

---

**THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM**

**NGO SUPPORT INITIATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA**

---

**QUARTERLY REPORT**

**October 1 – December 31, 1998**

**Submitted to USAID/Almaty**

**COUNTERPART International, Inc.**

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

**100 Shevchenko St.  
Almaty, Kazakhstan  
Tel: 7-3272-625-009  
Fax: 7-3272-608-606**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
II. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL	2
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	2
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	2
C. CONSTITUENCY BUILDING COMPONENT	14
D. KAZAKHSTAN ACTIVITIES	18
E. KYRGYZSTAN ACTIVITIES	27
F. TAJIKISTAN ACTIVITIES	36
G. TURKMENISTAN ACTIVITIES	43
H. UZBEKISTAN ACTIVITIES	49
I. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS	53
J. LESSONS LEARNED	54
K. PROJECT CHANGES	56
L. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	57
M. LEVERAGING	60
III. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: AID TO ARTISANS	61
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	61
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	61
C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS	63
D. LESSONS LEARNED	66
E. PROJECT CHANGES	66
F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	66
G. LEVERAGING	66
IV. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: CITIZENS NETWORK FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS See final report in Attachment 2	
V. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW	67
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	67
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	67
C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS	69
D. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS	74
E. LESSONS LEARNED	75
F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	76
G. LEVERAGING	78

**ATTACHMENTS  
TABS FOR QUARTERLY REPORT**

1. AID TO ARTISANS ATTACHMENTS
2. CITIZENS NETWORK FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FINAL REPORT
3. HEADQUARTERS ATTACHMENTS
4. REGIONAL GRANT UPDATE

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*

PIPELINE ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW IN A SEPARATE SUBMISSION

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **Counterpart Publicized USAID-funded Successes Among Domestic Constituencies**

Counterpart continues to act on its commitment to publicize success stories with results-oriented public outreach efforts. Following are two successful initiatives undertaken by Counterpart International to increase visibility for USAID-funded democracy programs in the United States:

- *A briefing by Counterpart Consortium Constituency Building Division's Regional Director.* Sue Benedetti discussed with representatives of corporations, foundations, and multi-lateral agencies the creative campaigns being implemented in Central Asia to promote the visibility of third sector activities. She highlighted press campaigns and events showcasing Chevron and Texaco's involvement in USAID-funded activities in the region.
- *An article on Counterpart International's USAID-Funded Social Partnership initiatives.* As a featured Guest Columnist, Arlene P. Lear, Vice President for Programs, described successful approaches, lessons learned and impact highlights from Counterpart programs in Central Asia and WESTNIS in a recent edition of *Monday Developments*, the bi-weekly InterAction newsletter. See attachment 3 for article.

### **Partnership Grants Deliver Impacts, Increased Visibility and Leveraged Funding in CAR and US**

This past quarter, three US partners, funded through Counterpart Consortium partnership grants, traveled to Central Asia to participate in joint programs with their partners. They represent diverse sectors and experiences, but all mobilized strong impacts, increased visibility in the US and CAR and continue to contribute tangible domestic support for USAID-funded programs. Field-based highlights and impacts are included throughout this report. Following are US-based impact highlights documented within weeks of the partners return to the US:

- *The National Parent Network on Disabilities* (partner of the KRIDI Parent Network in Uzbekistan) publicized their work in their weekly fax newsletter, which is distributed to over 15,000 government officials, corporate leaders and community activists across the US. They are already actively preparing follow-up activities for the partnership by securing pro-bono advocacy training from a high level congressional staffer and mobilizing in-kind in collaboration Counterpart's Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP).
- *The League of Women Voters of Colorado* (partner of two NGOs in Almaty, Kazakhstan) publicized their voter services training for Central Asian women's NGOs through lead articles in State newspapers and slide show presentations to a number of civic associations. League leadership has already helped their partners develop a number of proposals for funding to continue the partnerships and is working to expand the relationship regionally.
- *Elwyn, Inc.* of Pennsylvania (partnered with SATR Center in Almaty, Kazakhstan) worked closely with their partner and Counterpart's Constituency Building Division to generate press coverage by hosting a press conference in Kazakhstan at the conclusion of their joint activity. In preparation of a follow-up visit to Kazakhstan, Elwyn has secured pro bono video footage to be used in US publicity and in follow-up media coverage in CAR upon completion of the event.

### **Counterpart International Plays Lead Role in USAID/ENI Lessons in Transition Initiative**

Marking 10 years of USAID-funded democracy building programs across the former Communist Block, USAID/ENI is conducting a comprehensive review of NGO development programs in CEE/NIS toward development of lessons learned and a strategic plan for the next millennium. In addition to playing a lead role in a series of planning meetings, Joel Levin, Director of NGO Programs, is leading a USAID-PVO delegation traveling from February 1-17, 1999 to the two Central Asian countries chosen for inclusion – Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

## II. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

### A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart project component is:

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

### B. PROJECT IMPACTS

#### KAZAKHSTAN

##### **Path-breaking Step Towards Reform of Kazakhstan NGO Laws**

With a \$20,000 partnership grant from Counterpart, the Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK), ICNL and UNDP, held a conference entitled "Cooperation Between NGOs and Government; the Development of Civil Society and the Legislative Base for NGOs" this October in Astana. The conference gave local NGOs a unique chance to voice their opinion on NGO legislation and raise issues concerning a need to start effective multi-sided cooperation between NGOs and government bodies in a collaborative setting involving a number of top governmental officials. The result was a series of written resolutions supported by both NGOs and government. They include a resolution to develop NGO legislation for consideration by Parliament within the year.

##### **Pavlodar Government Officials Request Training and Assistance**

As a result of on-going contact between government officials and NGOs facilitated by Counterpart staff, the governor of Pavlodar region requested specially tailored training for a cadre of regional governmental officials spanning 12 different departments and agencies. The training focused on Public Education Through Mass Media and including practical information about the role of NGOs in civil society and approaches to collaboration. This opportunity to break down stereotypes explore collaborative approaches builds on the success of the recent Social Partnership Conference held in September 1998. Pavlodar is a Counterpart target city.

