staff discussed the CSSCs program issues and experience in financial, human resource, and information systems management. A practicum on utilizing the logical framework tool for project development was conducted. The issues and vision of the consultation process to be provided by the Hub were also discussed.

B. Network Management –PMU

The challenge in Turkmenistan is the lack of opportunity to formalize the local network in Turkmenistan given registration constraints. Perhaps there will be changes in this legislation over the life of the project, but for now the Countrywide infrastructure is assumed as the network. The Grant Committees, Discussion Club forums, and facilitator meetings will be the part of the governance for this informal network. The Country Hub is assumed as a PMU. If the external environmental changes favorably, this strategy will be adapted to reflect those changes.

The Hub carried out developmental work to come to a common vision of the new program, its strategy and approaches. Several key management documents were developed this quarter, including: the announcement for CSSCs about the new CSSI program, a Tentative Draft Management Transition document, a division of functions between the Hub and CSSCs, the performance plan and indicators, and the annual workplan.

The CSSI new program goals and objectives were discussed at the August 12-13 workshop. The components of the CSSI program, such as network development, performance organization, advocacy, grant program, and monitoring and evaluation of projects, were reviewed and adapted for the Turkmenistan context.

From July to September CSSCs were busy with proposal development and this process included some assessments as well the development of appropriate strategies. Hub specialists gave consultations to CSSCs on projects and budgets. Separate meetings were organized with four CSSCs staff and program specialists to discuss CSSC proposals, workplans and budgets. The proposed comments and recommendations touched on training, PCAs, grants, and different forms of interaction between communities and civil society actors.

The strategy for opening a Center in Mary NGO involved a mapping to identify potential partners and study external factors affecting their ability to operate in the Mary velayat. This two-step mapping process involved 1) information/data collection, analysis, and reporting and 2) further site visits and recommendations. The involvement of external specialists will also be taken into consideration. A series of meetings was held with International Agencies and Organizations and a preliminary report was developed.

The work on adapting the Advocacy strategy was started by the Country Advisor and presented during a meeting with the Regional USAID representatives Susan Fritz and Saskia Funston and USAID Turkmenistan's Gulnara Hydyrova.

C. Cooperation

- The Community Outreach/Advocacy specialist, in cooperation with the British Embassy, planned a Media training in Ashgabat where 15 NGOs participated.
- The NGO Sustainability Index survey organized by USAID was prepared and included tasks such as invitations, consultations and arrivals of NGO members.
- Counterpart took part in the UNDP Donor Coordination meeting in the Field of ICTs for Development in Turkmenistan. During the meeting the mapping of on-going and planned projects, discussion of possible areas of cooperation and improved sharing of information was worked on by participants.
- Counterpart's Hub and the Ashgabat CSSC participated in the showcase exhibition of the United Kingdom's work in Turkmenistan. Six booths about CSSCs, the Hub, and NGO activities were organized and 300 handouts on Counterpart's programs were distributed.

D. Grant Management

D.1. Grant Review Committee

This period the Grant Review Committee did not meet. Rather time was spent adapting the CAG application and program management documents and submitting them to the regional office for review. Special attention was paid to the advocacy component and its adaptation to current local conditions. Separate grant documentation was developed to support single activities focused only on advocacy goal.

D.2. CSSI grant statistics

On July 2003 Counterpart solicited three month extension grants under the Institutional Grant format for CSSCs. Four Institutional Grants totaling \$19,329 were awarded to the three Support Centers in Ashgabat (\$5,290), Turkmenabat (\$5,410), and Dashoguz (\$5,345) and the Resource Center *Diller Dunyasi* in Turkmenbashi (\$2,284) for implementation of the Civil Society Support Initiative.

D. CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTERS ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Kazakhstan

A. Almaty - Association of Non-Commercial Organizations *Zhalgas-Counterpart*

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 World Bank funded trainings (<i>NGO & Community and Small Enterprises/Financial Sustainability</i>) were conducted. • 2 UNDP-funded trainings (<i>Social Partnership and Advocacy</i>) were conducted as agreed with the public organization <i>Kzylorda Initiative Group for Sustainable Development</i>. • 1 ??? was conducted with the Association of Women Invalids <i>Shyraq</i>. • 42 consultations were provided to visitors (lower than usual as the CSSC was undergoing construction and the general lull of activity during the Summer).
Financial Sustainability	Joint action of the Support Centers and the Hub resulted in the submission of the Network project proposal for <i>delivering series of training seminars on criteria and procedures</i> to the Small Grant Program of the Global Ecological Fund.
Advocacy	In August, two trainings on Social Partnership and Advocacy, financed by UNDP, were conducted in the framework of the agreement with public organization <i>Kzylorda Initiative Group for Sustainable Development</i> .
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further develop and improve the network site <i>ngo.kz</i>, research on client and partner needs and recommendations has been conducted. The collected data forms the baseline data for a technical proposal to providers of the site <i>Timeline</i>. • Joint action of the Support Centers and the Hub office resulted in submission of the Network project proposal on <i>delivering series of training seminar on criteria and procedures</i> to Small Grant Program of Global Ecological Fund. • The CSSC Manager participated in a number of meetings and roundtables on the third sector development, organized by Kazakh Institute of Strategic Planning and European Bank for Reconstruction & Development. • The CSSC Coordinator and Assistant participated in the CSSC <i>ZUBR's</i> Summer School.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

B. Aqtobe - Entrepreneurship Development Agency *SMEDA*

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSSC provided logistics and technical support (booklet distribution, typing, printing, scanning, photo making, etc.) for the <i>Social Fair – NGO Exhibition</i>. • On September 22–26, 18 representatives of 11 counties were trained in a <i>SMEDA TOT</i> module under their <i>Small Entrepreneurship Support Program</i>.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSSC Program Assistant was trained in <i>NGO Participation in Election Processes</i>, organized by UNDP for NGOs from all regions of Kazakhstan. • On September 11, the Program Assistant participated in the <i>Aqtobe Branch of the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan</i> roundtable. The meeting covered issues of youth involvement in elections and the activity of the <i>League of Young Voters</i>.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction between <i>SMEDA</i> and the city <i>Akimat</i> resulted in the organization of the <i>Social Fair – NGO Exhibition</i> in Aqtobe. The <i>Akimat</i> rented the exhibit hall while the CSSC provided logistics and technical support. • The CSSC Program Assistant, along with representatives of NGOs and state bodies, was trained in the UNDP module <i>NGO Participation in Election Processes</i> and in <i>Volunteers' Role in Local Problems Solving & Its Further Development</i>, organized by UNV. • On September 11, <i>SMEDA's</i> Executive Director participated in the International Kazakh-Russian conference <i>Small Business: Perspectives For Integration</i> in Nizhniy Novgorod. • The CSSC Coordinator participated in the September 29 meeting with <i>ACCELS</i> to learn more about their education programs for Kazakhstan's citizens.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

C. Astana - Astana Civil Society Support Center

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 NGOs and initiative groups (including state officials from Astana, Kzylorda, Oskemen and Petropavl) were provided with consultations, information support and technical assistance. 48 new visitors were registered in the CSSC. • August 5-6 the CSSC Director conducted the training <i>NGO Participation in Election Processes</i> in Qostanai. • August 26-28 the CSSC Director conducted a TOT on <i>NGO Participation in Election Processes</i>. • The CSSC Coordinator participated in a regular M&E meeting, organized by INTRAC to discuss ongoing results of its program on civil society development in Kazakhstan. • At the request of the Ministry of Information, the CSSC conducted 2 focus groups (experimental and controlling) in August to identify relations (attitude) of various social categories to electoral processes. • September 11-13 the CSSC Director presented information to the Ministry of Information on 111 social projects submitted in the framework of state social delivery. • September 4-5, under the framework of UNDP program, the CSSC Director conducted 2 one-day trainings on <i>Election Technologies</i> addressed to 30 women-candidates for <i>Maslikhat'</i> deputies. • The CSSC Director, jointly with Head of <i>ECOCENTER</i>, conducted a mini session on <i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i> during the National Roundtable <i>Provision of Effectiveness of the State Management & Political Stability in Terms of Decentralization of the State Power</i>. • The CSSC prepared recommendations for UNDP's 2004-2009 Country Strategy.
Financial Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSSC implemented 2 projects - the Eurasia Foundation's <i>Promotion of Evaluation</i> and the World Bank's <i>NGO Informational Campaign</i>. • The new project to participate in an EU Program on Democratic Development was designed and submitted in partnership with the UNDP and Parliament of Kazakhstan.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 26, the CSSC Program Assistant (Ruslan Nikhambekov) participated in scientific workshop-seminar <i>Provision of Citizens' Constitutional Rights in Legal Protection & Assistance</i>, organized by UNDP and Commission on Human Rights under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. • On September 4 – 5, in the framework of UNDP Program in partnership with Central Election Committee, the CSSC Director performed two trainings on Election Technology for 30 women – candidates for <i>Maclikhat'</i> deputies. • On September 29 – 30, in the framework of the Eurasian project and on the request by Library named Sabit Mukhanov, the CSSC Program Assistant and Contract Trainer (Anara Ibraeva) conducted training on Advocacy for NGOs in Petropavl (North Kazakhstan).
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 20 and September 24 the CSSC Director participated in meetings of the City Conference and Info Center to discuss the development of informational support to the Civil Forum. • 10 articles covering CSSC activities have been published and broadcast by local media as part of the Civil Forum.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

