



Winrock International

**PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IN KYRGYZSTAN PROJECT**

Project Evaluation Report

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Written by:

Aidai Bedelbayeva, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Edited by:

Amy Heyden, Program Officer, Winrock International

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I. INTRODUCTION

? . Evaluation purposes and objectives

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess activities of the Preventing Human Trafficking in Kyrgyzstan Project (hereinafter PHT), funded by the US Agency for International Development and implemented by Winrock International. This project focused on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and increasing cooperation with government structures to combat human trafficking. This evaluation may assist in planning future anti-trafficking initiatives in Kyrgyzstan.

The purpose of the evaluation was:

- 1) To evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of PHT achievements efforts to strengthen role of local NGOs in anti-trafficking;
- 2) To evaluate the impact of public outreach campaigns and victims assistance services conducted by project grantees;
- 3) To provide recommendations for anti-trafficking priorities taking into consideration the present needs of NGOs and government structures.

? . Methods of evaluation

The approach taken in this evaluation and the tools used were developed jointly with Regional Manager Amy Heyden and Program Manager Elmira Shishkaraeva. With active cooperation of both, the scope of work for an evaluation expert to conduct the evaluation and survey was developed.

The following issues were incorporated into the design of the evaluation:

- Effectiveness of Training of Trainers and other educational activities conducted by Winrock International for project partner organizations (exchange of experience, working meetings, roundtables with participation of government structures, etc);
- Influence of public outreach activities organized by PHT partners NGOs;
- Sustainability of victims' assistance services;
- Impact of PHT project on community development, organizational development of partner NGOs and partnership between government and civil society organizations.

The methods used in this evaluation were:

- Questionnaires completed by PHT partner NGOs and relevant government structures. NGOs were surveyed using an emailed questionnaire. Government representatives were interviewed.
- Review of project documentation (e.g. baseline assessment, reports, publications). Interviews were held with project staff and USAID representatives.
- Site visits to select PHT partner organizations: Tomo (Issykul region), Civil Society Support Center-Nookat (Osh region), Rural Children's Rights Protection (Jalalabad region), Pangea (Bishkek), New Youth Status (Bishkek), Civil Society Support Center-Jalalabad (Jalalabad region), and Crisis Center "Sezim" (Bishkek). Meetings were held with staff of partner organizations, local government representatives and beneficiaries.

C. Report contents

The evaluation report consists of three parts. The introductory part includes goals and objectives of the evaluation, project information, anticipated project results, and a summary of the present human trafficking situation in the country. The second part includes a summary of results from the questionnaires completed by all 18 PHT partner NGOs. The survey focused on determining the results achieved by these

organizations and assessed the organizational capacity of these partner NGOs in conducting anti-trafficking initiatives. Interviews with beneficiaries of PHT partner NGO activities were also held, and this section includes information from these interviews. The third and final part contains conclusions and recommendations based on information and data collected throughout this evaluation.

D. Project Overview

In September 2003 Winrock International was awarded support from USAID/CAR to implement the **Predotvrashcheniye Torgovli Lyudmi** (Preventing Human Trafficking) Project (hereafter PHT Project) in the Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan. Through the PHT Project, Winrock provided financial and technical support to Kyrgyz NGOs to empower them to conduct prevention and protection activities in local communities, focusing on rural communities and southern Kyrgyzstan.

The goal of the PHT Project is *to increase the ability of individuals and institutions in Kyrgyzstan to combat and prevent human trafficking.*

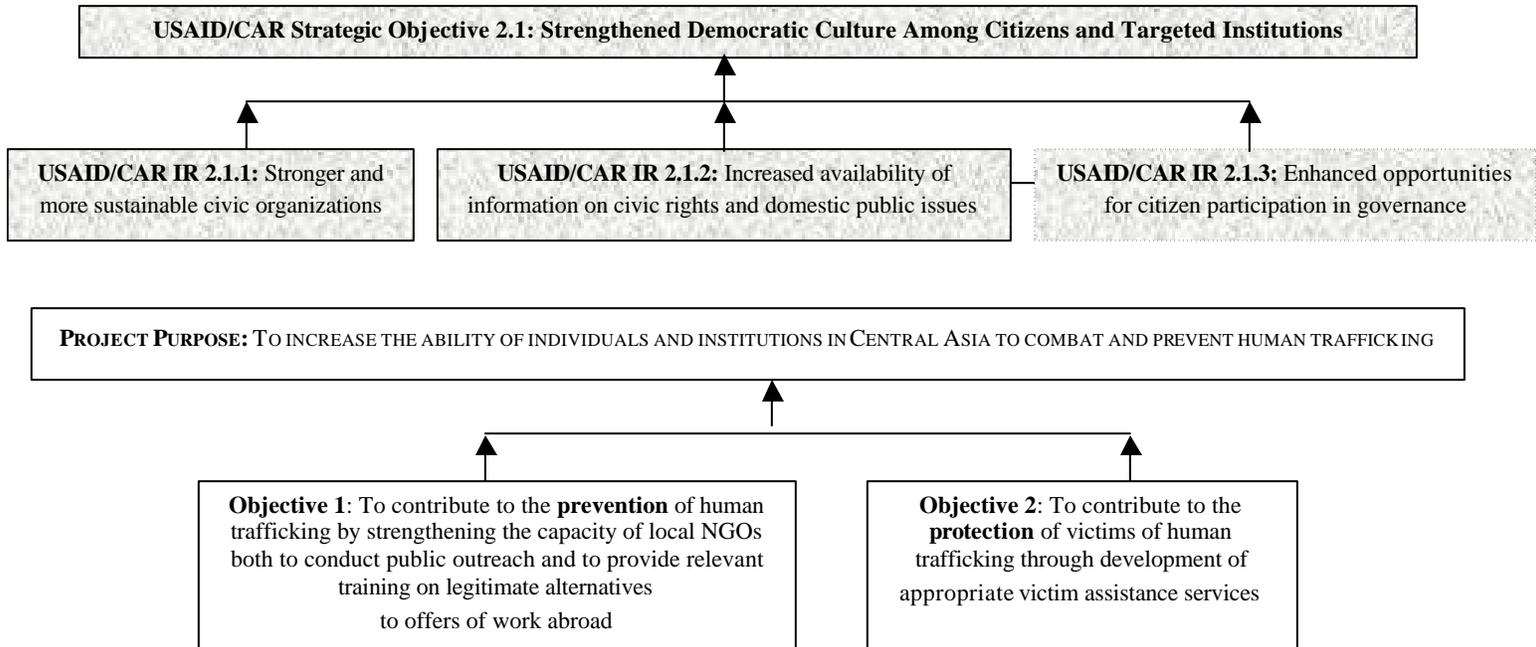
The PHT Project has the following objectives:

Objective 1: To contribute to the **prevention** of human trafficking by strengthening the capacity of local NGOs both to conduct public outreach and to provide relevant training on legitimate alternatives to offers of work abroad.

Objective 2: To contribute to the **protection** of victims of human trafficking through development of appropriate victim assistance services.

In order to achieve these objectives, the PHT Project implemented the following activities: a grants program for local NGOs; training; expert volunteer technical assistance; information dissemination; and networking. These components of Winrock's model are mutually reinforcing. Each contributes to raising awareness of trafficking as a human rights abuse affecting women, men and youth; creating national capacity to prevent trafficking as well as better serve its victims; and developing linkages between nongovernmental organizations and government agencies to ensure coordination and cooperation.

Winrock has designed its project purpose and objectives to contribute directly to the achievement of USAID/CAR's Strategic Objective 2.1, strengthening democratic culture among citizens and targeted institutions. The proposed program fits USAID's Results Framework by affecting Intermediate Results 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and 2.1.3.



E. Present situation

Kyrgyzstan is a state of origin and transit for women, men and children who are trafficked into forced labor in Kazakhstan and Russia, and into sexual exploitation in UAE, South Korea, Turkey and China. Women coming to or transiting through Kyrgyzstan are trafficked from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Internal trafficking also takes place with people being trafficked from remote rural rayons to large cities such as Bishkek and Osh. According to independent experts, the number of people trafficked annually from Kyrgyzstan is approximately 4,000, but this is believed to be a low estimate.

The Kyrgyz Government made amendments to the Criminal Code in August 2003 in order to set the terms from 3-20 years imprisonment for crimes related to human trafficking. In June 2003, a Ministry of Internal Affairs Department on Combating Human Trafficking was formed. Unfortunately the Kyrgyz Government provides limited information on prosecution and conviction rate of criminal cases, thus it is hard to assess the effectiveness of the criminal justice system response to trafficking. Nevertheless, although lacking resources the Kyrgyz Government strengthened efforts on law enforcement and continues to cooperate with NGOs and international organizations in prevention and protection efforts.