##### **Womens NGOs Form Coalition to Strengthen Fundraising Efforts**

An informal group of women's NGOs, including two counterpart target groups and grantees, requested Counterpart assistance in developing a fundraising strategy to generate support for an event to be held with a Swedish partner. Counterpart organized a specially tailored training, which resulted in a fundraising strategy and the formation of a coalition of women's groups.

##### **Partnership Spurs Women to Advocate Changes in Party Platforms for National Elections**

The League of Women Voters of Colorado and two Almaty NGOs - the Feminist League and Center for Democracy Education "Leader" - partnered to adapt the League model for political involvement to the Kazakhstan context. With new skills developed through a Counterpart partnership grant, a group of leading Almaty women's NGOs held a press conference for local and international media to present recommendations for the political platforms of candidates running in upcoming January 1999 presidential elections. Their demands included issues of women's legal rights and the status of women in Kazakhstan. In particular, they proposed a series of laws needed to protect women's rights and asked for affirmative action measures, such as a 30 percent quota for women in the legislative and executive branches of national and local governments.

### **NGO Helps Retirees Use Kazakhstani Legal System to Secure Mandated Pensions**

Pension and salary payment delays are common in Kazakhstan, where the social safety net is strained by economic problems. Up to 18,000 lawsuits have been brought by Kazakhstani pensioners, who often times have no other source of income, against local social service agencies and local governments delinquent in providing services for which they are responsible. Only two such cases have been won to date. Both cases were brought by Counterpart grantee *Pokolenie*, located in the northern city of Stepnogorsk. Counterpart has supported this group with a grant of \$4,525, technical assistance and training.

### **Social Contracting of Government Services to NGOs Increases**

Government contracting with NGOs for provision of services – social contracting – is one model for positive collaboration between government and NGOs identified at the recent Counterpart Consortium Regional Social Partnership Conference held in September 1998. Following are three new examples of NGOs that are now providing services to government. All three are Counterpart grantees and active participants in a range of Counterpart Consortium NGO support programs.

- The Diabetes Society of Taras is implementing several successful programs to deliver services and advocate for the rights of their members. Due to the public recognition their success gained, the local Department of Health Care has awarded a contract to the NGO to distribute foreign donated humanitarian aid specifically to diabetics. Humanitarian aid distribution program will be done in cooperation with government Endocrinology Center in Taraz city and Dzambul oblast during 1999.
- The Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI) has recently reached an agreement with the Ministry of Social Protection to conduct a series seminars and public discussions on pensioners reform, to be held throughout Kazakhstan to educate pensioners and major employers about on-going pension reform. CCI has also been awarded a contract by the Ministry of Information and Public Accord (MIPA) to conduct a series of seminars on conflict resolution in several areas rural areas across the country.
- The Kiwanis Club of Taraz has won a government tender to train local family doctors in management and business administration. The competition for this tender included a local university and other respected local organizations. Articles in local newspapers about the training credited the Club's participatory methodology, learned through Counterpart Consortium, as a reason for their success.

## **KYRGYZSTAN**

### **NGO Pioneers Integrated Education for Disabled Children in Central Asia**

Among a range of hurdles facing the disabled in Central is their complete isolation in the education system. NGO Baiastan works to provide support for disabled children in Naryn Oblast. They are Counterpart grantees and active participants in Consortium training and other programs of both the Bishkek and Naryn Support Centers. The NGO has developed strong collaborative relationships with government through roundtables and public education and has been very successful in leveraging this increased awareness into funding for their programs. They now work with four schools to provide integrated education for disabled children. An NGO in Uzbekistan has already begun to replicate this successful model.

### **Local Government Contributes to NGO Success in Private Sector Fundraising**

The successful youth job skills program offered by NGO Edinstvo in Kara-Balta could not expand without additional computers to use in training young people in marketable computer skills. Based on consultation from Counterpart Consortium's NGO Support Center in Kara-Balta, the NGO approached both government and the private sector to gain their help in supporting local youth. The local mayor lent his support to a direct mail fundraising campaign to leading businesses in the area. As a result, two new computers have been donated by two businesses in the area.

### **NGO Advocacy Efforts Save Lives in Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan**

Severe power shortages result in frequent complete black-outs in this town of 100,000 people. Even hospitals and other health care facilities are left without power, resulting in the death of several patients. At the request of its members, NGO Justice, a citizen advocacy organization, mounted a campaign to inform the public about the consequences of these black-outs and to lobby for a solution. As a result, local government acted quickly by changing policy to ensure that critical care facilities were not included in black-outs.

### **NGO and Government Collaborate to Provide Micro-Credit to Women-owned Businesses**

Access to credit is a major barrier to the creation of small businesses, especially among women in rural areas. The NGO Rural Women works to support rural farmers in a remote part of Issyk-Kul Oblast. They have been active participants in Counterpart Consortium programs for four years and collaborate with other NGOs to provide training to more than 20 women in small business development. As a result of their contributions to community development in their region, the State Fund for Small Business Support has signed an agreement to formalize collaboration with the NGO. The agreement included the provision of \$6,000 in credit to support two women-owned businesses – a dry cleaner and public bath. NGO Rural Women will provide support and monitoring services to ensure that the loans are repayed.

### **NGO-Corporate Partnership Develops Marketable Skills and Creates Jobs for Women**

The Women's Congress, a Counterpart Consortium trainee, strives to address the disproportionate rate of unemployment among women in the Kyrgyz Republic. With support from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Committee and financial contributions from a local joint venture company, a group of women will train in carpet-making and business skills in Western Turkey. The company has also donated carpet looms to support the formation of women-owned weaving cooperatives to generate even more employment and income for women when the training program is completed.