D. Oskemen - Social Corporative Fund ZUBR, Ust-Kamenogorsk

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZUBR provided consultations in conjunction with the questionnaire of the <i>Healthy Communities</i> program, which covered Summer School/2003, social projects contest, NGO conferences, legal aspects to establish NGO (10 initiative groups received the service, 5 of them are in the process of registering). • 76 consultations (excluding the issues from the <i>Healthy Communities</i> program) have been provided by the Support Center. • The CSSC provided logistical support, formed a list of 27 participants, and adjusted the module for Summer School/2003 <i>Governing of Social Processes</i> held August 19-27.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period.
Advocacy	In May 2003, ZUBR and local state structures established the <i>Coalition of NGOs and State Bodies</i> that was launched in the framework of the project <i>Civil Society Participation in Territorial Management in Kazakhstan</i> that sought to analyze social program design and approval. In addition, the Coalition includes the <i>Association of NGOs of Qostanai Oblast</i> , the public fund <i>Decent</i> (Pavlodar), the Institute of Self-management Development (Petropavl) and Soros-Kazakhstan Fund.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development & Advocacy Coordinator provided the Center with a package of informational materials on PCA methods. • In an effort to support horizontal communications development among CSSC Network members, ZUBR implements projects with the <i>Association of NGOs of Qostanai Oblast</i>, the <i>Institute of Self-management Development</i>, and the public fund <i>Decent</i>. • The CSSC initiated workgroup on preparation to the city NGO conference on founding the Interaction Board under <i>Akimat</i> of Oskemen. The CSSC Coordinator (Alla Kozlyatkina) participated in the conference and reported on partnership perspectives in social problems solving. In addition, she was selected to be a delegate in Civil Forum. • Jointly with Department of internal policy & social sphere of <i>Akimat</i> the CSSC discussed the city program on NGO support in <i>Dialogue Club</i>. • ZUBR consulted the program on development of the regional associations through support to youth movement in East Kazakhstan. • The CSSC signed the agreement on cooperation with the local newspaper <i>Vechernyi Oskemen</i> to publicize social events and programs. • The CCSC staff participated in a program to develop consulting services under the joint Pragma Corporation/Counterpart project funded by USAID.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

E. Qaraghandy - Karaganda Regional Ecological Center *Eco-Center*

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ECOCENTER</i> provided logistics (information and presentation materials, list of participants) to organize the Oblast conference <i>NGO-state Cooperation: challenges & perspectives</i> held on August 15. • September 10-17 the CSSC organized and conducted a seminar on <i>Social Ecological Policy</i>, financed by HIVOS.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period.
Advocacy	No data this reporting period.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSSC Director presented a report on regional cooperation between NGO and state sectors in Oblast conference <i>NGO-state Cooperation: challenges & perspectives</i>. • On September 2 the project proposal on implementation of social programs by NGOs was submitted to Ministry of Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan. • On September 29 the CSSC Director participated in Roundtable <i>Effectiveness of State Government & Political Stability in terms of Decentralization of State Power</i>, and made a presentation on <i>Role of Ecological Organizations in State Government System at Local & National Levels</i>.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

F. Qostanai - NGO Association of Qostanai Oblast

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing of the monthly electronic informational bulletin launched in September and covers NGO activities in Qostanai Oblast. A print version is in the works. • July 14-30, six PCAs conducted by the CSSC led to projects that were submitted to the election programs development grant pool. • The Association Director participated in the training <i>Strategic Planning</i>, organized by the Urban Institute on August 8-9 for the Coordination Board on social and economic development of the city. As a result, an Action Plan was designed. • August 8 the Center organized the conference <i>Corporate Charity for Social Development of the City</i> to create a local charity fund of entrepreneurs. • On August 17 the Association Director was invited by the initiative group <i>Altyn Kuz</i> to monitor a PCA as part of the <i>Healthy Communities</i> program. • The CSSC Coordinator participated in a study tour to share the Hungarian experience in local self-governing (September 4-13). • In the framework of the <i>Healthy Communities</i> program, 2 monitorings and 1 evaluation were conducted with Public Fund <i>Pomosh</i> and 1 monitoring was completed for the Public organization <i>Qostanai Volunteer Society of Invalids</i>.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with local state officials and UNDP, the CSSC conducted six PCAs from July 14-30 to identify the needs that would be applied in election programs design by deputy candidates. • August 5-6 the CSSC, in partnership with Astana, <i>ASTRa</i> took part in organizing and conducting of Roundtable <i>NGO Participation in Election Processes</i>, addressed to deputy candidates. The event was financed by UNDP and enabled to raise public awareness about elections and election programs design. • In September, public receptions were opened in districts of Qostanai to collect data on social issues concerning the improvement of orphanages, neighborhoods and general city development. The data is to be used in further design of strategic plans for socio-economic development of the city.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the threshold of Civil Forum, the Association staff participated in the conference <i>NGO Development: Challenges & Perspectives</i>, held on August 20. The meeting covered the issues of NGO-state interaction and proposals design on NGO strengthening. The CSSC Director was selected and approved as a delegate to forthcoming Civil Forum. • In July-September, the CSSC cooperated with Department of Information and Department of Internal Policy of Qostanai Oblast to organize the conference <i>Rural NGOs Development: Challenges & Perspectives</i> held on August 25. • July-August, a preliminary phase on the co-project with Soros-Kazakhstan Fund included research on designing the project of socio-economic development of the city. On September 23-27 the seminar was held in Almaty and addressed to NGOs and state bodies. • September 89 the CSSC Accountant was invited by the Moscow Institute of Cities Economic Development to serve as an expert in evaluation of four NGOs in Lisakovsk (Qostanai Oblast).
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

G. Semey - Nuclear Tests Victims' Union *IRIS*, Semipalatinsk

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSC <i>IRIS</i> provided local NGOs with information about the training program <i>National School-2003</i> initiated by Soros-Kazakhstan Fund. Four NGOs participated in the contest, and one NGO was selected in the program addressed to the resource centers. • CSSC staff participated in the USAID seminar <i>Philanthropy Development</i> held in Semey. • <i>IRIS</i> staff took part in the seminar <i>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</i>, conducted as part of the <i>Central Asian Mountain Program (CAMP)</i> by the Swiss Agency of Reconstruction & Development.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CSSC submitted information about its activity and completed questionnaire forms for submission to the Ministry of Information or to participate in the Oblast Conference <i>NGO-State Cooperation</i> that was held in Oskemen. Non-profit sector of Semey region was informed about the conference. As the request of the Akim, the CSSC provided local state bodies with data on the Semey NGO sector activities connected with the Civil Forum. Through the <i>Healthy Communities</i> program, IRIS has conducted monitoring of the projects <i>Help Yourself</i> in Semenovka Village and <i>For Healthy Generation</i> in Begen Village. IRIS conducted first research on the basis of PCA on the project <i>Rational Land-Use</i>, financed by British organization <i>Mouchel</i>.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period.
Advocacy	In August, the CSSC participated in the seminar on <i>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</i> in the framework of Central Asian Mountain Program (CAMP) of Swiss Agency of Development & Cooperation. The seminar was aimed at participatory discussion of environmental management and decision-making.
Cooperation	IRIS along with Department of Nature Preservation, the Institute of Radiation Safety & Ecology, and the Committee of Land Resources participated in working group on the project <i>Rational Land-Use</i> , financed by British organization <i>Mouchel</i> .
Grant Management	No data this reporting period.

Consolidated Table of Training and Technical Assistance Services

Service	Almaty	Aqtobe	Astana	Qaraghandy	Qostanai	Oksemen	Semey	Total
Number of visitors	76	86	169	45	86	69	170	701
Number new visitors	11	10	48	8	16	13	23	129
Number of visits	143	202	280	78	268	153	223	1347
Number of NGOs receiving services	572	70	105	27	50	300	41	1165
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	22	6	12	18	11	33	16	118
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Number of trainings	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Number of consultations	42	90	50	188	107	76	89	642
Number of times Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	152	86	39	42	24	26	150	519
Number of times copy machine was used	35	113	55	12	36	65	120	436
Number of copies	0	1515	4180	360	631	450	113	7249
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	100	10	53	46	24	80	135	448
Number of PCAs conducted	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	7
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	6

Kyrgyzstan

The Hub Office has been assisting the CSSC Association to prepare and submit an application to ABA/CEELI. The goal of the 12-month project is to build capacities of southern CSSCs to provide legal services to local NGOs, inclusive of training, consultations, information support aimed at building advocacy capacities of local civil society organizations. As the project activities may overlap ICNL activities, it was decided to have a special session with participation of Association members, ICNL and ABA/CEELI during the country meeting scheduled for October 1-3.