The National Council on combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic was formed and continues to operate. The National Council is responsible for coordination of the activities of state bodies in implementing the National Plan of Action to combat human trafficking. The plan has three directions. The first is prevention, which includes public outreach on the risks of smuggling and human trafficking. The second is prosecution and suppression of human trafficking, which entails enhancing legislation, supporting law enforcement bodies (e.g. police, migration, customs service, border control services) to increase effectiveness of criminal prosecutions of human trafficking cases. The third is protection and assistance to trafficking victims, including assistance with repatriation and reintegration in the community.

Unfortunately, Kyrgyzstan's progress in protecting victims remains rather limited. Wide spread corruption impedes effective victim assistance and protection. Victims describe well-organized human trafficking operations that often involve the participation of local police and government officials who are

responsible for immigration issues and security at airports. The Kyrgyz Government doesn't provide residence status or immunity from criminal prosecution to Kyrgyz victims of human trafficking. The Border Control Service states that they don't punish those Kyrgyz victims who confess to using forged documents or of illegal departure out of or entry into the country. However, the threat of prosecution of immigration and border violations keeps many victims from being witnesses in prosecution cases. Kyrgyz Embassy and Consulates abroad have been instructed to cooperate with NGOs and law enforcement bodies and to find and assist Kyrgyz citizens willing to return, yet of these government agencies have not been adequately trained on how to work with trafficking victims.

Kyrgyz authorities have regulated cooperation in combating human trafficking with Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation through bi-lateral agreements. It is worth mentioning that the number of individuals trafficked into forced labor has reduced considerably due to these bilateral agreements on labor migration with the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. Moreover, authorities are making efforts to cooperate with colleagues in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, South Korea and UAE.

For several years, the Kyrgyz Government has expressed readiness to cooperate with NGOs and donors on joint programs in preventing human trafficking. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued brochures with information for Kyrgyz citizens willing to work abroad to better inform labor migrants about their rights. The Kyrgyz Government has issued information on arrests and punishments regarding recruiters, which has been covered by state and independent mass media. The Border Control Service continues to enhance its capacity in controlling borders. In 2003 the Border Control Service created a data base to investigate cases of human trafficking and introduced a new system of entrance/exit to the country (in the beginning of 2004) for better monitoring of migration trends. Kyrgyzstan has signed the UN Convention against transnational organizational crime.

II. SUMMARY OF PROJECT RESULTS

This evaluation survey was focused on evaluating the effectiveness of projects implemented by NGOs with financing through the PHT project and to determine to what extent the PHT technical assistance and these projects strengthened the capacity of NGOs in the area of anti-trafficking. A questionnaire was developed and disseminated among all 18 PHT partner NGOs (listed alphabetically):

1. Center for Public Policy, Bishkek
2. Chinek, Chuy region
3. Civil Society Support Center-Jalalabad, Jalalabad region
4. Civil Society Support Center-Nookat, Osh region
5. Crisis Center for Women and Family "Sezim", Bishkek
6. Democratic Youth Union "Jiger", Batken region
7. Kelechek Dooru, Issykul region
8. Lady Shirin, Talas region
9. Leylek Ayalzaty, Batken region
10. New Youth Status, Bishkek
11. Omur Bulagy, Batken region
12. Pangea, Bishkek
13. Rural Children's Rights Protection, Jalalabad region
14. Tendesh, Naryn region
15. Tomo, Issykul region
16. Women's Initiative Center Ayalzat, Osh region
17. Women's Initiative Center Ayalzat, Talas region
18. Women's Support Center, Bishkek

It is worth mentioning that all PHT grantees had prior to receiving grants through this project had worked on various community development and socio-economic issues and had good reputations in their local communities. The organizational mission or purpose was very similar across all the PHT grantees, focusing on protection of basic rights, freedoms and legal interests of citizens, and provision of support services for particular target groups. The majority of PHT-supported organizations work with vulnerable population groups – teenagers, children from poor families, commercial sex workers, and those considered at-risk for trafficking – rural women, the unemployed, youth, minority groups and labor migrants. These organizations conduct their activities predominantly in the regions where they have an office. In terms of staff to conduct their activities, the PHT grantees have from 6 to 70 workers (including staff and volunteers). Among their staff, the organizations mentioned having their own lawyers, social workers, psychologists, economists and trainers on staff, which contributes to their ability to effectively serve their target audience.

Center for Public Policy, Bishkek

The purpose of the project CPP implemented was to create a sustainable system of public outreach and education about the rights of Kyrgyz labor migrants, and to develop legislation amendments regulating labor migration. CPP partners with the Center for Human Rights and Democracy, Osh city; the NGO Republic Center for Elders, Women Lawyers' League of Tajikistan, and the Migration Service Department under the Ministry of International Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. The project results included:

- provided legal information for potential labor migrants prior to migration and at border crossing for migrants leaving Kyrgyzstan;
- developed informational materials to address problems faced by labor migrants as well as create a favorable public understanding of labor migration in Kyrgyzstan;
- assisted in improving legal norms regulating labor migration in Kyrgyzstan;
- developed packet of proposals on amendments, changes and addendum in existing legislation regulating labor migration;
- developed and held educational activities for labor migrants on preventing human trafficking.

Members of CPP's consortium, which included various NGOs and volunteers, were involved in carrying out the planned activities, particularly the informational and educational activities designed to increase public awareness. Partners were involved in implementing legal consultations for labor migrants on issues related to legislation in NIS countries that effects labor migrants, and the process of registering employment and residence in destination countries.

During the first stage, CPP also organized an internship program in Kyrgyzstan for young lawyers from Tajikistan recommended by OSI-Tajikistan. In the second stage of the project, training was held which focused on forming a group of trainers who are able to work in local communities to prevent human trafficking. The training emphasized a methodology and mechanisms which allow trainers to effectively deliver the information necessary for potential labor migrants in local communities. Representatives of government structures, mass media and NGOs working on outreach to labor migrants were present to the training as well. Additionally, a series of roundtables were held on the themes "Increasing effectiveness of law enforcement practice in the area of labor migration to prevent human trafficking" and "Multi-sectoral cooperation to prevent human trafficking in labor migration" with participation of representatives of government, NGOs, mass media and international organizations. Participants defined the principal issues that cause human trafficking and worked out a plan of action on preventing human trafficking, indicating resources, responsibilities for realization of the plan and terms of implementation.

The most significant achievement of the project was the contacts made with and between local organizations working on educating and protecting labor migrants, the mass media and government agencies particularly the Migration Service Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CPP as an

organization is well known in the country and has a good reputation as a progressive and sustainable organization. The scope of its activity is quite broad and it works in all the regions of the country. CPP has good material technical base and great capacity in terms of human and financial resources. Thus, involving such partners into project implementation brought positive results and raised the effectiveness of the program. According to CPP's manager, their anti-trafficking efforts will continue in the future.

Chinek, Issykata rayon Chuy region

Chinek received a PHT grant to hold a large-scale educational awareness campaign on human trafficking among residents of Chuy region. Two phases of the project were implemented, the second being a continuation of the first and the result of requests that were received from representatives of schools in Issykata rayon. Partner organizations included regional and rayon state administrations, and the Issykata rayon Social Protection Department. Project results included:

- 26 seminars were held in 8 rayons of Chuy region for 650 participants;
- 27 seminars were held for 700 high school students and school administrators of Chuy region;
- 2 public hearings on human trafficking were held for representatives of public and state structures;
- more than 1,000 consultations were provided by Chinek staff.

Owing to efforts by PHT Program Manager Elmira Shishkaraeva and US volunteer Anais Troadec, Chinek managed to build a constructive cooperative relationship with the National Council on Combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons. On behalf of the National Council, letters of support were disseminated to all levels of government agencies request that these agencies provide assistance to Chinek in holding and organizing seminars. At the local level, close interactions with the Head of Rayon Administration Alkanova G.A., principals of rayon schools, heads of local government, and social provided assistance in forming participant groups and provided space for seminars.

When holding seminars, Chinek trainers found very useful the knowledge and skills that were gained at the TOTs provided by Winrock. Program of trainings on preventing human trafficking that were conducted by Chinek were based on Ukrainian expertise and was adapted to take into consideration the needs and composition of groups Chinek trained. For adults a one-day seminar was developed, and for school students a 4-hour seminar was created. After the first phase of the project, Chinek had many requests from educational institutions to hold similar seminars. Based on these requests, the second phase of the project for school students of Issykata rayon was funded by Winrock.