### **NGO Brings New Resources To Government Children's Hospital**

The Children Sanitarium in Bazar Korgon treats between 30 to 100 orphans and severely ill children every day. Most of these children are unable to attend local schools, but the Sanitarium offered no educational services. The Society for the Protection of Rural Children's Rights, a registered non-governmental organization, which supports the sanitarium, used skills gained through Counterpart training and worked with the Jalalabad NGO Support Center to create a two-room activity center with a newly-renovated library and playroom. The NGO obtained funding and in-kind support from a number of foundation and individual supporters.

### **Refugee Integration through NGO Job Skills Training and Community Outreach Programs**

There are about Approximately 3,600 refugees and migrants from Tajikistan are among the most vulnerable groups in Jayl and Panfilov Rayons. Only 10% of those capable of working are gainfully employed. Most lack Russian and Kyrgyz language skills, education, training and work experience, making them noncompetitive in the local job market. The local public employment center cannot help them because they are not citizens. With a Counterpart Consortium support grant, the Job Seekers Club has providing job skills training, language lessons and life skills counseling for 60 refugees. Two local refugee NGOs collaborated as liaisons with the refugee community. Almost 60% of the refugee trainees have gotten jobs as a result of the NGO program.

### **NGOs in Far Flung Villages Demonstrate Impact of Community Action**

Shamaldy-Sai village is located far from other towns in Jalalabad Oblast. It does not have access to current information on a regular basis. The Jalalabad NGO Support Center has provided support for a fledgling group of community leaders in their efforts to address some of the needs of their community through grassroots action. With consultation from Counterpart, the community development committee has already been able to repair the village school, rent a community outreach office, improve the school library, provide computer access for the first time and implement a food for work program. Donors include Peace Corps, Mercy Corps and the Soros Foundation. – all leveraged with training from Counterpart Consortium.

### **NGO Uses Fundraising Strategy to Implement Annual Workplan**

The NGO Sanitas, a Counterpart grantee and active participant in a range of Counterpart NGO support activities, develops an annual workplan and implements their activities according to a strategic planning process. When they requested consultation from Counterpart about a gap between their plans and annual budget, they participated in a Counterpart Fundraising training workshop. As a result of the new skills they learned in that training, the Board Members recognized their fundraising responsibilities and successfully raised funds to implement an planned annual event that provided holiday meals and entertainment for 60 people. Sanitas demonstrates dramatically strengthened organizational skills as a result of Counterpart Consortium support activities.

### **Local Government Praises NGO Efforts to Improve Rural Village Drinking Water**

With a Counterpart Partnership grant, NGO Ata-Jurt and the Canadian International Water Committee helped four village communities improve their drinking water. All of the villages participated in participatory assessments and some managed to raise funds to from government sources. One was able to prevent an outbreak of typhoid that affected all neighboring villages. As a result of the dramatic results of these projects, local government is very supportive of continued NGO activities in the region.

## **TAJIKISTAN**

### **NGO Proposal Writing Skill Garner International Award and Leveraged Funding**

The leader of the Tajik NGO Fidokor, Dilbar Khaliliva, was awarded top honors and a \$5,000 grant at the Conference "Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees," on December 16, 1998 in Istanbul, to which she was invited at the recommendation of Counterpart. 31 representatives from NIS NGOs and several international organizations with projects related to conflict resolution and peace building process were in attendance. As an additional result of the improved skill of this NGO, two similar groups in Azerbaijan and Georgia have expressed interest in formalizing collaborative efforts in the future. Fidokor is a Counterpart target NGO, grantee and active participant in a range of support services offered by Counterpart Consortium.

### **Khojand NGOs Lead Post-Conflict Humanitarian Assistance and Peace Building Efforts**

In the wake of recent civil unrest in the formerly peaceful Northern region of Khojand in November, Counterpart facilitated a roundtable for local NGOs to develop an action plan in response. The initiative group, which calls itself the NGO Club, has issued a challenge to all NGOs and businesses for charitable action. They have involved those most affected by recent events in the planning process and have organized fundraising drives to muster resources for their activities. They have collected donations and have organized a celebration for more than 130 children and their families. This initial response demonstrates the power of NGO coalitions and serves as a challenge to other community stakeholders. The efforts have garnered favorable publicity and the NGO club will continue their lead role in post-conflict efforts.

### **NGOs Broaden Citizen Participation in Election Process**

NGO *Orzu* invited the now-legal political parties in Tajikistan to attend a series of forums where women community leaders will present and discuss critical issues affecting women and children in Tajikistan. *Orzu*, a Counterpart target NGO and grantee, participated in a training workshop focusing on the League of Women Voters model for citizen involvement in the election process. The League of Women Voters came to Central Asia through a Counterpart Partnership grant to a local NGO. As a result of that training, they initiated this dialogue with political parties and hope to engage them in future activities to further increase citizen involvement – especially women – in the political process in Tajikistan.

### **NGO Leads Multi-Lateral Grassroots Support for Street Children and Their Families**

The number of street children in Dushanbe has increased dramatically since the outbreak of civil war in 1992. Since 1996, the NGO Refugee Children and Vulnerable Citizens (RCVC) operates The Children's Center, that attracts and assists the children and their families through a program of health services, improved nutrition and hygiene, remedial education and vocational training. RCVC, a Counterpart grantee and active participant in other Counterpart Consortium support services, is setting a standard for effective partnerships among government, NGOs and international assistance organizations. Their programs receive support from the World Food Program, UNICEF, UNDP, Pharmacies Sans Frontieres, Relief International, the local Government of Leninsky District and the Ministries of Health and Labor. RCVC sees the Center as a clearinghouse to allow groups of concerned citizens to address at least some of the problems afflicting impoverished and indigent children and their families.