A. Batken CSSC (BT)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 18, BT conducted a session on impact assessment in the target community Yntymak, where together with the community members they discussed level of mobilization of the community, ability to take decisions and changes up to date. On July 24-25, the BT staff conducted follow-up seminar on <i>Projects Sustainability</i> for the leaders of 6 target communities. The participants were given a brief presentation of the successful project of NGO <i>Leylek-Sumbula</i> and discussed issues of ensuring sustainability of the project results, keeping financial documents. On August 12-14, the BT Assistant and Volunteer took part in a TOT on Methodology and Project Design provided by Counterpart <i>Sheriktesh</i> within the CEN project and obtained new expertise in conducting training and consultation on project design. The BT Manager participated in the workshop on Impact Evaluation held by Mr. Sauer of Counterpart Deutschland on September 8-10. The participants discussed the results, lesson learned, and impacts of the EU-funded project 99/0439. On September 19, BT hosted the roundtable <i>CSSC: Achievements, Lesson Learned, Prospective</i> attended by 35 representatives of local NGO and CBOs. The roundtable overviewed the CSSC's activities for the last two years, discussed actual achievements and ways for further cooperation.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period
Advocacy	No data this reporting period
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Director of the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan and NGO Support Program Assistant visited BT on June 30-July 2 to familiarize themselves with the projects administered by BT and funded by the Soros Foundation. On July 19-20, BT conducted training workshop in <i>Project Design</i> for 20 people representing refugee NGOs and communities of <i>Kyzyl-Kyia</i>. As a result of BT assistance, the leader of the community of <i>Aigul-Tash</i> participated in the training workshop in Community Foundations held on September 10-17 in Bulgaria and sponsored by AED.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

B. Bishkek CSSC (BS)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 3, the BS Manager participated in the workshop to refine approaches to deliver training seminars and other types of technical assistance in order to design development component of the Village Investment Project funded by WB. The BS Manager took part in the conference <i>Civil Society Institutions and Elections</i> held in Issyk-Kul Oblast. August 14-17, the BS staff participated in the training workshop <i>Advocacy and Lobbying</i> provided by a trainer from Holland, where they gained new knowledge and experience in advocacy.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period

Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 22, the PR Assistant participated in the roundtable, where representatives of NGOs, international agencies, the Ministry of Justice and the Prime Minister's Office discussed the issue of establishing a working group to develop a Child Code. BS conducted a roundtable on introducing amendments to the Election Code on September 25. On September 30, the Training Coordinator conducted a roundtable on <i>Tariff Policy</i> for NGOs of Talas Oblast, in order to increase their capacity to influence decisions of tariffs being made by the local authorities.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PR Assistant took part in the international conference <i>Building Information Society: Problems, Prospective, Networking</i> held in St. Petersburg June 30-July 4. The Director of Center InterBilim conducted a series of meetings with international agencies (OSCE, DFID, INTRAC, etc.) to discuss recent developments in Kyrgyzstan and took part in the survey to identify views on creating people's parliament.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

C. Jalalabad CSSC (JA)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 3-4, the JA Manager took part in the seminar <i>Developing Strategy on Building Capacity of Local Communities</i> held by the Village Investment Project. JA has been administering grants for the Soros Foundation, providing information support, and deliver consultations and training workshops. On July 28 the Soros Foundation approved four applications of NGOs from Jalalabad Oblast. August 7-9, two JA Coordinators took part in the TOT on <i>Methodology and Project Design</i> provided by Counterpart <i>Sheriktesh</i> within the CEN project and obtained new expertise in conducting training and consultation on project design. JA Manager took part in the seminar <i>The NGO Role in Poverty Reduction Analysis</i> held by INTRAC in Osh August 19-20. The participants discussed issues of participation of the poor in conducting assessments of poverty, and how NGOs can facilitate this process. JA conducted follow-up seminars in Community Networking in 6 target communities. Participants discussed issues on networking interactions as an element of sustainable community development. On September 26, JA hosted a roundtable with participation of 53 people, representing local NGOs/CBOs, offices of international organizations, mass media and local government, to present overview of the JA activities since the outset. JA conducted this roundtable as part of their PR strategy, as well as to get feedback from clients. Based on recommendations received, JA staff will revise its strategic plan.
Financial Sustainability	JA signed a 6-month contract with ADB Mission in Kyrgyzstan to deliver training services to the target communities of ADB. The sum of the contract is \$15,921.
Advocacy	September 11-13, JA conducted a training workshop in <i>Advocacy</i> for 25 people representing 6 state agencies and 10 NGOs.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JA staff presented the ADB-funded project to the Akims and State Administration officials of Aksy, Chatkal and Ala-Buka Rayons on July 16-18. They were given information about the planned project activities with focus on delivering training workshops to the communities of Aksy, Chatkal and Ala-Buka Rayons. On August 1, the JA Coordinator took part in a meeting of heads of block committees held in the Mayor's Office. She shared information about grant programs being implemented through JA and discussed further cooperation with block committees. Two JA Coordinators took part in the OSCE conference <i>The Role of a Woman in Conflict Resolution</i> on September 29-30 in Arstanbap. The conference participants discussed issues related to conflict resolution, role of NGOs in conflict resolution, women rights and their participation in conflict resolution, etc. They developed recommendations for NGOs, international agencies and governments.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

D. Kant CSSC (KN)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 1-4, the KN Assistant took part in the training workshop <i>Leadership Development</i> conducted by EU consultants Mr. A. Fraser (Executive Development, Great Britain) and C. Schuirer (Counterpart, Germany). She obtained new skills in HR management, leadership, and teamwork. Each participant received a personal file on his/her leadership skills. September 15-19, the leader of refugee NGO <i>Adab</i> and a member of the KN Stakeholders Committee took part in the training seminar <i>Developing Philanthropy Culture</i> held by AED. August 5-8, five KN Contract Trainers took part in TOT on <i>Methodology and Project Design</i> provided by Counterpart <i>Sheriktesh</i> within the CEN project and obtained new expertise in conducting training and consultation on project design. The KN Assistant took part in the regional training workshop <i>Marketing and Advancing Services</i> conducted by AED in Tashkent on August 4-9. She obtained new skills in developing marketing plan for the service delivery. The BT Manager T participated in the workshop <i>Impact Evaluation</i> held by Mr. P. Sauer of Counterpart Deutschland on September 8-10. The participants discussed the results, lesson learned, and impacts of the EU-funded project 99/0439. The leader of the community of Krasnaya Rechka participated in the training workshop on Community Foundations held September 10-17 in Bulgaria and sponsored by AED. Afterwards, she made a presentation about the workshop to the leaders of target communities.
Financial Sustainability	No data this reporting period
Advocacy	No data this reporting period
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KN conducted training workshop in <i>Microbusiness Basics</i> for refugees of the village of Vasillevka on September 3-4 as part of the activities on involving them into the microcredit programs run by the NGO <i>Alga</i>. The KN Manager took part in the international conference <i>Mobilizing Communities to Fight Violence Against Women in Central Asia</i>, conducted by UNIFEM in Bishkek and attended by women organizations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The conference aimed at working out mechanisms of regional cooperation of NGOs and governments to fight discrimination of women. KN has been focusing on providing consultations in planning, bookkeeping, and reporting to the target refugee community of Krasnaya Rechka and Ivanovka. On July 31, KN Manager participated in the roundtable hosted by the Village Investment Project (VIP) to identify pilot Aiyl Okmotus. The participants selected Tuz, Nurmanbet and Yssykata Aiyl Okmotus as VIP targets. On August 21, KN Citizenship Assistant took part in the meeting of the Working Group on Citizenship under the UNHCR, where they discussed how to conduct an information campaign with refugees on simplified citizenship acquisition procedures.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

E. Karabalta CSSC (KB)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 1-4 the KB Training Coordinator took part in the training <i>Leadership Development</i>, conducted by two EU consultants. She obtained new skills in HR management, leadership, and teamwork. July 28-Aug. 1, Nookat. The KB Coordinator, Bookkeeper and two Contract Trainers took part in the training <i>Business Planning</i> conducted Counterpart Germany. Counterpart Germany conducted the training workshop <i>Cooperation with Self-Help Groups</i> August 11-14 in Kara-Balta for the CSSC staff and Contract Trainers. As part of staff capacity building, KB conducted a mini training for staff and volunteers. After the training a small working group revised the strategic plan. Two weeks later, another workshop was held to improve staff computer skills.
Financial	No data this reporting period