Project activities were insufficiently covered in mass media, only two articles were published in newspaper "Znamya Pobedy". Unfortunately it wasn't possible for Chinek to establish permanent contacts with the mass media although Chinek's manager is considered a non-permanent reporter for the "Znamya Pobedy" newspaper. Owing to the assistance of US volunteer Anais Troadec, a booklet describing the organization was developed, which was disseminated (1000 copies) during project activities. It is worth mentioning the US volunteer made considerable contributions toward the organizational development of Chinek, helping them focus on their mission and strengths.

The development of the organization is directly related to the realization of the project on preventing human trafficking. Chinek staff gained considerable knowledge and experience in conducting trainings on the issue, acquired interactive methods and skills for training, working with adults as well as with teenagers. In spite of a lack of technology at some training locations, trainings were very professional and the trainers were prepared to work with different audiences including teachers and school students. Contacts with representatives of state structures were established and experience working with international volunteers was gained. The reputation and authority of Chinek has been raised as a result of this project. Chinek is known as a resource for reliable information on human trafficking. The organization has such great potential and is currently seeking additional sources of funding to continue its

human trafficking prevention work, but unfortunately without financial support Chinek can't hold large-scale activities at this time.

Civil Society Support Center – Jalalabad, Jalalabad region

The CSSC-Jalalabad project aimed to reduce risks faced by labor migrants and raise the effectiveness of their legal employment abroad through public outreach on the issue of human trafficking in the Jalalabad region.

The project results included:

- creation of a network of consultants (13 people) from the staff at 13 State Employment Centers in cities and rayons of the region;
- signing cooperation agreements for the project “We are against human trafficking” were signed with partners (regional employment department, regional Migration Service Department, Jalalabad City Department of Internal Affairs, City association of employment cooperation, Theater named after Barpy, Jalalabad TV Radio Company, and newspapers “Akiykat”, “Dil”, “Ferghana”);
- 1,364 people were provided consultations on various issues, 124 of recipients were interested to leaving the country and working abroad;
- 2 plays “Fate – Return of Mankurt” were staged by the theatre Barpy, the first play was staged on December 24, 2004, the second on January 5, 2005. A total of 400 people attended the productions;
- 14 youth campaigns with active participation of volunteers from Volunteer Center “Altius” were held. Significant assistance in holding campaigns was provided by the Regional Youth Committee. Local youth committees organized space for the activities and gathered youth to participate.
- Two-day seminar for officials of Employment Centers from 13 rayons was held;
- Hotline on legal work abroad and assistance to trafficking victims was launched in Jalalabad city at the office of CSSC. Since its opening, 18 consultations were provided;
- 4,500 informational booklets were disseminated during a six month period for unemployed and those citizens who are migrating to other states for work;
- Jalalabad population was informed about the human trafficking issue via the mass media: 9 articles were published in regional newspapers “Dil”, “Akiykat”, “Ferghana”(20 thousand readers); social reel on human trafficking issue was broadcast on Jalalabad regional TV channel (1 million viewers); news on youth campaigns was aired on radio “Svoboda”; program “About you and me” was prepared and aired.

The objectives of the project were achieved. All planned informational and consultative activities were provided. NGO “CSSC-Jalalabad” started its activity in 1996 and at present has rich expertise in provision of social services to vulnerable layers of the population and has a good reputation. Working on this project, CSSC-Jalalabad became one of the leading NGOs working on human trafficking prevention. Providing reliable information and qualified consultations, CSSC-Jalalabad had a level of authority with its beneficiaries. Number of services provided has increased over the course of the project, and so too has the number of CSSC clients, which demonstrates that this service is in high demand in the region. The status of the organization was strengthened due to cooperation with government agencies, law enforcement bodies and the mass media.

Elmira Mavlanova, manager of the organization, mentioned that the most effective project activities were informational components of the public outreach campaign – holding “Open Door Day” (after which 20 people found legal work in South Korea and Kazakhstan), social public service announcement broadcast, seminars held, provision of consultations, dissemination of booklets and staging of theatrical performances. As a result of the outreach campaign, large target groups of Jalalabad region were reached. During these activities, project staff members have received much expertise in working with the mass media: preparing articles, TV programs, public service announcements. Journalists are still cooperating with CSSC-Jalalabad on the issue of human trafficking and other urgent topics.

In the framework of the project, close cooperation between civil society organizations and many government structures was established. Thirteen representatives of the State Employment Centers were trained to provide consultations for the local community. Consultations were also provided by passport visa service offices in the region, Association of Employment, Committee on Youth, Regional Education Department, NGO “Young lawyers of Kyrgyzstan”, “Young citizens’ development”, “Altius”, “Youth group”, NDI Informational center, and Crisis Center “Kaniet”. Three families were provided assistance in starting investigations into the trafficking of their relatives by the Criminal Investigation Department. Contacts with Crisis Center “Kaniet” were formalized for rehabilitation assistance to trafficking victims, where victims needing psychological assistance were referred.

The organizational capacity of CSSC-Jalalabad increase as a result of this project and the technical assistance provided through the TOTs organized by Winrock. Two CSSC-Jalalabad trainers who attended the Winrock TOTs have since become permanent staff members of CSSC-Jalalabad and continue to work on prevention of human trafficking. According to the project manager, CSSC-Jalalabad has gained invaluable expertise in conducting informational campaigns, establishing and furthering cooperation with government as well as other structures in assisting migrants to find legal employment abroad. In the future, this experience will be enhanced:

- To assist labor migrants to legally be employed abroad;
- To conduct trainings in other remote rayons by prepared trainers (Nookan, Toktogul);
- To promote cooperation in opening new state programs on employment abroad;
- To improve cooperation with state structures, law enforcement bodies;
- To provide advanced training of CSSC staff to work on the hotline.

CSSC-Jalalabad has a good technical base and prepared qualified human resources to continue working on prevention of human trafficking and assistance to labor migrants.

Civil Society Support Center – Nookat, Nookat rayon, Osh region

The CSSC-Nookat project was focused on wide public outreach on labor migrants’ rights in an effort to prevent human trafficking. Activities included educational events, informational campaigns in the mass media, and establishing a Trust Center within the CSSC-Nookat organization for labor migrants. CSSC-Nookat partnered with the rayon state administration, NGO “Jamaattar kuchu” and the newspaper “Suhbatdosh”.

Project results included:

- a needs assessment in 4 village administrations of Aravan rayon was conducted, a total of 224 individuals were surveyed;
- based on the assessment results, informational seminars on rights and responsibilities of labor migrants were held in 4 villages of Aravan rayon for 75 participants;
- a roundtable with 20 participants from Heads of local government, law enforcement bodies, business structures and local NGOs were held in Aravan;
- a roundtable with the lawyer of CSSC-Nookat was held in Nookat for 19 potential labor migrants;
- an information hotline was launched for citizens of Nookat and Aravan rayons;
- a site-visit to Uralsk (Kazakstan), and Omsk, Novosibirsk (Russia) was held and agreements were signed with local organizations for legal employment of Kyrgyz citizens. In the first six months of 2005 based on these agreements 82 Kyrgyz citizens were able to be employed legally in Russia and Kazakhstan;
- In Omsk, together with the NGO “Chemobyl”, a crisis center for trafficking victims was opened, the work of which will be supported by labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan.

CSSC-Nookat staff stated that before the project started they had never the issue of human trafficking in the region, since they didn’t have sufficient knowledge and experience in solving the issue of human

trafficking and didn't know how to work with trafficking victims. Due to participation in trainings organized by Winrock, CSSC-Nookat began to understand the urgency of the issue and its possible consequences in the future for the region and the country as a whole. Participating at these TOTs, CSSC-Nookat staff gained knowledge, skills and methods to work with trafficking victims, and effective methods for conducting seminars on human trafficking prevention. In their turn, the two trainers that attended the Winrock TOTs have now trained 8 more trainers that continue to work with CSSC-Nookat. Moreover, based on the expertise of Ukrainian colleagues, CSSC-Nookat developed a module for a one-day seminar, translated into Kyrgyz and Uzbek. During their project, CSSC-Nookat trainers conducted 21 trainings in Nookat and Aravan rayons.