### **NGO Leads Disaster Preparedness Efforts with Local Government Support**

The Tajikistan NGO *Man and Nature* reached out to local and National Government officials and local communities in Leninsky District to bring them together to discuss the problems relating to displacement of people due to natural and man-made disasters. In identifying the need to develop a strategic plan to respond to disasters before they occur, the NGO is leading community efforts to collaborate on a regular basis. As a result of the initial three-day workshop, a group of community stakeholders has formed an initiate group to continue developing a disaster prepared ness strategy for nearly 200,000 inhabitants.

### **NGO Leader Asked to Participate in Official Peace and Reconciliation Process**

Dilbahar Khalilova, Director of the NGO *Fidokor*, has been invited to contribute to the work of the Commission on National Reconciliation (CNR), the primary forum for negotiation and implementation of peace and reconciliation between the Government and United Tajik Opposition (UTO). She will work together with them to develop projects for soldiers who are to be demobilized and returned to their communities. *Fidokor*, a Counterpart grantee, contract training provider and active participant, was selected based on its track record of providing services and solid reputation as a transparent and well-respected community stakeholder.

### **Women's NGOs and Women Members of Parliament Meet for the First Time**

NGO *Modar* participated in a workshop presented by the Colorado League of Women Voters, made possible by a Counterpart Consortium Partnership Grant and support by the AED/Global Traininfor Development Project. Using their new skill in facilitating citizen involvement in the political process, *Modar* held a special forum that brought together women's NGOs and all five female members of parliament for the first time. The forum revealed serious interest and surprise on the part of the women Members regarding the range of issues and activities and the numbers of active women's NGOs in the country. They mentioned that previously only three or four women's NGOs had come forth to establish communication with individual Members of Parliament and that they lacked information about the scope and breadth of the good work being done by women's NGOs in Tajikistan. Also discussed were specific items of legislation being considered by the Parliament, including issues of elections, education, taxation and rights of women and children. As a result of this forum, the parliamentarians have requested written recommendations for strengthening legislation and including women's voices and plan to present them in an upcoming session of parliament.

### **Local NGOs Deliver Services on Contract to UNDP**

Two local NGOs, the Center of Informative and Educational Initiatives and Consumers' Rights Protection Center have provided assessment of Community Development Centers (CDCs) needs in Khatlon Oblast under contract with the UNDP Peace and Confidence Project. 4 NGO members, who are also Counterpart Contract Trainers, conducted a needs assessment and prepared a report covering 20 districts in Khatlon Oblast. In conducting the Needs Assessments the Contractors used knowledge gained from attending and conducting numerous training events for Counterpart Consortium. As a result, UNDP is developing plans to strengthen the capacity of the CDCs based on the NGO report.

## **TURKMENISTAN**

### **NGO Involves Women and Rural Community in Innovative Farming Techniques**

With partnership grant funding from Counterpart, NGO Kopet Dag is working with rural communities to introduce soybean production. The participatory activities involved in the crop introduction also provided the first opportunity for villagers to learn about the work of NGOs and the benefits of citizen participation. As a result, women and teenagers, traditionally less integrated into village production schemes, played an active role and increased their visibility as contributors to village welfare. Kopet Dag will follow up by conducting a series of informal roundtables to strengthen community leaders understanding of NGOs and their role in civil society.

### **Deputy Minister of Social Welfare Praises Social Partnership Video**

In conjunction with the recent Counterpart Consortium Social Partnership Conference, a 20- minute documentary outlining the concept of social partnership through interviews with well-known people and real life examples in the region was produced and distributed throughout Central Asia. The video was shown at a recent NGO roundtable in Ashghabad between NGOs working in the social sphere and the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare. The Deputy Minister was asked to give her views on social partnership. When it was her turn to address the audience, she began by saying that many of the questions that she had planned to ask of the NGOs and Counterpart in her presentation were answered by the video. She smiled and apologized that she had to completely redo her remarks as a result of the understanding that the video brought her regarding the interrelationship between NGOs, government and business. The Deputy Minister then, recommended that Counterpart show the video to other representatives of government, emphasizing that seeing concrete examples of interaction between the sectors is a critical factor in creating a dialogue. The resulting meeting was one of open discussion between the NGOs and the Representatives of the Ministry. Follow-up activities are being scheduled for the coming months.

### **NGO Social Service Efforts Forge Dialogue and Collaboration with Government**

The Association of Disabled People of Turkmenistan has provided a number of services to the disabled for several years. With a grant from Counterpart Consortium, they are in the process of developing a database covering their constituency in Ashghabad, the capital city. The goal of the project is to facilitate more effective integration into the community by providing information about the needs, skills and geographic location of the disabled community in Ashghabad. The database has already had a number of impacts on the lives of the NGOs membership and in gaining stronger government recognition. These impacts include:

- Three members have already gotten jobs because the Ministry of Social Welfare was able to identify appropriate candidates by using the database.
- The Ministry of Social Welfare has requested additional information about how they can incorporate the database into their operations.
- The NGO is now a distributing partner with the Red Cross, and has used the database to identify 50 recipients of humanitarian assistance in the past month.

The NGO's increased visibility enabled them to successfully raise funds to send two disabled athletes to an international competition in Dubai, where they placed in the top 25% of competing teams.

### **NGOs Share Resources and Strength at Grassroots Level**

With strengthened organizational capacity and networking opportunities provided by Counterpart Consortium programs, NGOs in Turkmenistan are beginning to collaborate and share information – an important step toward increasing their influence in civil society. At follow-up roundtables after the recent Counterpart Consortium Social Partnerships Roundtable, many NGO representatives complained that they had nowhere to turn to find information about developing their organizations, where to find financial assistance, and how to develop a project. As a result, the Executive Director of NGO Flamingo in Turkmenbashi, a remote city near the Caspian Sea, announced that his organization would open its doors for consultations to NGOs every Saturday morning and provide free e-mail access.