Sustainability	
Advocacy	On July 8-9, KB conducted a training workshop in Advocacy for 13 people, representing refugee NGOs and communities. The training aimed at developing advocacy skills of refugee leaders in order to effectively participate in advocacy activities to simplify citizenship acquisition procedures.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KB Manager took part in the international conference titled <i>Building Information Society: Problems, Prospective, Networking</i> held in St. Petersburg June 30-July 4. He presented problems and approaches in increasing information dissemination and building networks among local communities in Kyrgyzstan. • KB Training Coordinator took part in the National Seminar <i>Building Capacity of Local Communities</i>, held by UNDP on July 25 in Bishkek. Participants discussed elements of the national strategy on building capacity of local communities. • July 14 KB Manager took part in the meeting of the Rayon Council on Social Mobilization, where the participants discussed a plan for further activities, including training for self-governing bodies, and internal regulations. • The Citizenship Coordinator monitored the mini-mill run by NGO <i>El-Ychun</i> and located in the Farm-2 VI. He found out that the mini-mill serves population of three neighboring villages and, this year, provided service worth of 9,200 soms to 96 refugee families. • In the beginning of September, the KB Citizenship Coordinator, together with leaders of refugee NGOs <i>El Ychun</i> and <i>Chuy-Murgab</i> and representatives of the Mandatory Health Insurance Fund of Chuy Oblast, meet with 124 refugees of the villages of Sosnovka and Kara-Tube to inform them about procedures of issuing certificates of medical insurance and registering in the logbooks of Family Medicine Centers. • September 9 KB conducted a meeting of the Board on Emergency Assistance, where 19 refugee applications were reviewed, 13 of which were approved with 7,100 soms.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

F. Karakol CSSC (KR)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 1-4 the KR Assistant took part in the training workshop in <i>Leadership Development</i>, conducted by two EU consultants. She obtained new skills in HR management, leadership, teamwork, etc. • July 34 KR Manager took part in the training workshop hosted by the Village Investment Project (VIP), where the participants were introduced to the project components, implementation strategies, and discussed how their organizations can cooperate within the VIP framework. • By order of the State Administration, the training module in <i>Condominium-Association of House Owners</i> was developed based on training materials of Urban Institute and Counterpart. The first training in Condominiums was conducted on July 23-24 for 22 members of Kyzyl-Suu community. • KR staff took part in the training seminar on Strategic Planning organized by VIP on September 2-5. The training, conducted by a trainer from Marshak Foundation (Moscow), resulted in a training module for local investment committees to be created within by VIP. • On September 18, KR conducted training seminar in Internal Control and Financial Accountability for 17 people representing Soros grantees, Healthy Communities Program of Counterpart and Local Grant Committee of Kumtor Operating Company.
Financial Sustainability	The KR volunteers raised 3,400 soms (equivalent to \$81) from local sources to conduct a summer camp for children.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR assisted the Urban Institute in conducting a training for 50 people representing local NGOs for participating in budget hearings. Budget hearings with participation of 200 people (including representatives of 16 NGOs) were held in Karakol Aug. 20. • September 16 KR took part in the NGO meeting to discuss amendments to the Election Code.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The KR Bookkeeper participated in the meeting of the Managing Committee of National Bank, held in Karakol on July 15. Following this meeting, a roundtable on <i>Cashless Wiring of Micro Finance Institutions: problems and possible solutions</i> was

	<p>held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 17 KR conducted a roundtable <i>Social Partnership and Financial Sustainability</i>, attended by 28 people representing local governments and NGOS/CBOs of <i>Tiup Rayon</i> of Issyk-Kul Oblast. The representatives of CBO <i>Tasma</i> shared their experience in developing community foundation and ensuring cooperation with local governments. The same roundtables were conducted in <i>Jety-Oguz Rayon</i> (August 8, 20 people attended), <i>Ton Rayon</i> (August 8, 31 people attended), <i>Cholpon-Ata</i> (August 15, 10 people attended), <i>Balykchy</i> (August 15, 25 people attended). August 13 KR hosted a roundtable on ensuring networking among local communities of Issyk-kul Oblast. The participants discussed advantages of being a part of a network, areas requiring special attention, and limitations. Based on discussions, the participants developed an action plan to ensure networking.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

G. Kerben CSSC (KE)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 11 KE hosted a meeting of leaders of 10 target communities to discuss possibilities of establishing network among communities of Aksy Rayon. The participants decided to form formal network, and assigned the task of preparing registration documents to the leader of the NGO <i>Davr</i>. Initiation fee was established at the level of 500 soms, monthly fee- 30 soms. July 1-4 the KE Coordinator took part in the training workshop in <i>Leadership Development</i>, conducted by two EU consultants. He obtained new skills in HR management, leadership, teamwork, etc. August 7-9 the KE Coordinator, Volunteer and Contract Trainer took part in TOT on <i>Methodology and Project Design</i> provided by Counterpart <i>Sheriktesh</i> within the CEN project and obtained new expertise in providing training and TA on project design. September 27 KE hosted a seminar on <i>Co-financing as Effective Method of Attracting Resources</i>, attended by NGO representatives and heads of village governments. The participants noted that there are some village governments, which are successful in terms of attracting outside resources.
Financial Sustainability	KE signed a contract with Village Investment Project on conducting community mobilization activities in 9 villages of Avletim Ayil Okmotu (Village Government). The contract sum was \$1,803. To date, PCAs were conducted in all 9 villages.
Advocacy	No data this reporting period
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KE Manager took part in the seminar <i>The NGO Role in Poverty Reduction Analysis</i> held by INTRAC in Osh August 19-20. The participants discussed issues of participation of poor in conducting assessments of poverty, and how NGOs can facilitate this process. August 20 KE conducted a roundtable <i>Cooperation of NGO Sector and Governments</i>, where 15 participants discussed current situation in intersectoral cooperation, achievements and gaps. They admitted that raising initiatives from both sides are crucial to develop successful cooperation. September 14 KE conducted a roundtable <i>Method Ashar as Effective Tool to Mobilize Communities</i>, attended by 14 people, representing local NGOs and CBOs and governments. The participants discussed how this traditional method or custom can be adapted to modern situation, and its advantages and limitations.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

H. Naryn CSSC (NR)

<p>Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR Coordinator took part in the National Seminar Building Capacity of Local Communities, held by UNDP July 25 in Bishkek. The participants discussed their view on elements of the national strategy on building capacity of local communities. • July 18 a roundtable was conducted by the initiative of NR clients- local NGOs/CBOs- to discuss ways to ensure feedback mechanisms and responsiveness of NR to local needs. Counterpart's Country Director and the Senior Program Officer attended the roundtable. As a result of the discussions, participants recognized the NR activities were inadequate and the Advisory Board decided to provide a 2-month trial period to NR staff to improve quality and responsiveness of services. The contingency plan to improve NR activities was approved. • In August job descriptions of NR staff were revised, new instructions of treating clients were approved in order to improve quality of services. The NR members had a meeting on August 29, where they made a decision to relieve key NR staff of their positions, and announce an open competition to fill the vacant positions and temporarily hire Ms. A. Naymanbetova as Acting Manager. • August 1 the NR Volunteers Coordinator took part in the training workshop <i>Working with Mass Media to Influence Public Opinion</i> held by NDI. The participants obtained new skills in producing press-releases and attracting mass media. The NR Volunteer Coordinator was assigned a task to regularly write and circulate press-releases covering NGO activities in Naryn.
<p>Financial Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July the Naryn Rayon Tax Inspection and Social Fund conducted an audit of NR and made a conclusion that the financial reporting of NR fits with local bookkeeping standards and reflects real actual expenditures. • July 28-31 NR Manager and IATP Administrator took part in the conference hosted by IREX to discuss issues of gradual introduction of paid Internet services of IATP regional points from 10% share in 2003 to 50% share in 2005. • September 11 NR conducted paid training workshop in <i>Project Design</i> for the target groups of <i>Save the Children</i> (UK), which paid 3,000 soms (equal to \$71).
<p>Advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NR conducted a roundtable attended by 12 local NGOs to discuss new bill on <i>Lobbying</i> on July 8. Following the roundtable, NR facilitated a meeting of local NGOs with the Deputy of Jogorku Kenesh on August 22 to discuss this bill. • July 15 NR conducted a training workshop in <i>Advocacy</i> for 20 people, representing 19 local NGOs and 1 state agency. The same workshops were conducted in Baetovo (July 30, 18 people attended), and Kochkor (July 23, 20 people attended). • August 8 NR took part in the budget hearings held by Naryn Town Administration, where they raised a question to allocate some funding to support NGO development. The Head of the Town Administration informed participants that 200,000 soms have been budgeted to form a reserve fund, out of which some NGO initiatives can be funded. Naryn NGOs are planning to conduct a public campaign to confirm this promise with special decree of the Town Kenesh.
<p>Cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 7 NR conducted a roundtable for local NGOs to present 3 projects, which were approved by the Soros Foundation. The participants also discussed reasons why only 3 of 44 submitted projects were approved. • NR hosted a meeting of 13 environmental NGOs to discuss a logical framework of the project to improve sanitation in Naryn. The participants made a decision to design a project, based on the approved logical framework and submit it to the external donor.
<p>Grant Management</p>	<p>No data this reporting period</p>