One more positive factor that contributed to the success of the CSSC-Nookat PHT project was the fact that CSSC-Nookat is an established microcredit agency that gives loans. In the framework of the project, a total of 35 people were trained to write business plans who then later received loans to open own business from the microcredit arm of CSSC-Nookat.

In order to ensure adequate and appropriate coverage of the project in the mass media, CSSC-Nookat established contacts with local and regional mass media, including permanent contact with two journalists for further coverage of the issue. For more effective project implementation, close cooperation with the village administration of two rayons was established due to necessity of their assistance in organizing activities in the villages. Representative of Youth Committee under the rayon state administration, Gulmira Ormosheva, described in her meeting with the PHT project evaluator how her committee had actively participated in all the activities held by CSSC-Nookat and continues to provide practical assistance when holding seminars and roundtables. The city administration of Nookat together with CSSC-Nookat is ready to open a center where labor migrants can easily access information and consultations. Additionally, as a result of legal consultations and the participation of rayon court representatives in CSSC-Nookat sponsored awareness trainings, two cases of labor exploitation and fraud were presented to the rayon court with a verdict returned in favor of the victims and the reimbursement for material and physical damages (as stated by Senior Secretary of Aziz Jarmatov).

During the needs assessment, contact with local organizations "Palmira", "Mukaddas", "Nookat tayanychy" and "Podruga" was established so that now they work together on rehabilitation of trafficking victims. The most significant success of the project was legal employment of 82 citizens by agreement in Russia and Kazakhstan, which was the result of agreements on creating legal workplaces signed between CSSC-Nookat and NGO "Chernobyl" in Omsk and "Initiatives support center" in Uralsk. In the future such examples may serve as additional profit resource for the organization.

Realization of all activities allowed CSSC-Nookat to significantly increase their capacity as an organization and to strengthen their status in the region. Members of the organization have good authority as a high qualified specialists on the issue. Practically all participants of the meeting with the PHT project evaluator stated that they refer citizens for consultation to CSSC-Nookat.

Crisis Center for Women and Family "Sezim", Bishkek

Through the PHT-support project, "Sezim" provided concrete assistance to trafficking victims at their rehabilitation center-shelter in Bishkek, including the provision of temporary shelter, socio-psychological services, work therapy and assistance in acquiring new professional skills. Sezim also focused on development a referral system for trafficking victims. The project results included:

- 28 trafficking and domestic violence victims were provided socio-psychological services at the rehabilitation center;
- 15 victims were provided medical services;
- 15 victims were provided training in acquiring professional skills;

- and a referral system to other service providers (such as medical services, employment) was established.

Sezim's project differed from other projects financed by Winrock since a significant portion of the grant funds were used to purchase equipment and computers for the work therapy at the rehabilitation center. In this regard, all victims that needed to stay for a longer term at the shelter while undergoing reintegration and rehabilitation services were also able to gain additional vocational skills and broaden their employment opportunities after leaving the shelter.

Sezim has rich experience in providing assistance to victims of violence, prior to the past two years working with Winrock. The PHT grant to Sezim only enhanced the provision of qualified assistance to victims of trafficking. Sezim works with many donor organizations and receives financial funds from various resources (Winrock, IOM, New Zealand Embassy, US Embassy Democracy Commission), which positively reflects the financial sustainability of the organization.

Since Sezim was one of a handful of organizations with such rich experience and knowledge in provision of assistance to trafficking and violence victims, Sezim effectively partners with the National Security Service, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Border control services, National Council on combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons. These partnerships are quite active and fruitful in solving common purposes and objectives. Moreover, by implementing the project supported by Winrock, Sezim was able to participate in all activities organized in the framework of the project (trainings, seminars, roundtables), and as a result has established contacts with NGOs throughout the country working on the same issue. The work of Sezim received acknowledgment and positive evaluations, and as a result the City Administration of Bishkek under assistance of the State Committee on women, family and gender development and the National Council on combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons provided Sezim with a free building for their rehabilitation shelter. Sezim also operated a hotline which during the period of their PHT project, the psychologist and lawyers who work on the hotline provided 434 consultations.

The PHT project implemented by Sezim assisted the organization in enriching its present experience and knowledge, broadening the work of the Crisis Center. Key factors for the successful implementation of the project was the previous experience of Sezim in providing assistance to trafficking victims; regularizing contacts with medical institutions, law enforcement bodies, and educational institutions; and the high professionalism of the staff of Sezim as well as experience to attract resources from various sources. The opportunity to provide vocational train and work therapy strengthened the institutional development of the organization and in the future Sezim has a solid base for becoming self-financing.

In the words of project manager Natalya Pavlova, since the mission of the organization is to assist victims of various types of violence, the organization will continue to work with trafficking victims in cooperation with state structures, NGOs and international organizations. Future plans include the possible launch of a National Hotline based on models from Ukraine and Moldova.

Democratic Youth Union “Jiger”, Leylek rayon, Batken region

In Batken, the project implemented by the NGO Jiger aimed to reduce the flow of labor migration by creating workplaces in the local economy. Jiger partnered with the State Employment Center, Youth Department under Leylek rayon state administration, rayon newspaper “Ata-Jurt”, and the NGO “Insan-Leylek”. The project results included:

- a series of meetings with unemployed youth, representatives of local government, social protection services, representatives of government structures, businesses and NGOs was held to develop a dialog on the issue of unemployment and labor migration;
- a social survey was conducted to determine the level of external migration;

- a presentation of the project was held (50 people);
- a 2-day training was held on “Advocacy” and “Lobbying”;
- a series of “Vacancy fairs” were organized;
- a Federal Council on unemployed youth was formed;
- a roundtable with participation of representatives of government structures, NGOs, and youth was organized to discuss the issue and learn how social partnerships could be used to decrease out migration of youth;
- seminars on “Preventing violence in the family” and “Creating social partnerships” were held;
- articles on the issue of youth unemployment were published.

A distinctive feature of this project was that it was oriented toward youth and correspondingly was implemented by a youth organization. Jiger is an organization that is well recognized among youth of Batken region since it has been actively working to involve youth of the region in efforts to resolve issues like youth unemployment, illegal migration, and human trafficking. Through this project, Jiger staff held many activities that were organized in close cooperation with state structures, local government bodies, and unemployed youth as well as with the NGO “Leylek Ayalzaty” (also a PHT grantee in Batken). Four trainers were trained as part of the project, and these trainers conduct training for Jiger and for Leylek Ayalzaty. Jiger staff gained skills in working with the mass media, with migrants and trafficking victims, as well as skill for organizing information campaigns and trainings. As a result of this project, Jiger gained a reputation as an informational center, where youth can seek assistance and information on various issues. The most important achievement of the project was the employment of 139 people through the “Vacancy Fairs”. Cooperation with regional and local government was fruitful, as these agencies demonstrated interest and initiative in assisting with the implementation of this human trafficking prevention project. After the project ended, the city administration of Isfana, village administrations of Leylek rayon and city hall of Sulukta promised to assist in further financial support of the project to continue these efforts in Batken.

Jiger was able to draw significant public attention to the issue of unemployed youth, which are potential trafficking victims. The organization also reached very remote parts of the region where lack of access to information makes the conditions of unemployment and the risks of trafficking worse. While implementing the project, Jiger obviously couldn’t eliminate the problem of human trafficking in the region but due to its activities many more young people became aware of the issue and possible threat, thus reducing the number of potential young victims from Batken region.

Kelechek Dooru, Ton rayon, Issykul region

The focus of Kelechek Dooru’s project was slightly different than the other PHT grant projects. The purpose of the Kelechek Dooru project was to raise awareness among the rural public about the issue of ‘bride kidnapping’ and human trafficking, and develop open discussion among citizens to combat bride kidnapping. Kelechek Dooru partnered with NGOs “Kut Bilim”, “Jylgyndy”, and “Kudaymende Booruker”. The project results included:

- 21 public meetings were held in 9 villages with 514 rural citizens participating;
- 27 one-day trainings were held for 417 rural citizens from 9 villages of the rayon;
- 35 consultations were provided to female victims of bride kidnapping;
- leaflets on bride kidnapping were developed and disseminated.

Kelechek Dooru held its first events on bride kidnapping in Issykul region where bride kidnapping is a common practice and that is why their activities attracted the attention of citizens in the region. Activists from a variety of NGOs from all rayons of the region, government bodies, and citizens were involved in implementing the project. Throughout the project, as a result of public meetings, groups of older women were formed and discussions were held in these groups on themes such as preventing violence towards brides and rebirth of national traditions that amplify gender inequality and violate women’s rights.