### **NGO Collaborates with Ministry of Education and other NGOs for Curriculum Reform**

By establishing good contact with the GORONO (National school commission within the Ministry of Education), *Yashil* has been able to expand the number of schools using their interactive ecology game. 50 schools now use the game, including one Turkmen language school. This is especially significant because it is the first inclusion of both ecology and interactive teaching methods into the Turkmen language curriculum. Contributing to this increased visibility, three NGOs are utilizing *Yashil* methodology and collaborating with them in a range of activities, resulting in greater community respect, stronger relations with government and expanded media coverage.

### **NGO Collaborates with US Government Agency to Lead Disaster Preparedness Efforts**

Formatsia, an active participant in Counterpart NGO support activities, has established contact with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). As a result, FEMA is developing plans to conduct disaster relief training in Turkmenistan, in collaboration with Formatsia, which is also expanding the scope of their activities from the narrow focus of earthquakes to a broader capacity of disaster preparedness.

### **NGOs Secure Leveraged Funding and Diversify Sources of Financial Support**

The impact of Counterpart training and technical assistance is demonstrated by the number of NGOs that request assistance in developing strategies and proposals for work with other donors and the improving success rate of those efforts. For example:

- One NGO has been awarded nine sewing machines by the British Know How Fund to begin income-generation activities;
- UNHCR is developing plans to collaborate with two NGOs recommended by Counterpart

### **NGO Executes Successful Public Outreach Campaign**

Counterpart grantee Amudarya is successfully increasing the level of ecological awareness of the population in Turkmenistan through a public awareness campaign in the media. After only seven months, staff and members of the NGO have already published 25 articles in a number of newspapers and magazines. In addition to publishing articles, the NGO has sponsored contests, awareness activities and a distance learning competition in collaboration with the Yaroslavl Center of Remote Training. The activities have become a popular source of public information and the NGO has received very positive feedback from local authorities and the media.

### **Increased Interest in Training Builds Capacity and Community Awareness**

NGOs are requesting specialized trainings to deepen the capacity of their staff and members for the first time in Turkmenistan. A rural agricultural NGO was provided with Turkmeni language training in NGO and Community targeting community stakeholders and program participants, resulting in a 200% increase in the number of members with an understanding of these important concepts. The Women's Union, a government-organized NGO (GONGO) has previously been reluctant to participate actively in Counterpart programs. After attending one training, the director stated that training "opened their eyes to the possibilities of what an organization can do" and has requested additional training for staff and membership. An additional impact of this success will be an improved relationship with the Women's Union and the visibility of outreach and public education efforts across Turkmenistan.

### **NGOs Collaborate to Achieve Results**

Participation in Counterpart training workshops provides NGOs with the opportunity to establish contacts with other NGOs. For example, recently the NGO *Nesil*, which works with orphans in the region of Chardjew, described the difficulties and problems of the orphans during a training session. Also attending was an Ashghabad-based NGO *Help to Women*, who decided to collect clothing and shoes for the orphans. These organizations are now in constant contact and are committed to further cooperation. Both NGOs are active participants in Counterpart support programs.

## **UZBEKISTAN**

### **Civics Education Students Win Court Order Preventing Forced Cotton Picking**

The Russian Cultural Center (RCC) of Chirchik, a Counterpart grantee and active participant in a range of NGO support programs, has expanded the use of its program of civic/human rights education to five high schools, 26 day schools and 13 boarding schools across their region, working in close collaboration with the Tashkent Region Department of Public Education. With the support of the RCC, a group of students used their new belief in the power of their fundamental rights and understanding of the legal system in their country. The student group lodged a formal protest against the common practice of enforced labor during annual cotton harvest through proper channels learned through RCC training programs. The district court ruled in their favor and the mayor was forced to cancel his order to send the children to collective farms.

For more than 50 years, students, teachers and rural residents have been forced to leave school and pick cotton in a highly propagandized "campaign" that plays a significant role in national identity and the economy of the entire region. Documented human rights abuses during these campaigns include physical violence, very poor living conditions and exposure to high levels of pesticide. The long gap in schooling had a negative affect on the quality of education in rural areas. This practice has received international attention, but one of the first successful efforts to challenge the system was accomplished through NGO efforts.

### **Parent Network Partnership Fosters Regional Coalition**

The KRIDI Club, a network of parents with disabled children, is partnered with the National Parent Network on Disabilities from the US with support and a recent partnership grant from Counterpart. They invited similar parent networks from all five Republics to attend a recent training workshop organized in Uzbekistan with their US partners. The workshop focused on introducing the basic principles of parent-to-parent support, policy advocacy and education integration. As a result of KRIDIs willingness to share resources and information, NGOs from across the region developed a strong connection and made plans to formalize collaboration with a number of specific partnerships and a regional coalition.

### **NGO Generates Income and Provides Job Skill Training for Members**

Since 1992, the Karakalpak Society for Disabled has operated a Vocational School to address the lack of marketable skills among members. Employers are often unwilling to hire the disabled, and state-of-the-art skills help overcome this barrier. With training and grant support from Counterpart and other donors, the NGO established a six-work station training center and has trained more than 600 members in computer skills. As a result, almost 25% of them have found employment. Building on this success, the school now offers in-home training for disabled children and sells baked goods as a means of revenue generation.

### **NGO Advocates for Health Education Reform**

The Center for Health Education in Nukus designed an integrated health education curriculum for use in high schools, but did not know how to advocate for its introduction into the official curriculum. With consultation from Counterpart staff, the NGO developed an advocacy strategy for approaching local officials. As a result, the program received approval from the Ministry of Health. After some collaborative fine-tuning, the program will provide more than 1,000 students an improved understanding of the fundamentals of health preservation in the ecologically damaged Aral Sea area.

### **NGO Collaboration Spurs Civic Participation Among Youth in Samarkand**

More than half the population of Uzbekistan is under the age of 16. Youth involvement is critical for the sustainability of civil society and the NGO sector in general. Center Ayol, an NGO working on women's issues in Samarkand, recognized that no NGO in Samarkand was targeting this valuable stakeholder and tapped Counterpart's database and NGO contacts to identify other NGOs with who to work in developing youth outreach programs. As a result, Center Ayol and NGO Turon collaborated to provide youth leadership training to 26 students. Working with two international organizations – the Open Society Institute and ACTR/ACCELS, these newly trained youth leaders have formed their own organization. They have participated in a summer debate camp and are now helping other student leaders form clubs in four schools in Samarkand.