I. Nookat CSSC (NO)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NO Deputy Manager and four Coordinators took part in the training workshop in <i>Business Planning</i>, conducted by Counterpart Germany July 28-Aug. 1 in Nookat. Counterpart Germany conducted the training <i>Cooperation with Self-Help Groups</i> on August 11-14 in Kara-Balta for the CSSCs' staff and contract trainers. July 19 NO facilitated a meeting of community leaders of Nookat Rayon hosted by the target community of Kara-Oi VI. The community leaders discussed actual achievements of projects being implemented in their communities, and problems encountered during the implementation phase. On July 25, NO organized a meeting of leaders of communities of Kara-Kuldja and Aravan Rayons with their colleagues of Nookat Rayon. The NO Assistant took part in the regional training workshop <i>Marketing and Advancing Services</i> conducted by AED in Tashkent on August 4-9. She obtained new skills in developing marketing plan for the service delivery. Together with the CBO Network <i>Jamaat Kuchu</i>, NO developed procedures for conducting needs assessment of local communities. <i>Jamaat Kuchu</i> developed a questionnaire for local communities. It is expected that upon receipt of the completed questionnaires <i>Jamaat Kuchu</i>, together the NO, will develop an action plan to meet local needs. To date 67 questionnaires have been distributed. The newsletter <i>Zerkalo Nookata</i> has doubled its circulation (from 100 to 200).
Financial Sustainability	NO signed a contract with Village Investment Project on conducting community mobilization activities in 3 Ayil Okmotus: Mangyt (Aravan Rayon), Isanov (Nookat Rayon), and Kara-Kuldja (Kara-Kuldja Rayon). The contract sum was \$4,506. To date, PCAs have been conducted in all villages with participation of more than 1,000 people.
Advocacy	The NO volunteers conducted a roundtable devoted to the issues of consuming alcoholic drinks by youngsters. The goal of the meeting is to push local governments to prohibit selling alcoholic drinks and tobacco to the youth under 18 years, and the Rayon State Administration made a special decree on that issue.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 9 the NO Refugee Coordinator conducted a meeting with refugees of Karymberdy VI. to discuss their participation in the Counterpart <i>Healthy Communities</i> Program. September 18-19 NO conducted training workshop in <i>Project Design</i> for 19 refugees of Nayman VI. Application forms of the Counterpart Program <i>Healthy Communities</i> were distributed. September 12 NO conducted a roundtable on <i>Social Partnership</i> for 22 people, representing 4 state agencies, 2 business companies, and 16 NGOs.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

J. Osh CSSC (OS)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 12-14 a Contract Trainer took part in TOT on <i>Methodology and Project Design</i> provided by Counterpart <i>Sheriktesh</i> within the CEN project and obtained new expertise in conducting training and consultation on project design. A Contract Trainer took part in the seminar <i>The NGO Role in Poverty Reduction Analysis</i> held by INTRAC in Osh on August 19-20. The participants discussed issues of participation of poor in conducting assessments of poverty, and how NGOs can facilitate this process. The OS Manager participated in the workshop <i>Impact Evaluation</i> held by Counterpart Deutschland September 8-10. The participants discussed the results, lesson learned, and impacts of the EU-funded project 99/0439.
Financial Sustainability	OS provided OSCE with two training workshops in <i>Women's Role in Conflict Resolution</i> on a paid basis and earned \$194.

Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An OS Volunteer took part in the training <i>Participation in Budget Hearings</i> conducted by the Urban Institute on September 22, and in the actual budget hearings held in the Osh State Administration on September 25. BS conducted a roundtable on introducing amendments to the Election Code on September 20, attended by 41 people representing local NGOs, deputies of local keneshes, teachers of Law Faculty of Osh University, mass media. The Deputy of Jogorku Kenesh I. Kadyrbekov made a presentation about proposed amendments.
Cooperation	No data this reporting period
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

K. Talas CSSC (TL)

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 9-11 a Contract Trainer participated in the training workshop <i>Custom Procedures</i> held by Pragma Corporation in Talas. August 12-14 two contract trainers took part in TOT on <i>Methodology and Project Design</i> provided by Counterpart <i>Sheriktesh</i> within the CEN project and obtained new expertise in conducting training and consultation on project design. Since August, a Peace Corps Volunteer has been working in TL and is expected to provide training on marketing research, ensure development of a web site, deliver consultation on organizational development and make necessary translation work. August 89 the meeting of Coordination Council of the community network was hosted by TL, where the participants discussed issues of accepting new members, level of membership and entrance fees, and developed action plan for the next period of 3 months.
Financial Sustainability	TL has been continuing introduction of co-financing of training workshop from participants, during the reporting period two workshops were conducted on a co-financing basis, resulted from which TL earned \$88.
Advocacy	July 8-9 TL conducted a training workshop in Advocacy for members of the Coordination Council of the community network of Talas Oblast. They also participated in the training workshop in <i>Budget Hearings</i> held on July 17-18.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With support the Oblast State Administration, TL developed the agenda for the NGO roundtable to discuss the <i>Program of Socio-economic Development of Talas Oblast</i>, and started consultations with local NGOs on this document. The roundtable was held on August 5, where participants representing all main local stakeholders shared their vision on the program. On September 30, a Contract Trainer took part in the seminar <i>Local government and a Role and Capacity of Mass Media</i>, conducted by Urban Institute in Talas.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

Consolidated Table of Training and Technical Assistance Services

<i>Indicator</i>	BS	BT	JA	KB	KE	KN	KR	NO	NR	OS	TA	Total
Number of Visitors	79	113	193	239	199	171	72	453	485	157	522	2683
Number of New Visitors	13	26	39	31	25	47	19	64	148	10	77	499
Number of Visits	81	136	255	464	338	244	91	835	828	235	717	4224
Number of NGO receiving services	56	75	105	127	77	42	61	49	212	139	61	1004
Number of CBO, initiative groups receiving services	4	30	12	21	74	8	18	75	15	33	86	376
Number of volunteers recruited for NGO	0	0	0	14	0	0	2	37	12	14	0	79
Number of Training Workshops	2	5	9	4	5	4	4	10	9	6	8	66
Number of Consultations	38	22	57	190	306	180	66	257	268	63	357	1804
Number of Times of Computer/Internet/E-mail Was Used	10	21	22	95	36	125	1,140	113	154	16	560	2,292
Number of Times Copy Machine/Printer Was Used	16	53	89	140	115	134	50	234	194	79	667	1771
Number of Copies (for Copy Machine and Printer)	180	494	2,347	3,069	2,702	2,870	474	2,906	3,071	1,169	12,347	31,629
Number of Times Phone/Fax Was Used	8	5	41	149	13	74	15	33	50	11	622	1021
Number of PCAs Conducted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of CAPs Developed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6

Turkmenistan

A. Ashgabat CSSC

<p><i>Services</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three meetings with contract trainers were conducted to discuss the quality of training. The training monitoring results were discussed and analysis and commendations from monitoring reports taken into consideration. • Three Information Club for 102 representatives from different NGOs and Initiative Groups were conducted. • During three months of reporting period by E-mail, handouts, consultations and meetings Ashgabat CSSC distributed information on international and local events such as conferences, meetings, and workshops. This information was available from stands. • The newsletter <i>VMESTE</i> ? 6, 7, 8 of Ashgabat CSSC were published and translated into the Turkmen language. Two Info Digests about grants, trainings, seminars, fellowships, and a conference for NGOs were published and distributed among NGOs representatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August-September the Ashgabat CSSC conducted assessment of probable forms and models of small Resource Centers for local communities to get information, to promote advocacy and social partnership. • August 13 the Ashgabat CSSC assisted US Embassy to present Grant program for NGOs and initiative groups. • Ashgabat CSSC volunteers provided clients assistance in work in Internet, working with computers, typing text and other documents translation, library resources, in organizing of NGOs activities to help with video and photo recording. • Ashgabat CSSC organized the seminar for 8 NGOs and Initiative Groups with Peter B. Gogberg President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance for Children and Families. Mr. Goldberg exchanged experience of his work in different NGO in USA, told in detail about the Board of Directors role in NGO. • August 26-28 and September 6 the Ashgabat CSSC organized outside consultations for interested people, activists and initiative groups of Magtymguly village and Annau of Ruhabat etrap, for NGOs and IGs of Abadan. • Ashgabat CSSC staff conducted meeting of Information Club in Geokdepe for the IG members. The participants were introduced with Counterpart and Ashgabat CSSC activities, <i>Healthy Communities</i> program, handouts materials distributed. • September 17 Ashgabat CSSC organized the meeting with NGO's representatives of Ashgabat with Susan Fritz Regional USAID representative and Gulnara Hydyrova of USAID Turkmenistan.
<p><i>Financial Sustainability</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashgabat CSSC Program Coordinator and Manager of Ashgabat CSSC participated at training "Interactive methods of training". • On weekly basis Ashgabat CSSC staff participated in the meeting "One Hour with the Director" with the Country Director Yazgylch Charyev to discuss program issues, strategic planning and current work. • Fail Nurullof was appointed to position Resource Centre Coordinator and started to work at 19th of August while receiving job orientation. • Ashgabat CSSC staff participated in the training "NGO and Community", "Team Building", "Financial Accountability". • On August 12-13 Manager and Program Coordinator of Ashgabat CSSC took part in the workshop meeting organized by hub office. The new project's program goals and objectives, common vision of its strategies realization were discussed. • On September 8-9, 2003 Ashgabat CSSC passed assessment of Ashgabat CSSC capacity carried out by the hub office specialists. • On September 25 Ashgabat CSSC staff participated at the meeting with Hub office Specialists to discuss the new project of Ashgabat CSSC for next 9 months and results of capacity assessment of Ashgabat CSSC. • On September 4 - 5 Manager of Ashgabat CSSC participated in the training TOT "Elaboration of Local activity plan on Environmental Protection (LAPEP)", which conducted by Regional Ecological Center of Central Asia "CAREC" in Almaty, with financial support of Netherlands Embassy.
<p><i>Advocacy</i></p>	<p>No data at this reporting period</p>

Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashgabat CSSC participated in Roundtable organized by Children Fund of Turkmenistan and NGO <i>Meyletinchy</i> on problems of Youth and Children in Turkmenistan. • July 11 the Manager of Ashgabat CSSC organized a meeting for USAID Regional Representative S. Wilson with NGOs <i>Bosfor</i>, <i>Hemayat</i>, and <i>Women Resource Center</i> to discuss population migration issues and NGO's role in solving these problems. • August 27 CSSC took part in the roundtable <i>Participation Of Three Sectors In Solving Youth Employment Problems</i> conducted by the NGO <i>Family, Mercy, and Health</i> in Abadan. Representatives of NGO, Labor exchange, city public education department, school directors, police department, healthcare department of Abadan attended this meeting and discussed youth employment problems. Recommendations of roundtable meeting on this matter were worked out. • The CSSC Manager took part in the roundtable conducted by NGO <i>Shamchyrag</i> in Abadan • Meetings with the deputy hyakims of Akhal velayat and Gawers etrap were held and future perspectives of joint work discussed. • CSSC staff organized and conducted presentation of Counterpart and Ashgabat CSSC activities at the show-case of the United Kingdom Embassy of Great Britain • September 16 CSSC staff took part in the meeting attended by the specialists of Hub office, Ms. Susan Fritz from Regional USAID and Gulnara Hydyrova USAID of Turkmenistan and issues and questions of new program and CSSC role discussed. • Ashgabat CSSC assisted to ACCEL and conducted the presentation of Counterpart and Ashgabat CSSC activities for the participants of the first National Conference of Alumni.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

B. Lebap CSSC

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 29 In the CSSC office there was an Informational Club <i>Slet of Lebap NGOs</i>, at which 16representatives from 9 NGOs attended. • In July the training database was installed on the computer of the Resource Center coordinator, with the aim of effective coordination of the training program in Lebap CSSC. • In August the Lebap CSSC conducted the process of assessment of the training program. Lebap CSSC staff had spread the questionnaires among Lebap NGOs. • The clients need assessment was done to develop strategy of services delivery and further work with community and NGOs. • In September the Lebap CSSC conducted monitoring of <i>NGO and Community and Project Design</i> trainings. • August 5 and 29 trainers meetings were held to discuss issues of implementing the training program in Lebap velayat
Financial Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lebap CSSC has had some changes in staffing. In present time Arslan Joraev, former Program Coordinator of the Lebap CSSC is the Manager of Lebap CSSC. Gulnara Kerimberdieva was hired as a Program Coordinator. Yagshimurad Tayliev was hired as a Resource Center Coordinator. Anna Joraeva was hired as an intern for Resource Center of Lebap CSSC. There was conducted a special meeting to orient new staff members with activities of Lebap CSSC and job related issues. The new staff spent two days at Hub to orient them on Hub functions, policy and procedures, corporate culture and relations with Counterpart staff and discuss specific job related issues. They also visited the Ashgabat CSSC for more direct orientation, including attending the trainings <i>NGO and Community and Project Design</i>. • During transition period Hub staff provided support to Lebap CSSC and made some visits. • July 24-25 the Financial Administrative Manager and Community Outreach/Advocacy Specialist visited Lebap CSSC. They consulted on administration. A staff meeting was held to discuss time management, cash procedures and team building and then they made a plan of the activities for August. • July 29 the Lebap CSSC held its staff meeting to discuss staff development, Lebap CSSC expenses, and increasing the effectiveness of the Lebap CSSC. • August 05 Community Outreach/Advocacy Specialist and Database/IT Specialist visited Lebap CSSC. They attended a staff meeting and discussed current program issues.

	<p>Maintenance work on the IT system was performed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 21 the Country Director and Country Advisor visited the Lebap CSSC. During the visit they interviewed candidates for the CSSC Manager and hired Arslan Jorayev. In addition, they consulted on management and program implementation. • September 23 the Country Advisor and Pavel Haritonov visited the Lebap CSSC. During the visit they familiarized themselves with possible options for Lebap CSSC office space and provided consultations on moving to a new place. As a result a remodeling plan of the new office building has been developed. On September 26 the Lebap CSSC moved to the new building. • In beginning of July Lebap CSSC developed the action plan and the budget for July, August and September 2003. • August 11-12 Arslan Jorayev and Tagandurdy Charyev participated in the network meeting conducted by Hub. During the meeting the new program, CSSC's project development and future strategy for implementing the projects were discussed. Special sessions were conducted on using the logic frame in developing the project proposals and each CSSC prepared presentations on their achievements in that area. • During September Lebap CSSC has created the archives of the documents, which were used by the staff for the period of January 2001 till September 2003. • In September CSSC staff developed a project proposal for the next nine months and submitted to the Hub. There were conducted special staff meetings, where each staff member has expressed their own opinion, which was taken into consideration. • September 89 Suray Atayeva and Vladimir Kosarev visited Lebap CSSC in order to conduct the assessment of their capacity. • September 29-October 1 CSSC staff visited the Hub where their proposal for the next nine months was discussed, the results of which will be reflected in their final proposal.
Advocacy	No data this reporting period
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 29 Regional HCGP program coordinator and Makhym Orazmukhamedova visited LCSSC. During their visit they were briefed on HCGP implementation and met with representatives from the grantee NGO <i>Informational Legislative Resource Center</i>. • September 16 USAID representatives Susan Fritz, Saskia Funston, Bradford Camp and Gulnara Khydyrova visited Lebap CSSC. They had meetings with CSSC staff, members of the local trainer's team and NGOs representatives. Issues of NGOs and Civil Society development in Lebap velayat were brought up and discussed.
Grant Management	August, 08 Arslan Jorayev and Tagandurdy Charyev went to Bash saka settlement, Birata etrap, for monitoring of the <i>Gas to the village</i> project. Bash saka community members had asked local khyakimlik to find the financial recourses for repairing the special equipment for gas pipe-line. As the result local khyakimlik has funded 19 million manats to repair the equipment.
	<p><u>Local Grant Review Committee</u></p> <p>In July the database of ten CAG experts was increased by Lebap CSSC Program Coordinator. This information about experts will be used in future grant programs.</p>

C. Dashoguz CSSC

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the reporting period three Discussion Club meetings of the Dashoguz velayat NGOs were held. The reasons and needs why a NGO forum should possibly be opened and how it would work were the main topics at the Discussion Club. • September 25 the Program coordinator of the Dashoguz CSSC facilitated a meeting with members of the steering committee of three villages of Akdepe etrap. During meeting the follow up actions on CAG project on building the water supply facility for three villages was discussed and the plan of Action developed. • July 29-30 a training on <i>NGO and Community</i> was held with local-Dashoguz follow-up trainers. It was a full M&E conducted for that training. • July 11 the Manager of Dashoguz CSSC gave a presentation of Counterpart Turkmenistan and Dashoguz CSSC annual activities at a camp of Dashoguz velayat teachers of English, organized under support of the US Embassy and Peace Corps in Turkmenistan. As a result 5 new NGOs and IGs have taken part in the training <i>NGO and Community</i>. • August 1 the Manager of Dashoguz CSSC presented Counterpart Turkmenistan and Dashoguz CSSC activity in Policlinic #1 in Dashoguz. 47 doctors and nurses participated. • The strategy on reinforcement of local trainers teams and actions were developed.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August-September a series of studies on determination demand and quality of the trainings were organized and provided by Dashoguz Support Center. The results of the studies were analyzed and taken into account when writing the project.
Financial Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dashoguz CSSC staff participated in <i>PCA, Team Building and Conflicts Resolutions</i> and <i>Financial Management</i> training. July 18 and August 22 the Manager of the Dashoguz CSSC monitored the <i>Akdepe</i> project and improved her skills in conducting monitoring. August 12-13, and 25-26 trainings were held in <i>Project Design</i> and <i>Team Building/Conflict Resolution</i> with local-Dashoguz follow-up trainers. August 5-6 the Financial Manager taught the Dashoguz CSSC Manager and Program Coordinator on Quick Book financial management software. August 12-13 the staff of Dashoguz CSSC participated in the Network meeting in the Ashgabat. September 15-16 the Dashoguz CSSC Resource Center Coordinator was learning to operate a proxy server under the direction of the Information Systems Advisor. September 28-29 the Dashoguz CSSC Manager and Program Coordinator took part in UNICEF training conducted in Dashoguz. This training was dedicated to sharing experience and programming improvement of schools toilets sanitation. September 30 CSSC staff took part in workshop <i>Impact Writing</i> organized by the Hub.
Advocacy	No data this reporting period
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 4 Dashoguz CSSC Program Coordinator and HCGP Assistant took part in roundtable in Boldumsaz etrap organized by the NGO <i>GEO</i> concerning their project <i>My health – in my hands</i>. They discussed contest issues with Local Administration. As the result of that meeting Local Administration approved implementing this project in Boldumsaz etrap and decided to take part in this process. Particularly, from the expense of municipal budget will be increased prize fund of contest. Also municipal administration will extend the scale of the project from 4 streets to 10 July 10 the Charge D’Affair of the US Embassy in Turkmenistan Robert Tansy visited the Dashoguz CSSC office, learned of its work, and met with members of the Volunteer Club. August 22 the Third Secretary of the British Embassy in Turkmenistan visited Dashoguz CSSC office, learned of its work, and met with members of the Volunteers Club. On behalf of the British Embassy she presented a satellite dish to the Volunteers Club.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