Seminars for representatives of NGOs from 4 rayons in Issykul region were held, and then these organizations disseminated information on bride kidnapping in their rayons. As a result of this collaborative approach, the project covered a wide range of villages. Also, Kelechek Dooru put up information stand in public places around the rayon. These stands contained information about bride kidnapping, thus increasing the general public's access to information on this issue.

The principal project purpose of drawing the attention of rural citizens (men and women) to the issue of bride kidnapping and working to change public attitude toward the practice was achieved. The project was implemented not only with technical support from Winrock but also Kelechek Dooru also had support from the US Embassy Democracy Commission. This contributed to increasing the effectiveness of the project as Kelechek Dooru could cover more rayons of the region. Gaining knowledge and experience in seminars organized by Winrock, and having established contacts with state structures and other partners, Kelechek Dooru has a solid foundation for continuing this work, and is shifting their attention to working with high school students since kidnapping of high school girls for brides has been increasing in the region. With their technical expertise and trained human resources, Kelechek Dooru has good opportunities to continue their efforts to prevent bride kidnapping and human trafficking in the region.

Lady Shirin, Karabura rayon, Talas region

The project implemented by Lady Shirin was focused on conducting a public outreach campaign on human trafficking and providing legal consultations to those at risk. Lady Shirin partnered with rayon government and the rayon state administration. The project results included:

- 14 seminars were held for youth age 16 to 35 (total of 418 people);
- a total of 2,345 booklets and press releases with information on human trafficking were issued;
- informational campaigns on "Bride kidnapping" were held in 12 schools of Manas and Karabura rayons in the framework of "16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence";
- a rayon coordination council was formed by representatives of NGOs and local government.

Three Lady Shirin trainers participated in the TOTs held by Winrock, and the Lady Shirin lawyer attended training provided by Peace Corps. To increase effectiveness of the Lady Shirin sponsored seminars, Lady Shirin approached the Head of the Rayon Administration and heads of village governments asking them to support the project. Because of this initiative by Lady Shirin, these government agencies not only supported Lady Shirin's activities but they also participated in seminars, provided space for seminars and assistance in gathering groups of people to attend the seminars. Law enforcement bodies in the region also provided consultative support to Lady Shirin. At every seminar a policeman was present who was available to provide legal consultations to people attending the seminar. In order for information to be available for a wide range of citizens, informational stands in rayon state administration offices were created and contained information on human trafficking. Lady Shirin was able to establish cooperation with local mass media to cover project activities in the media. Additionally, Lady Shirin established a cooperative relationship with the Rayon Employment Centers. Information on the services of the Employment Centers was provided on at the Lady Shirin seminars, including information on employment opportunities, benefits, and types of consultations available). By collaborating with Lady Shirin, the staff of Employment Centers had the opportunity to identify individuals who were not registered as unemployed and take the necessary steps to find them employment.

As a result of the project, Lady Shirin was able to achieve constructive cooperation with state structures that increased the effectiveness and results of the activities planned in the framework of the project. The significance of the project was that it targeted beneficiaries who are principal trafficking victims – students and youth. Lady Shirin tried to reach many young people of the region with its activities, thus decrease the number of young illegal labor migrants. As Talas is a border region with Kazakhstan, the number of labor migrants is higher compared to other regions. Lady Shirin gained valuable experience

and knowledge on human trafficking prevention, which helped the organization participate in other grant competitions of donor organizations and as a result IOM awarded a grant to Lady Shirin for a public outreach project for high school students in Manas and Karabura rayons.

Leylek Ayalzaty, Isfana city, Batken region

Leylek Ayalzaty's project aimed to reduce the risk of individuals from Batken being trapped in labor servitude by providing legal information and consultations on labor migration. The organization implemented a project with two phases, and partnered with the Business incubator "Ilek ilek" and the Leylek rayon kenesh. The project results included:

- 11 seminars for 275 people;
- 2 roundtables were held to determine the problems and develop a strategy involving stakeholders in the project on preventing human trafficking;
- a total of 103 consultations on legal issues were provided to potential labor migrants;
- 8 copies of bulletins were developed and nearly 3,500 copies in Kyrgyz and Russian were disseminated;
- 200 informational booklets in Kyrgyz and Russian were distributed;
- 2 TV programs were broadcast and 4 radio programs were aired on local TV and radio.

The implementation activities like these in remote rayons of Batken region is important since traffickers take advantage of people's ignorance and lack of access to information. The risk of trafficking is intensified by the remoteness of the region, the high level of poverty and high unemployment. People are not aware of the risk of becoming a trafficking victim. Lack of information, hard economic situation and social issues as well as high level of unemployment give recruiters opportunities to act openly, spreading announcements recruiting people in the local mass media and markets. Leylek Ayalzaty's project focused on Isfana city during the first stage and then expanded to neighboring villages of Leylek rayon in the second phase.

Staff of Leylek Ayalzaty understood that it is impossible to decrease the flow of people leaving the country if the organization acted alone, so from the beginning Leylek Ayalzaty developed mechanisms to cooperate with regional government structures, local government and other NGOs. As a result, Leylek Ayalzaty established cooperation with the Migration Services of Osh and Batken, passport-visa services in the region, the Department of Internal Affairs, Migration Service of Isfana city, several NGOs ("Insan-Leylek" Batken region, "Golden Goal" Osh region, "Jiger" in Batken and "CSSC-Nookat" Osh region), local village governments and local radio "Tatybubu". Leylek Ayalzaty participated in the development of a strategy for Isfana city to provide assistance to victims, address issues of unemployment, supporting individuals to open their own businesses, and implement activities on eliminating legal illiteracy among citizens of the region.

Owing to the human trafficking prevention project, Leylek Ayalzaty gained rich experience in holding seminars, organizing large campaigns, providing consultations, and developing informational bulletins. Leylek Ayalzaty has a reputation in the region as a solid, reliable, knowledgeable organization. The successes of their project were establishing contacts with government structures and NGOs; increasing the number of volunteers in the organization; cooperating with regional mass media and receiving support from the citizens of the region. All this contributed to strengthening the capacity of the organization which now allows it to implement projects in the sector of advocacy for labor migrants, which is supported by Counterpart International. Leylek Ayalzaty now has the funds to support and rehabilitate trafficking victims and ex-labor migrants with favorable loans for the development of own their businesses. According to Leylek Ayalzaty, their PHT project significantly changed the situation in Batken region in terms of smuggling of people to other countries by raising awareness among the populace and by decreasing the ease with which recruiters could recruit laborers for illegal, cheap work abroad because people are now more aware of their rights and have access to reliable information.

New Youth Status, Bishkek city

In the framework of the project implemented by New Youth Status, a musical play was written that explained the human trafficking issue. This play was performed for high school students in Bishkek and Chuy regions. New Youth Status partnered with the City Center for Creative School Children “Kyrgyzstan baldary” and the Children’s Musical Theater “Taberik”. The project results included:

- the preparation of play script by the musical theater “Taberik” entitled “In search of heaven”;
- a total of 18,000 spectators attended performances in Bishkek, Chuy and Issykul regions;
- an announcement about and coverage of the play on local TV and other mass media;
- brochures with information on the play were developed and disseminated to audience members.

The play was a non-traditional but very effective form of public outreach to raise awareness among high school students about the issue of human trafficking. Using this entertaining approach, students are better able to understand the information and remember it. As a result of the performances of this play, over 15,000 high school students learned about human trafficking thus reducing their risks of being trafficking and possibly also decreasing the number of students who will seek work abroad.

TV programs about the play were shot and aired on KTR Channel (program “Zamana”, children TV program, “Ala Too news”) and channel “Pyramida”. Additionally, throughout the course of developing and practicing the play as well as during the performances, New Youth Status worked with the newspapers “Slovo Kyrgyzstana” and “Vecherniy Bishkek” to print articles about the play and the topic of human trafficking. Cooperation with journalists from these mass media outlets is continuing. With additional support from Winrock and the assistance of the National Council on combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons under the Prime Minister, New Youth Status was able to also perform the play in the Issykul region. New Youth Status engaged the support of the Ministry of Education, Departments of Education in Bishkek, Chuy and Issykul, Ministry of Justice, City hall in Bishkek, rayon administrations, city administrations, and 40 schools in Bishkek, which made project implementation considerably easier and increased efficiency.