## **CONSTITUENCY BUILDING IMPACTS**

### **Government Officials and Journalists Increasingly Supportive of Social Partnership**

Several Government officials attending meetings about Social Partnership have been so impressed with the comprehensive picture given in the regionally produced video that they have changed their remarks to emphasize points made in the film and said that they think all government officials should see the video. The Kyrgyz representative of Jalal-Abad Oblast Administration gave a speech indicating the necessity of NGOs and local authorities to work together.

A number of journalists have also been strongly supportive of the concept, for example:

- At the end of the meeting between NGOs, government and media in Tajikistan one media representative proposed that they hold monthly meetings of this type so that media could better understand the programs and problems of the third sector.
- The director of the Poitakht TV channel in Tajikistan expressed his readiness to use his channel to air NGO materials whenever they are proposed.
- A regular column will appear in the Central Asian Post on Social Partnerships throughout the region.
- Aktubinsk radio and television managers have become so interested in the idea of NGO and media cooperation that they have decided to do a talk show on both media to discuss the work of NGOs and the partnerships developing between NGOs, government and the media. One TV station aired two spot announcements and 3 documentaries prepared by the regional office.

### **“Caravan 98” Media Campaign in Uzbekistan Publicizes NGOs**

The Uzbekistan “Caravan 98” goal of 40 newspaper articles in 40 days was achieved as sixteen newspapers and two magazines were involved in publishing over 120 articles about the work of NGOs in Uzbekistan over eleven months. The organizers credit their Counterpart training in Public Education through the Media and their assistance from the CB Coordinator in spreading the idea through cities across Uzbekistan.

### **Media in Bishkek and Almaty Actively Seek Out NGO Stories**

Media representatives in Bishkek and Almaty are beginning to call or come by the Counterpart offices asking for information and photos about NGO activities. They are also asking “What do you have for me to write?” as they look at developing analytical articles on the importance of NGOs in the democratic and civil society.

## C. CONSTITUENCY BUILDING COMPONENT (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 6

**Build support and constituencies for democratic change and reform supporting USAID Strategic Objectives and improve understanding by the media of the role of NGOs in a civil and democratic society and media's role in creating change in a democratic society.**

This quarter, a goal of four newspaper articles per month to be developed by journalists in each country except Turkmenistan was set. The following graph indicates that we were able to exceed our goal.

	October	November	December
Kazakhstan	13	16	5
Kyrgyzstan	8	7	6
Tajikistan	14	9	10
Turkmenistan	2	5	5
Uzbekistan	5	12	22
Total	42	49	48

### Potential for Partnership Between NGOs, Government and the Private Sector

Media events and coverage of Social Partnership continued throughout the region during this quarter:

- The Regional videotape on Social Partnership was completed and distributed to TV stations, NGO Support Centers and NGOs throughout the region. It was translated by our CB coordinator into Tajik for use on independent TV channels in Tajikistan.
- The first documentary in Kazakh was produced on the Regional Social Partnership conference by the Kazakhstan Constituency Building Coordinator and distributed to government and private TV stations throughout the country as well as used at Roundtables on Social partnership in Astana and Shimkent.
- The Kyrgyzstan CB Coordinator conducted a press conference as a follow up to the Social Partnership Conference in Issyk-kul. Eleven journalists from radio, TV and newspapers attended the event and gave coverage to the concept of NGOs working with government, business and the media to build a democratic society. A short video on Social Partnership was developed for the Kyrgyz audience. The regional video was used as a part of a program for media, NGOs and oblast administration officials in Jalal-Abad oblast.
- Three roundtables were organized in Tajikistan--one for NGOs and Government featuring footage from the Issyk-kul conference and one for independent electronic mass media, state committee for Radio and Television and NGOs and one for 18 journalists representing all media and four NGO leaders.

- Roundtables were organized in Kazakhstan through the NGO support centers with media backup from the constituency building department. Press materials were prepared including press releases and analytical articles about Social Partnership in both Kazakh and Russian as well as the documentary videotapes in both languages. The CB coordinator also introduced the concept of Social Partnership to local media and NGOs in Aktubinsk.
- The Uzbekistan CB coordinator worked with two Tashkent journalists to get them to prepare analytical articles on the purpose and positive benefits of Social Partnership. A Roundtable was conducted in Namangan between four journalists and 11 NGO leaders on understanding partnership.
- In Turkmenistan, the regional videotape has been used extensively at roundtable discussions and meetings with government and NGO representatives. Local journalists produce several articles and TV programs each month on social partnership activities in Turkmenistan
- All country coordinators have worked in an advisory capacity with the local associations of Journalists for Social Partnership to help them work out plans to support the Social Partnership in their countries. So far, Associations in Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have developed grant proposals and submitted them to their local offices for review. The Turkmenistan project was funded at the November Grant meeting with the idea that the Regional CB office would work closely with this group to test the idea of a local NGO serving in place of a CB staff person in the country.

#### **The Value of Laws Supporting Free Association and NGO Activities**

A public education campaign has been conducted throughout Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan over the past few months in the effort to tell the public and the parliaments of those countries about the importance of a well-developed NGO Law.