D. Resource Center Turkmenbashi City

Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 3 months of reporting period Turkmenbashi Resource Center (TRC) provided NGOs and Initiative Groups with access to information through E-mail, Internet, handouts, and meetings. The first newsletter of TRC Center was published and distributed among NGOs. TRC volunteers provided clients assistance in work in Internet, computers, typing text and other documents translation, library resources. September 9 the TRC organized a meeting with NGO representatives of Turkmenbashi with US Ambassador in Turkmenistan, USAID’s Regional Director, USAID’s Turkmenistan Director and USAID’s Turkmenistan representative. The issues and problems of NGO development in Turkmenistan were discussed. September 24 the TRC organized a meeting with NGO representatives of Balkan region with the Regional Director of the Eurasia Foundation, and the Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan representatives of the Eurasia Foundation.
Financial Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 20 TRC staff participated in the network meeting at the Hub. They learned the results of the assessment, discussed their 9-month proposal and discussed program issues. August 12-13 Veronika Ambartsumova and Bayram Bayrammamedov took part in the workshop meeting organized by Hub. The new project’s program goals and objectives, common vision of the strategies realization were discussed. September 18-19 TRC staff participated in the training <i>NGO and Community</i> September 22-26 Resource Center staff and 13 representatives of Balkan region NGOs participated in the training <i>Training Methodology</i>

Advocacy	No data this reporting period
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRC staff assisted <i>Cheshme</i> and <i>Civil Dignity</i> from Ashgabat to organize seminars on <i>Interactive Methods of Water Care</i> and <i>Could We Live Together?</i> for chemistry and biology teachers and NGOs representatives of Turkmenbashi city. September 28 TRC organized with the Balkan velayat Educational Department and ACCELS the seminar <i>New methods of teaching English at schools</i> and discussed problems and goals of initiative groups and clubs at schools.
Grant Management	No data this reporting period

Consolidated Table of Training and Technical Assistance Services

Service	Ashgabat CSSC	Lebap CSSC	Dashoguz CSSC	Turkmebashi Resource Center	Total
Number of visitors	345	165	402	75	987
Number of new visitors	39	28	28	39	134
Number of visits	811	738	402	296	2247
Number of NGOs receiving services	176	90	59	0	325
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	26	30	7	23	86
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	19	10	3	7	39
Number of trainings	4	3	3	1	11
Number of consultations	253	29	180	0	462
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail users	596	446	116	235	1393
Number of times copy machine was used	262	485	119	119	985
Number of copies	8235	5968	1291	2673	18167
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	52	77	74	59	262
Number of PCAs conducted	0	0	0	0	0
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0	0

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

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

SO 2.1: Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Targeted Institutions

IR 2.1.1: Stronger and More Sustainable Civic Organizations

LLR 2.1.1.5: Improved Legal and Regulatory Environment for NGOs

ICNL Program Objective:

To develop an enabling environment for civil society by improving the legal framework and providing regular legal advice and services to support civil society organizations.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

Kazakhstan

VAT Barrier to the Operation of Micro-Credit Organizations in Kazakhstan Eliminated

As a result of the joint efforts of the USAID, BearingPoint (formerly Barents Group), and ICNL a provision exempting micro-crediting organizations from value-added tax (VAT) was inserted into the Tax Code in July 2003. This change in the Tax Code will ensure that micro-crediting organizations are not subject to taxation at a rate greater than traditional banking institutions. This exemption is expected to promote the growth of microlending organizations in Kazakhstan.

During 2002 the draft law on micro-crediting organizations was drafted by the National Bank and brought to the Parliament. The draft law was written in an effort to allow micro-crediting organizations to operate without the need to obtain a license from the National Bank, thus avoiding the sometimes onerous licensing requirements.

In November 2002 at the invitation of BearingPoint, ICNL commented on the draft law on micro-crediting organizations. ICNL's analysis of this draft law revealed that one significant deficiency in the draft law would subject loans extended by micro-lending institutions to VAT. As subjects of VAT, the lending activities of micro-credit organizations would be severely inhibited and unnecessarily costly to borrowers. BearingPoint brought this issue among others to the attention of the National Bank, charged with developing the draft law, and to appropriate personnel at the Ministry of State Revenue. ICNL also provided its comments to Parliament. Additionally, USAID funded a trip to an international microfinance conference for a person from the Ministry of State Revenue to view international practices with respect to microlending. These activities resulted in greater understanding of officials of micro-lending and the subsequent change in the tax code.

Kyrgyzstan

Tax Instructions Developed by Initiative Group to be Approved by Government

The Initiative Group consisting of the representatives from the NGOs and the government, finished drafting an amended set of the Tax Instructions, which progressively interpret the provisions of the tax code relating to non-profit organizations. These Tax Instructions, 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 which provides the

Tax Instructions with policy status, making it semi-obligatory for tax officials to apply its progressive provisions. These Tax Instructions will allow NGOs to take the full advantage of the benefits granted to them in the tax code.

Over the past several months ICNL has been providing intensive technical support to the Initiative Group working on the Tax Instructions. ICNL has held a series of meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and State Tax Authorities assisting them with finalizing the Tax Instructions. The draft tax instructions are scheduled to be submitted to the Prime Minister's Apparatus for consideration before the end of the year. It is expected that the Practical Guide to Taxation of NGOs in Kyrgyzstan will be published in late 2003 to early 2004.

During the previous reporting period, ICNL facilitated creation of the joint government –NGO initiative group to draft the Tax Instructions. Open Society Institute, Counterpart International, and Bearing Point (formerly known as Barents Group) supported this initiative in cooperation with ICNL.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan)

Consultations Provided to Local Civil Society Organizations

ICNL is continuing to provide consultations on a regular basis to civil society actors. Geographically, ICNL Legal Consultants are limited to Almaty, Bishkek, and Ashgabat. However, within the next four months under this program ICNL will expand consultations to civil society actors to an additional four cities in Kazakhstan, six in Kyrgyzstan, and two in Turkmenistan. Issues covered by ICNL during consultations range from registration requirements and procedures, taxation, and social partnership, to licensing, labor law, and contracts.

Kazakhstan

Micro-Credit Organizations Received Necessary VAT Exemption in Kazakhstan

(for a full description see "Project Impacts" above)

Proposed Improvements to the Tax Code Discussed Among Civil Society Actors

Based on the findings and follow-up from the January 2003 ICNL conference examining the effects of the new tax code that went into effect in January 2002, ICNL finished drafting propositions on improvement of Kazakhstan tax legislation affecting NGO. ICNL has engaged a series of discussion with local tax experts and local civil society partner organizations to further refine these proposals.

Coalition of NGOs Emerges to Strengthen Legal Protections for Volunteers

The United Nations Volunteers Program, Volunteers' House of Kazakhstan and ICNL initiated a series of meetings and roundtables on laws related to the status of volunteers, on August 4th, August 27th, and September 29th, involving more than fifteen representatives from government institutions (the Ministry of Culture, Information, and Public Accord, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection), government organizations (National Center for Healthy Life Style Problems), non-governmental organizations (Volunteer House, Asian-American Partnership, Helsinki Committee, NGO "Zhalgas") and international organizations (ICNL, OSCE, VSO, and UNV) attended the meeting. ICNL prepared handout materials for these meeting, which included Poland, Lithuanian and Portuguese laws on volunteerism, as well as recommendations and analyses, prepared by ICNL staff. The main conclusion drawn from these discussions is that there is an apparent need for a solid legal base for supporting the work of volunteers, the work of organizations involving volunteers, and volunteerism development in Kazakhstan.