New Youth Status strengthened their organizational development as a result of this project. The project managers received training at various trainings and seminars organized by Winrock, which raised their level of knowledge and practical skills considerably and contributed to the successfully implementation of the project. New Youth Status was also able to prepare new project proposals to UNICEF and the Eurasia Foundation for funds to perform the play in other regions of the country. Financial support of Winrock helped to strengthen the technical base of the organization. New Youth Status is also considering performing the play on for paying audiences, which will bring in additional financial resources and help to strengthen the financial sustainability of the organization. The success of the play is obvious and is why New Youth Status is seeking funding to bring the play to southern regions of the country.

Omur Bulagy, Batken region

The purpose of the Omur Bulagy project was to hold an information campaign to increase legal literacy and awareness among rural youth in order to prevent human trafficking. The methods used for this project were educational seminars and cooperation with the mass media. Omur Bulagy partnered with the Association of Crisis Centers to implement this project. The project results included:

- a hotline was established and during the project a total of 314 consultations were provided;
- 45 seminars for 1,219 people were held in Batken;
- 16 radio programs were aired on radio station “Salam”;
- a roundtable was organized on “Batken TV” on the theme “Bride kidnapping is not a tradition, it is a crime!” and 6 programs on trafficking “We are against trafficking” were aired;
- 16 Days campaign against gender violence was held with the themes “Healthy life- healthy nation!”, and “Bride kidnapping is not a tradition, it is a crime!”;

- a total of 2,800 booklets of “Bride kidnapping is not a tradition, it is a crime!” were disseminated.

This project is one of three funded by Winrock in the Batken region in an effort to prevent human trafficking in Batken as it is one of the more remote regions of the country and there is corresponding lack of access to information. The Omur Bulagy project was similar to activities implemented by Leylek Ayalzaty but Omur Bulagy focused more on regional activities and work with victims of trafficking. Omur Bulagy operates the crisis center “Janyl Myrza” which provides assistance to trafficking victims in reintegration and rehabilitation. Currently, the Crisis Center has 10 volunteers who help to provide assistance to trafficking victims. Additionally, Omur Bulagy has actively worked with students of Batken University by assisting them in participating in social development of the region. An initiative youth group sponsored by Omur Bulagy prepared a project on preventing bride kidnapping which was approved and financed by Winrock. This project was implemented in partnership with the Crisis Center “Janyl Myrza”.

As part of their project and with financial support from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Omur Bulagy established a business incubator where women who received training on starting their own business and effective employment could practice what they had learned. Other collaboration with government agencies, such as the Regional State Administration, rayon state administration, and Department on Family and Children, was established and resulted in these agencies assisting with the organizations of awareness raising seminars. Based partly on Omur Bulagy’s implementation of this anti-trafficking program and their experience with the Crisis Center “Janyl Myrza”, the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan provided support to Omur Bulagy to create a Safe House for human trafficking and domestic violence victims. Women staying at the safe house will be able to receive psychological and legal consultations from consultants at the Crisis Center.

The organization successfully carried out the objectives of this project – holding an informational campaign among rural youth; establishing constructive cooperation with state structures and encouraging them to be involved in the project; enhancing the work of the crisis center. As a result of their efforts, Omur Bulagy is well known in the region. Citizens regularly apply to Omur Bulagy for assistance, many calls come in to the hotline, their educational events are well attended – which demonstrate the respect people have for the organization, particularly in rural areas.

Pangea, Bishkek

Pangea’s project was unique in that it aimed to prevent human trafficking by raising public awareness and to do this Pangea worked specifically with the mass media. The project results included:

- a total of 17 television programs aired, including 29 programs on “Mezgil unu” (in different genres: talk-show, news block, interview, live airing) and 12 special reports. According to Kyrgyz Telecommunications the total audience reached via these programs was between 800,000 and 2 million, including citizens of border rayons of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. After TV programs 43 consultations at the Pangea office were provided.
- 4 roundtables (in Jalalabad, Batken, Issykul regions and Bishkek) were held with participation of 98 people.

The principal individuals and organizations that participated in the television programs were:

- Public servants, representatives of law enforcement bodies, government, regional state administration and regional law enforcement bodies;
- Deputies of Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Expert consultants– Aitmatova R.?, Borombaeva T.J., Shishkaraeva E., Hamzaeva ?., including international experts Anais Barbara Troadec and Russel Kleinbach;
- Religious leaders;

- Representatives of civil society: NGOs (activities of NGOs working in the framework of the Winrock International PHT project were covered in the programs, particularly Kelechek Dooru, Omur Bulagy, Chinek, Women's Support Center, CSSC-Nookat, and New youth status) and mass media;
- Youth and students;
- General public: rural as well as urban;
- Trafficking victims and their relatives.

The main themes covered in the programs were the situation of human trafficking in the country, reasons for and consequences of human trafficking, facts about human trafficking, activities of law enforcement bodies, government, legislature, international organizations, and civil society on preventing human trafficking, attitude of youth and students toward human trafficking and bride kidnapping, and responses, suggestions and recommendations from experts and viewers.

Pangea staff members participated in the training of trainer seminars organized by Winrock, acquiring new knowledge, skills and methods to combat and prevent human trafficking. Methods for implementing the project were particularly beneficial. Pangea was also able to raise the professionalism of its staff by participating in a regional anti-trafficking conference with support from Winrock. While implementing this project, Pangea gained valuable experience working with the mass media, permanent contacts were established with different media outlets as well as with a number of journalists, several of which actively volunteer with Pangea. The new knowledge and skills acquired by Pangea raised its capacity and furthered the creation of good quality TV programs on the issue of human trafficking that engaged participants from a variety of sectors.

According to the manager of Pangea, Saltanat Barakanova, the organization will continue working on the issue of human trafficking prevention, using its capacity and seeking additional financial support. Right now they do not have sufficient financial support, and the activities Pangea is currently implementing are done one at a time depending on funding. Pangea is also continuing its efforts to gather information for a research project on human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan. The main achievement of the Pangea project funded by Winrock was increasing public awareness of many people who now understand the depth of the issue and risks related to seeking employment abroad. Pangea isn't a membership organization but in the process of implementing this project Pangea expanded its staff of employees and volunteers (5 journalists, a lawyer and an assistant). Pangea's plans for future anti-trafficking activities include creating a series of radio programs, training journalists to effectively cover the human trafficking issue in the media and conducting journalistic investigations, and establishing contacts with representatives of general consulates in the countries where Kyrgyz labor migrants are working in order to provide assistance to trafficking victims.

Since its founding, Pangea has worked as an informational resource center for many regional NGOs, and based on these efforts Pangea together with this informal network of rural NGOs took the initiative to create the Association of Rural NGOs "Anais" in August 2005. One focus of this association will be on the issue of human trafficking and its impact on rural communities.

Rural Children's Rights Protection, Bazarkorgon rayon, Jalalabad region

RCRP's project focused on holding informational activities on human trafficking in schools, with law enforcement officials and with the general public. RCRP partnered with Jalalabad South Regional Migration Service Department, Jalalabad regional state administration, Bazarkorgon rayon state administration, and regional state television and radio company. The project results included:

- 32 trainers from 16 village governments of Bazarkorgon and Nookan rayons were trained during a 5 day seminar on preventing human trafficking;

- 32 trainers held seminars for adults and youth in 16 village governments of Bazarkorgon and Nooken rayons for 4,000 people;
- a consultative center with trust phone line was launched;
- individual consultations were provided to 255 people;
- a total of 28 seminars were held for 1,332 people;
- a human trafficking prevention seminar was held for 75 girls who participated in the summer camp “Kyzdar mamleketi” for students of Osh, Jalalabad and Batken regions;
- 226 informational bulletins were disseminated, 2 TV programs were broadcast and an article was published in the local newspaper “Akiyat”.

Using knowledge gained at the Winrock sponsored trainings and materials developed based on Ukrainian experience, a RCRP trainer conducted a training of trainers seminar using these techniques and methods on preventing human trafficking to train 32 people (including representatives of government structures), who in their turn shared their knowledge among rural youth of Nooken and Bazarkorgon rayons. Citizens in the two target regions supported the activity of RCRP and in the process of preparing the seminars in each village several volunteers were present who assisted to identifying potential trafficking victims. Moreover, considerable support was provided by government structures in village governments, Regional Migration Service, Head of rayon administrations, Rayon Educational Department, and the women’s and men’s committees. Additionally, RCRP was able to receive humanitarian assistance provided by Counterpart International, which RCRP delivered to those who needed it in Nooken and Bazarkorgon.