- Regional Constituency Building Staff produced an 11-minute videotape which is being distributed to government and private stations throughout the three countries.
- CB staff in Kazakhstan participated in and coordinated media coverage of a seminar between Parliamentarians and NGO leaders in Astana, a press conference on the importance of the NGO Law in Almaty, Radio programs featuring interviews with NGO leaders on their thoughts about the NGO Law, analytical articles produced for newspapers, and a mailing done to all NGOs around Kazakhstan talking about the importance of the NGO Law.
- CB staff in Kyrgyzstan participated in and coordinated media coverage for a roundtable discussion on the NGO Law and the Charity Law. The meeting gathered opinions of interest groups and explained the mechanism to make changes in the drafts. Follow up media coverage included Kyrgyz and Russian language radio and TV interviews with members of parliament, informational radio programs on the discussions of the Laws and analytical articles in Kyrgyz, Russian and English in Kyrgyz and Central Asian newspapers.
- The Uzbekistan CB coordinator has assisted with a roundtable in Tashkent and media coverage on the NGO Law. He has also worked with local journalists and Counterpart partners to develop analytical articles on the NGO Law and how it will benefit NGOs.

## **Outreach to Media Outside of Capital Cities**

Constituency Building Coordinators have been increasing their work with journalists outside the capital cities during this quarter in an effort to increase the understanding of NGOs and increase the media coverage of the work being accomplished by them.

- The Kyrgyzstan CB Coordinator held a roundtable in conjunction with the Jalal-Abad NGO Support Center involving representatives of media, NGOs, and oblast administration. Participants were given press releases, informational booklets and articles about the development of NGOs in the oblast in both Russian and Kyrgyz. The discussion centered around cooperation between NGOs and media. Visits were also made to all local and oblast newspapers, TV and radio stations to speak with them about the NGO initiative in their area. A calendar of activities of local NGOs is now posted at the NGO support center so journalists can quickly find out what NGOs are currently doing.
- The Kazakhstan CB Coordinator worked with NGO leaders and representatives of mass media in Aktubinsk to discuss the possibility of increasing cooperation between the sectors.
- The Tajikistan CB Coordinator assisted contract trainers in training the personnel of two newly re-established regional newspapers of Khatlon oblast and one newly established radio in Kolkhozabad district about NGOs and their role in the society.
- The Uzbekistan CB Coordinator worked as a consultant to the press center of a coalition of NGOs to inform the people of Uzbekistan about the work of NGOs. They called this effort Caravan 98 as it was designed to take the NGO story from city to town across the country. The campaign took place from February to December and it still continues. The campaign centered around two periods of activity: an ecological festival in May and a festival and expedition for disabled youth in November. The CB Coordinator also took part in a roundtable for NGOs and Journalists in Namangan this quarter. This roundtable was the culmination of a training session for the NGO leaders on how to work with the media.

## **Healthy Lifestyles Campaign**

The Kazakhstan national educational campaign launched by USAID in May 1998 in support of the Kazakhstan Government's Healthy Lifestyles program came to a close in December.

- The six months campaign was launched through a press conference and seminar for health journalists representing broadcast and print media from all oblasts of Kazakhstan. The campaign was carried out by those same journalists as they prepared articles and programs to educate the people of Kazakhstan on how they can detect and prevent six diseases that are among the largest health problems in the country.
- Over 60 articles, radio and television programs from journalists across the country were submitted in the monthly competition for the best communication about the "disease of the month."

- Government of Kazakhstan officials were so pleased with the participation of journalists and the amount of information that was put out through the media for the six months period that they are making plans to continue the effort for an additional 6 months. The private sponsor (an International clinic in Almaty) of the monthly cash awards for journalists has agreed to donate an additional \$1800 U.S. and the services of one of their doctors to continue to serve as a judge. This successful project was jointly carried out by Counterpart CB staff, Abt Associates ZdravReform, the Kazakhstan Government Center for Healthy Lifestyles, and the AEA International Clinic with judges representing both the medical and journalism sectors. Since the Center for Healthy Lifestyles has been a participant in this project, the leadership for the second phase will be handed over to them.

### **Electrical Campaign**

The initial research for an electrical reform campaign for the people of Kyrgyzstan was successfully completed. The report has been submitted to the State Agency on Energy. Tacis has given a \$10,000 toward the \$25,000 campaign and the committee is waiting for a response from KyrgyzEnergo for the remaining funding. The campaign will be conducted by the Consumer Rights NGO that did the initial study, in cooperation with the State Agency on Energy. The CB Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan will have no further responsibility for the campaign.

### **Constituency Building Objective: Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs, associations, and coalitions.**

The CB staff are designing a monthly newsletter and distribution process for NGOs throughout CAR. After discussion of alternative production methods with Counterpart and USAID staff it was decided to develop an RFP for the development and production of a four page regional newsletter. The RFP was distributed to all NGOs in Kazakhstan in our database. The RFP called for design and budget of a regional newsletter based on findings from focus groups throughout the region. Extra points will be given to NGOs forming a coalition to create the newsletter.

The distribution process for the newsletter was tested in Kazakhstan by a mailing of the RFP to all NGOs in the Kazakhstan database. Over 480 letters were sent and about 30 were returned because of incorrect address or disbanding of the NGO. Fifteen NGOs submitted proposals in answer to the RFP. A final selection of the NGO to produce the newsletter will be chosen in early 1999 and production of the first newsletter will begin shortly thereafter.

## D. KAZAKHSTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**Design and implement a demand-driven training and technical assistance program for NGOs in support of institutional and programmatic viability, using existing in-country training resources whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Target NGO Overview**

In November Counterpart program staff revised the list of target NGOs by making the necessary priority group adjustments and adding new NGOs - including three NGOs recommended by Consortium partner ATA. The Kazakhstan list of target NGOs reached 75, ahead of projection schedule as outlined in the Performance Plan.

#### ***Association of Non-Governmental Non-commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK)***

Counterpart continues to work with ANNOK, the largest active NGO coalition in Central Asia. Counterpart's key strategies for ANNOK are capacity building and institutional strengthening, which it promotes through working to improve ANNOK's management and governance structure. Throughout the quarter Counterpart worked toward that goal by recommending the ANNOK Executive Director, Ms. Kuralai Karaaulova, for the November Philippine advocacy training sponsored by AED and conducting two trainings for the Managing Board of ANNOK – one on Social Partnership and one on Team Building.