Participants agreed that although a new definition need not be introduced into the legislation, steps need to be taken to legally protect the health and safety of those volunteering their time under a civil contract (as distinguished from a labor contract). Mechanisms should also be introduced to allow for compensation of volunteers' direct expenses (such as transportation, special clothing, etc.). Finally, some noted that there are difficulties with obtaining visas for volunteers and in registering foreign volunteers once they reach Kazakhstan. Participants identified the following initial steps as necessary to address the issues: 1) To create interagency working body that will draft and promote necessary legal basis documentation for supporting volunteer initiatives (Prior to this it is necessary to create a working expert group, which will make recommendations on possible development of legislation on this matter); and 2) To promote International Volunteer Day (December 5) at the national level as a way of raising awareness about volunteerism in society.

NGOs Learn the Legal Basis for Philanthropic Initiatives

At a USAID/START program training implemented by ITC in cooperation with ICNL (September 11-17), NGOs learned about the laws of Kazakhstan with regard to the taxation of grants, gifts, and in-kind donations as well as the tax consequences for their business partners involved in philanthropic support of civil society initiatives. At a roundtable involving businesses on the last day of this 5-day seminar, businesses such as Philip Morris and Exxon Mobil took part expressing their desire to cooperate with communities for the public benefit. Developing the skills of local NGOs in building relationships with businesses remains an immediate priority for the development of a philanthropic culture.

Groundwork Laid for Network of Legal Advisors to begin Work in Kazakhstan

ICNL's newly hired Legal Consultant for Kazakhstan, Ms. Gulmira Kuzhukeyeva, began her duties as coordinator of the network of legal advisors to be placed with four of the existing civil society support centers in Kazakhstan. She has begun discussions, in close cooperation with Counterpart International, with the CSSCs in Kostanai, Semey, and Astana on the terms of work for the legal advisors. The CSSCs have also been asked to assist ICNL in conducting a legal needs assessment to ensure that legal resources are distributed appropriately.

Guide on Registration of Civil Society Organizations Readied

ICNL has initiated a draft "Guide on Registration of Civil Society Organizations in Kazakhstan." This handbook, when published, will contain answers to basic legal questions of registration and provide a step-by-step guide to the process. Included will be a set of sample documents such as standard charter provisions. The booklet will be published in Kazakh and Russian languages and will be distributed throughout Kazakhstan by the civil society support centers in the regions.

Kyrgyzstan

Tax Instructions Developed by Initiative Group to be Approved by the Government

(for a complete description see "Project Impacts" above)

Implementation of the Newly Adopted Tax Code

ICNL, the Chamber of Tax Consultants and Audit Consulting Ltd. have agreed to cooperate to hold a joint NGO taxation seminar. These seminars will be held for civil society organizations throughout Kyrgyzstan under USAID/START program sponsorship. The seminar will also serve to deliver sets of the instructions to the tax code to civil society actors and local government officials in the regions.

Modernization of Charity Law

ICNL partner is continuing to prepare, in cooperation with local NGOs, the draft of proposals to the Charity Law. The proposals were designed in the form of a comparative table, which includes ICNL commentary and recommendations. Preliminary discussions have been held with interested members of Parliament and the NGO community. The Charity Law once adopted will serve to strengthen the legal environment for charitable giving.

Groundwork Laid for Network of Legal Advisors to begin Work in Kyrgyzstan

ICNL's newly hired Legal Consultant for Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Nokatbek Idrisov, began his duties as coordinator of the network of legal advisors to be placed with six of the existing civil society support centers in Kyrgyzstan. In early October, ICNL will finalize terms of understanding with the civil society support centers and complete an initial legal needs assessment. At the end of September ICNL learned that the USAID ABA-CEELI program will in the near future parallel ICNL's program under the USAID civil society support program with their own yet unapproved project of local legal advisors. ICNL is working on cooperation with ABA-CEELI on this issue to maximize training strengths of both organizations. The first ICNL-backed Legal Advisors will begin work in November.

NGOs Educated on Laws Enabling Philanthropic Activity

On September 19, 2003 there was held in Bishkek the roundtable discussion on "Development of a Philanthropic Culture in Kyrgyzstan" which was organized by the USAID/START training program and implemented by International Training and Consulting (ITC), the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), and Counterpart International. The purpose of the roundtable was to discuss an existing situation in philanthropy and formulate strategies and the legal mechanisms for encouraging and further development of the philanthropy the Kyrgyz Republic.

Thirty-five (35) people including government officials, representatives of large-scale businesses, NGOs and international organizations, attended the roundtable discussion. Among the participants were the representatives of 20 NGOs, 5 local big companies, 5 international organizations, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, Expert of the Department of Social Security Policy under the Presidential Administration, Expert of the General Office of the Ministry of Justice on coordination of draft laws, Head of the Department for attracting Investments and Humanitarian Aid under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.

With the framework of this discussion there were emphasized the following points and tendencies:

- In spite of existing national traditions of philanthropy in Kyrgyzstan, current charity is immaterial. Whatever charity donations are made by corporations and individuals can be described as episodic and address-oriented. As a rule recipients are children, old pensioners, disabled. Usually donations are in the form of money or in-kind.
- While the society as a whole approves of charity deeds by businesses and individuals, the latter are not perfectly aware of the mechanisms of investing in the social sphere. As a result businesses are not motivated to conduct charity activity through NGOs capable to implement social projects. The situation is aggravated by some pseudo charity organizations, which discredit the social image of the Third Sector. This also explains the lack of trust on the part of businesses.
- Current business charity does not seem to be economically motivated. Mostly the reasons are: personal citizen position (credo), the desire to contribute to the improvement of social sphere in particular regions and the country as a whole. As practice shows the tax incentives in the form of privileges do not present any interest for businesses (since businesses have other alternative account instruments to "write off" the donations). Businesses are ready and interested to establish partnership relations with NGOs and they are prepared to cooperate on long-term charity projects.

Turkmenistan

Roundtable on "The Role of Public Associations in solving the problem of the youth employment"

On August 27, 2003 in Abat ICNL met with Akja Nurberdyeva, Chairman of the Committee on inter-Parliamentary and international relations of Mejlis. During the talk the Draft Law, which had been prepared by the Ministry of Justice and had been sent for revision was being discussed. A.Nurberdyeva pointed the necessity of creating a new Law on Public Associations. On the part of ICNL it was said about possibility of cooperation with the Mejlis in working out of a new Draft Law. Ms.Nurberdyeva promised to inform Chairman of Mejlis about it.

Draft Law on Public Associations

ICNL collaborated with OSCE and OSI in sharing its comments to the Draft Law on Public Associations. While initially the PA law was withdrawn from consideration in late July, the draft law is now back under consideration after President Niyazov called for swift changes and appointed a Minister of Justice (Adalat), the first after an absence of nearly two years. ICNL continues to consult civil society and held a seminar on Role of Public Associations on August 20-21, 2003 to discuss the draft law. In addition, in August ICNL met with a member of Parliament and discussed ways in which ICNL technical assistance could be brought to bear to improve the draft. The political situation still leaves little room for maneuver and the communications with government by civil society, especially international organizations, is restricted.

Legal Consultant Hired to Coordinate Legal Advisor Network

Starting October 1, 2003, Dr. Yolbars Kepbanov will work to forge better contacts with government through which ICNL can more effectively provide technical assistance. Dr. Kepbanov will also conduct a civil society legal needs assessment and based on this assessment will place qualified legal advisors in the civil society support centers in Dashoguz and Lebap in early December 2003.

Technical Assistance Rendered in the Registration of Public Associations

ICNL assisted the PRAGMA supported Association of Accountants in its attempt to register by reviewing its charter documentation prior to submission and suggesting alternative phrasing, language, and composition. This registration attempt will be tracked in detail and intervention provided as needed in an attempt to push the registration issue. In Turkmenistan, NGOs have been routinely denied registration by the simple refusal of the Ministry of Justice to accept applications, despite a progressive Civil Code that calls for automatic registration after a 30-day period in which the government needs to respond with either an approval or denial of registration.

Attachment A: Training Matrices

Training Matrix

Kazakhstan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	NGO & Community	2	0	22	2	20
2.	NGO & Community	2	0	21	9	12
3.	Social Partnership	1	18	20	12	8
4.	Advocacy	2	0	22	2	20
	Total	7	18	85	25	60
Kyrgyzstan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	Project Design	6	44	103	48	55
2.	PCA	1	16	21	10	11
3.	NGO & Community	1	17	20	7	13
4.	Fundraising	1	19	20	4	16
5.	Business Planning	1	7	19	2	17
6.	Advocacy	3	24	60	17	43
7.	Social Partnership	2	25	41	15	26
8.	Financial Management	1	19	21	11	10
9.	Team Building	1	13	15	7	8
10.	Strategic Planning	3	45	49	24	25
11.	Governance	1	16	18	10	8
12.	Volunteer Management	1	2	18	9	9
13.	Constituency Development	1	13	15	4	11
14.	Association Development	1	13	17	9	8
15.	Human Resource Management	1	17	21	16	5
16.	Microbusiness basis	1	1	18	4	14
17.	Financial Sustainability	2	25	34	20	14
	Total	28	316	510	217	293