RCRP encountered difficulties in implementing the project, specifically they lacked an internet connection and e-mail. According to the organization manager Kunduz Ukubaeva in the preliminary budget expenses for transportation were insufficiently calculated and this created certain troubles in holding seminars in remote rayons. RCRP’s project was extended with additional financial support from Winrock so that RCRP could extend its activities to remote rayons of Bazarkorgon and Nooken.

The capacity of RCRP was considerably increased due to 32 members who now are permanent trainers and continue the activities started with this project. Fruitful cooperation has been established with government structures and other NGOs of Jalalabad region. RCRP is actively working with local mass media, covering issues of labor migration and human trafficking. RCRP is ready to hold campaigns in remote villages of the region in the future if they can identify sources of financial assistance from donor organizations. Additionally, based on results of a roundtable RCRP is planning to create a Crisis Center for mothers and children finance and the local government budget provide funding.

Tendesh, Naryn region

In their project, Tendesh provided protection and rehabilitation services to trafficking victims, held trainings for cooperating agencies on combating human trafficking; and through an information campaign provided information on ways to combat human trafficking. Tendesh partnered with the Department on Internal Affairs in Naryn region, Regional Bar Association, AIDS center, and the Civil Society Support Center in Naryn region. The project results included:

- 5 trainings, 56 public seminars, 24 informational meetings and 5 roundtables;
- 24 trafficking victims received rehabilitation services;
- 187 consultations on the telephone hotline were provided;
- 12 bulletins were developed and nearly 6,000 copies were disseminated;
- 6 television programs were developed and aired on TV “Shankhai” and Regional TVR Company;
- 5 radio programs on radio “Tenir Too”, “Almaz”, Regional radio company, and radio station “Azattyk”;
- 8 articles in the newspapers “Tenir Too” and “Aki Press” were published;
- 5,000 informational materials, posters, bulletins, brochures were developed and disseminated;
- a network on combating human trafficking was created in Naryn region;

- charity campaign for the best picture and essay was held among high school students as a means of involving youth in the project;
- informational campaign 16 Days against gender violence “Prevent bride kidnapping” was held in Naryn region.

Naryn region is one of the most remote rayons in Kyrgyzstan where information comes slowly and infrequently. One of the results of this information shortage is that often citizens are not aware of their rights. Tendesh is the only organization in Naryn region that received financial support from Winrock to implement a project on prevention of human trafficking.

Three trainers from Tendesh participated in the TOTs held by Winrock. This helped Tendesh build a team that could conduct the many trainings and seminars, informational meetings and roundtables, and provide consultations to clients. Regularly working at the crisis consultation center where a lawyer and psychologist who were available to provide assistance to trafficking and domestic violence victims. As Tendesh disseminated 6,000 copies of their newsletter bulletin and 5,000 copies of other informational materials, they saw a corresponding increase in the number of beneficiaries seeking assistance from the organization. It was also important that Tendesh involve young people in the project’s trafficking prevention efforts, so Tendesh conducted a charity campaign for the best picture and essay among high school students on the topic of human trafficking. A major achievement of this project was that Tendesh advocated for the creation of a network to combat human trafficking in the region. In all five rayon centers, groups are formed that consisted of representatives from the Prosecutor’s Office, mass media, women’s and youth committees, Internal Affairs Department, militia, courts, elders courts, and schools. These individuals and organization will be actively involved in addressing the issue of human trafficking in the Naryn rayons. Tendesh conducted trainings for members of these groups to educate them about human trafficking and to prepare them to take action in their rayons. Local administrations provided space for these trainings free of charge. All activities on the project were regularly covered in the local mass media.

With the aim to develop and expand the work of the anti-trafficking network, Tendesh prepared and submitted a proposal to Counterpart International which was supported. Now Tendesh is working on a project to strengthen the institutional development of the network. As a result of their work on the Winrock-funded project “No to human trafficking!”, Tendesh gained experience and skills that have helped them develop capacity as an organization and have allowed them to expand their efforts.

Tomo, Aksuu rayon, Issykul region

The project Tomo implemented in Issykul focused on raising public awareness in villages and providing timely, accurate information on human trafficking. The project results included:

- 24 one-day-trainings (503 people) on preventing human trafficking were held in Kyrgyz and Russian languages in 16 villages and at 8 schools of Aksuu rayon;
- organized a “Questions Club” in Shapak village where 48 citizens received consultations;
- 2,150 informational booklets were disseminated among citizens of Aksuu rayon;
- 150 booklets on bride kidnapping were distributed during the 16 Days campaign against gender violence.

It is worth mentioning that before this project Tomo concentrated its work in only three villages of Aksuu rayon. During the course of this project, Tomo expanded its work to include the whole rayon. To carry out this work, four staff members from Tomo participated in the TOT seminars held by Winrock, gaining the necessary skills and tools to conduct outreach and trainings in Aksuu rayon. Three out of the four trained staff became permanent trainers in the framework of the project on preventing human trafficking. Close interaction with rayon administration (Head of Rayon, Chairman of Committee on Youth Affairs, Chief Specialists), local government (Head, social workers), school administrators and students was

established as part of the project. Contact with local newspapers “Issykul tur”, “Issykol kabarlary” and “Vesti Issykulya” was important for ensuring coverage of the project and its activities in the local media. Informational articles on human trafficking were published in these newspapers reaching 4,800 citizens of the rayon raising their awareness about the risks of human trafficking.

An important project result of the project for Tomo was the creation of a consultation center together with the rayon Internal Affairs Department. The department provided the space as well as staff to provide consultations on issues of migration and human trafficking. Tomo provides a psychologist who is also available for consultations. Informational materials prepared by Tomo are available at this consultation point. Additionally, informational stands with posters and leaflets were organized in 16 villages and 10 schools. At these stands, citizens and students can find information on human trafficking, smuggling and labor migration, safety measures, governmental and NGO contact information, and rules for traveling to the Russian Federation.

By implementing the project, Tomo raised its organizational authority in the rayon and strengthened the capacity of its staff and organization. Tomo gained invaluable experience in holding seminars, informational campaigns, consultations, cooperation with state structures and the mass media. This combined helped them to implement three more projects beside the one funded through the PHT project. These other projects also focused on addressing social issues in the rayon.

Women’s Initiative Center Ayalzat, Osh region

The Women’s Initiative Center in Osh provided assistance to trafficking victims and organized public campaigns on preventing human trafficking in rayons of Osh region. WIC Ayalzat partnered with the NGO “Center of teenagers” and the South Regional Department of Migration Service under Ministry of International Affairs. The project results included:

- a series of seminars on human trafficking for high school and college students in Osh region;
- a telephone hotline was organized;
- a regional roundtable with representatives of state structures was held;
- a conference for staff of Crisis Centers in Batken, Jalalabad, and Osh was held;

WIC Ayalzat has eight year experience working with socially vulnerable layers of the population in the Osh region. As there are many organizations working in Osh city and the general public is aware of the issue of human trafficking, WIC Ayalzat decided to focus their activities on more remote rayons of Osh region – Karakulja, Uzgen, Nookat, Karasuu and Aravan. Within WIC Ayalzat, the Crisis Center “Aruulan” operates, providing psychological, medical, and legal assistance to trafficking victims. Telephone hotline consultations are provided 24-hours a day.

WIC Ayalzat established close cooperation with Parliament Deputy Toktokan Borombayeva, who worked to find a space for the crisis center. This partnership along with cooperation with the regional administration resulted in WIC Ayalzat being allocated free office space. The State Committee on family and women of Osh region together with the Regional Administration provides micro-loans for poor women, and WIC Ayalzat provides training for those women. The fact that women who have participated in training can then receive loans and start own businesses contributed to the success of the WIC Ayalzat project as these once unemployed and at-risk women no longer were seeking work abroad.

WIC Ayalzat worked with several media outlets in Osh, including “Osh TV”, “Osh-3000”, “Keremet”, “Mezon-TV”, and “Osh-janyrygy”. These media outlets regularly covered the WIC Ayalzat project activities. Seminars and trainings were held for adults as well as for school children. The WIC Ayalzat trainers used the knowledge and skills gained at the trainings held by Winrock. Most important for the local population was that all activities carried out by WIC Ayalzat were in Kyrgyz. The work of WIC Ayalzat was enhanced by the assistance of an expert volunteer provided by Winrock. Julie Heitfeiz

participated in various activities and work of the center. The positive experience from this project serves as an example for WIC Ayalzat when developing and enhancing their anti-trafficking efforts in the future. The major lesson learned was that increasing economic opportunities and employment is crucial for reducing the number of potential trafficking victims.

Women's Initiative Center Ayalzat, Talas region

In Talas, the Women's Initiative Center Ayalzat conducted a project that involved a large-scale information campaign aimed at youth in the region. WIC Ayalzat partnered with the Regional Department of education and culture to implement this project. The project results included:

- 14 trainings for high school students from 103 schools were held in Talas region (10,000 people);
- 309 local trainers were prepared from high school students;
- a hotline was launched;
- 500 posters in Kyrgyz and 7,000 booklets with information on trafficking were developed and disseminated.

The beneficiaries of this project were high school students (9-11 grades) and it was very important that the accent was placed on this age category as many students after graduation join the army of unemployed labor migrants or become potential trafficking victims. Talas is a region that borders Kazakhstan which makes it easy for recruiters to recruit migrants and transport them across the border. WIC Ayalzat held broad informational campaigns in all rayons of Talas region. In the framework of the project, WIC Ayalzat trainers prepared more than 300 local peer trainers from high school students who in the future will share information among their classmates and hold campaigns during the school year.

WIC Ayalzat has a good reputation and serious capacity to implement projects on preventing human trafficking. WIC Ayalzat trainers trained at TOTs held by Winrock were invited as trainers on preventing human trafficking for projects implemented by IOM, Center on Human Rights, and NDI. In the second phase of the project, the information hotline was funded. This hotline serves as an additional resource for providing services to trafficking victims and the population as a whole. Many state officials from regional and rayon administrations (Governor, Deputy Chief of Security and Social Department of Regional State Administration, Rayon Heads and Deputy Heads), different levels of Education Departments, Deputy Chief of Regional Internal Affairs Department, and the Head of Regional Department of Social Protection were involved in the implementation of this project. All project activities were covered in the regional newspaper "Talas turmushu". Through this project, WIC Ayalzat was able to attract attention of the population in Talas to the issue of human trafficking.

Women's Support Center, Bishkek

The Women's Support Center project was designed to assist in increasing public awareness about human trafficking through the development of a "Textbook for Trainers on Preventing Human Trafficking in Kyrgyzstan". This training manual was published in two languages (Kyrgyz and Russian) and disseminated among specialists – representatives of NGOs, select government agencies and social service providers, educational institutions, and law enforcement bodies. The project results included:

- a textbook for trainers on preventing human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan was developed for students, trainers and teachers. Total of 1000 copies.
- presentation and dissemination of the textbook.

The initiative for publishing the textbook was supported by Winrock. This is the first training publication in Kyrgyzstan on preventing human trafficking. The textbook was prepared based on results of many trainings and discussions with NGOs and state structures. The purpose of creating the textbook was to provide information on how to conduct trainings on this topic and to broaden the educational outreach done by NGOs and government structures. The textbook developed by the Women's Support Center is one more information resource on the issue, which raises the knowledge and work capacity of NGOs and

the general public on human trafficking. The development and publishing of the textbook was a unique experience for the Women's Support Center, and having this experience will allow the organization to explore developing and publishing other educational materials on similar topics.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

The Winrock International Project "Preventing Human Trafficking in Kyrgyzstan" (PHT) started its activity in September 2003 with a baseline assessment of the capacity and needs of local NGOs, the attitude of local government bodies to the issue, and an assessment of victims needs. This process led to the design of the grants program for the 18 PHT grantees and allowed the program to be tailored to the identified needs within the nascent anti-trafficking movement in Kyrgyzstan. To conclude the project, Winrock is again taking the opportunity to assess lessons learned and determine future strategies for anti-trafficking efforts in Kyrgyzstan. Overall, the project contributed to:

- raising awareness about human trafficking and illegal labor migration;
- increasing the knowledge and skills of participants to make better informed decisions;
- strengthening cooperation between NGOs and government agencies to combat human trafficking;
- sharing expertise among participating organizations;
- fostering new ideas and strategies on combating human trafficking involving NGOs, government agencies and the mass media;
- enhancing the quality of reintegration and rehabilitation services for human trafficking victims;
- increasing the overall national capacity to prevent human trafficking; and
- garnering considerable political support to increase efforts to combat human trafficking.

A key element of this project was the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders – from rural to urban, rayon to national, and civil society to government. Throughout the project Winrock encouraged the involvement of representatives from various organizations and sectors:

- government agencies – National Council on combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, local government, regional administrations, rayon administrations, State Employment Centers, Migration Service, universities and schools, etc;
- NGOs from a broad spectrum of sector, not just women's organizations;
- Donor organizations – Soros-Foundation-Kyrgyzstan, Peace Corps USA, IOM, Internews, AED/START, Save the Children UK, OSCE, US Embassy Democracy Commission, etc;
- Mass media – national and local

This project achieved its goals – public awareness was increased, local organizations acquired new knowledge and skills to provide ant-trafficking programming, crisis centers enhanced the quality of services provided to trafficking victims. The PHT project created conditions that allowed organizations to share knowledge and experience on the issue of human trafficking; involved experts and partners from donor organizations; fostered cooperation between government agencies, NGOs and the mass media; and led to considerable support from government agencies, partners and the general public in achieving positive results.

General Conclusions :

- Although this project did achieve its goal and objectives, the issue of human trafficking continues to require attention from government agencies as well as from NGOs, the mass media and donor organizations as the problem remains critically important;

- The project goal of increasing the ability of individuals and institutions in Kyrgyzstan to combat and prevent human trafficking is still important, and forms a basis for the direction of the National Action Plan on measures to combat smuggling of and trafficking in persons in Kyrgyzstan;
- The activities of Winrock's implementing partners in the framework of the PHT project strengthened both civil society groups and government institutions;
- Government structures do not have sufficient information to evaluate the real situation of human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan or assess the influence of activities that have been implemented or future activities;
- Government structures are still weak and lacks trust among the general public, yet gaining trust and respectability is crucial in order to combat human trafficking;
- The 18 PHT grant recipients made direct and grassroots contributions toward eliminating human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan and this experience should serve as a foundation for future anti-trafficking efforts;
- Since the issue of human trafficking is quite urgent, all of the PHT grantees attracted considerable interest from the mass media at the national, regional and local levels. This cooperation is continuing and will have a lasting impact on ensuring that information reaches those who need it;
- Elimination of human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan will require broad economic and social reforms along with combating corruption that hinders progress in this and other areas. Moreover, close cooperation of all governmental and non-governmental structures and social layers is necessary to solve the problem of human trafficking.

B. Recommendations

For International Organizations :

- Create a mechanism for coordinating projects and programs on preventing human trafficking and rehabilitation of victims.
- Continue and strengthen components that build the capacity of local organizations and individuals working on preventing human trafficking.
- Provide resources to support the activities of local NGOs that have been trained and involved in the process of implementing the PHT project.
- Consider the key role of the mass media in providing reliable information to the public, and consider the possibility of supporting the mass media in anti-trafficking campaigns.
- Continue and strengthen efforts to foster interaction and cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, the mass media and donor organizations.
- Contribute to the creation and strengthening of a partnership network among local NGOs working on preventing human trafficking.

For Non-governmental Organizations

- Strengthen the technical capacity of NGO personnel working on human trafficking prevention.

- Broaden anti-trafficking activities that focused on cooperation between government agencies, NGOs and international organizations.
- Hold trainings and other informational/educational activities with participation of other civil society organizations, government officials at that national and regional level, and the mass media.
- Continue improving protection and rehabilitation services to trafficking victims.
- Create sustainable public outreach strategies that inform and education the general public and get reliable information to remote regions of Kyrgyzstan.
- Expand anti-trafficking activities by connecting Kyrgyz NGOs and counterparts in Central Asian states as well as other destination countries.
- Strengthen informational activities by supporting a network or partnership for cooperation among anti-trafficking projects.
- Conduct research on human trafficking situation in Kyrgyzstan.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy on program development focused on solving the issue of human trafficking.

For Government Agencies

- Make amendments to the National Action Plan on measures to combat smuggling of and trafficking in persons in Kyrgyzstan, regulating migration and employment as these are determinants of human trafficking.
- Use the capacity and resources of NGOs in combating the human trafficking issue.
- Support activities of NGOs working on rehabilitation of trafficking victims.
- Create a national 'hotline' with trained consultants and a referral network linking government agencies and NGOs involved in preventing human trafficking.
- Expand the membership of the National Council on combating smuggling of and trafficking in persons to include representatives of NGOs.
- Organize public hearings or meetings to gather civil society input on strategies to prevent human trafficking.
- Implement activities focused on increasing employment and business activity in all regions of Kyrgyzstan to decrease the pool of potential trafficking victims.