All the members of ANNOK Managing Board participated in the training sessions and used the opportunity to hold a meeting of the Managing Board. The Board used skills learned at Counterpart trainings to assess their current situation and develop an action plan for organizational effectiveness. Outcomes of the meeting include: amending the ANNOK Charter to shift more authority from the Chairperson to the Board; expanding Board membership from seven to nine; and electing a new Chairwoman, Counterpart contract trainer Natalia Bakhmutova. Counterpart believes these changes will strengthen democratic governance of the association and help it improve its management.

Additionally, Counterpart staff in Almaty and Astana supported ANNOK in coordinating the conference *Cooperation Between NGOs and Government: the Development of Civil Society and the Legislative Base for NGOs* described in more detail on page 22.

#### ***Center for Democracy Education Leader***

A majority of the support provided to Leader this past quarter related to follow-on activities to the partnership project with the League of Women Voters, Colorado. Pursuant to training received in September by the Colorado League, Counterpart first held a TTAP to help this NGO organize how best to implement skills developed at the League training. Next step activities, coordinated closely with Counterpart staff, include: organizing a series of two-day seminar held in Almaty and Astana on issues of citizens' involvement in the electoral process; developing a new training module, *Citizens' Participation in the Decision-Making Process*, focused on fostering civic involvement in the electoral process; and identifying sources of financing for further training by the Colorado League.

Consistent with Counterpart's strategy to develop leadership skills within *Leader*, Natalia Bakhmutova, *Leader's* Chairwoman, was recommended by Counterpart to participate at the advocacy training in Philippines.

***Feminist League (FL) and Almaty Business Women Association (BWA)***

As a result of the first seminar conducted by the League of Women Voters, Colorado in Almaty (see Quarterly #3, p. 17) various activities were jointly coordinated by FL and BWA, such as: setting up a movement of Women Voters in Kazakhstan and holding a press-conference at the Kazakhstan Press-Club to discuss the open letter, addressing the protection of women's rights, to presidential candidates.

In October, as a result of a TTAP workshop, Counterpart planned and held a fundraising training for the Feminist League to help them improve their fundraising strategy for the Fair of Ideas of Kazakh Women NGOs (see impacts).

***Association of School Councils (Unions) (ASC)***

In response to the Cooperative Agreement requirement, Counterpart started work with the newly added target NGO, the Association of School Councils. This promising, new grassroots NGO, formed by parent initiative groups and school administrations of several Almaty public and private schools, is the first NGO to develop a program of support/service needs for public associations formed on the basis of secondary schools in Kazakhstan. The Governmental Antimonopoly Committee asked ASC to take the lead in developing regulations for public associations of similar type (school unions or school councils). Counterpart's program staff consulted several times with this NGO and conducted a TTAP workshop for their staff. Counterpart is working to link them with an American NGO and develop a partnership project.

***Pensioners NGO 'Pokolenije', Stepnogorsk***

Counterpart is working to link them with an American partner to learn advocacy technique. A recent success story is described in detail on page 22.

***Diabetes Society, Taraz***

In November, Counterpart recommended a Diabetes Society representative for the Philippines training in advocacy sponsored by the Global Training Program. Counterpart is also helping them write a new project proposal.

***Center For Civic Initiatives, Almaty***

This group has been contracted by two Ministries to conduct the training sessions described in more detail on page 3.

***Conflict Management Center (CMC), Almaty***

In December Counterpart helped this group improve the management skills of its personnel by inviting three staff members to a training on NGO Management and discussing a plan of cooperation for CMCs satellite center in Eastern Kazakhstan. It was agreed that ZUBR, a Counterpart trainee in this region, will train CMC local staff in several Counterpart training modules.

**TTAPs**

During this quarter TTAP workshops were organized for the following organizations:

1. ANNOK
2. Feminist League
3. Kazakhstan National Association of Consumer Rights Organizations
4. Society ZHAN
5. Center for Democratic Education *Leader*
6. South Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers - SKAL (Shimkent)
7. XXI Century
8. Union of Handicapped
9. Association of School Unions
10. Consumer's Advocate (Astana)

### **Staff Development Training**

In late October, staff from the Counterpart Almaty Resource Center, the Astana NGO Support Center and the Shimkent NGO Support Center participated in the Staff Development Workshop held in Shimkent and supervised by the Regional Deputy Director, Jay Cooper. Jamilia Asanova, a senior program officer from Almaty, facilitated the workshop.

### ***USAID Work Plan Development Workshop***

On October 23 a one-day Work Plan Development Workshop was held with participation from Counterpart's program staff and Sean Roberts from USAID, ODT. Objectives of this workshop were: to brief Counterpart program staff on USAID/CAR's strategic objectives, intermediate result indicators, and lower level result indicators and discuss how they are captured by the current work plan; to assess the fulfillment of the current work plan, identify problems/solutions; discuss the vision of the *NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia* through the end of the current program; and to draft the work plan for the first half of 99' by month for each objective.

### ***Localization Strategy Workshop for Counterpart Regional Senior Staff***

On November 7, a kick-off Localization Strategy Workshop for the participants of the Regional Grant Committee was held. Participants included expatriates and senior staff from Counterpart country offices. Principal issues related to the strategy towards localization were discussed and the practical tools for use in each country office were developed. This workshop marked the beginning of a series of localization workshops for local staff planned for November - December in all five Counterpart country offices. On December 2, the Almaty Counterpart office hosted one-day localization workshop attended by Counterpart Kazakhstan staff, including representatives of the Astana and Shimkent NGO Support Centers, at which localization 6-month plan was discussed and developed.

### **NGO Training**

<b>Type of Workshop</b>	<b>Workshops</b>	<b>NGOs</b>	<b>Participants</b>
NGO & Community	3	40	58
Project Design	3	40	72
NGO Management	1	1	24
Strategic Planning	2	18	27
Fundraising	2	19	46
Public Education through the Media	1	Akimiat	19
Association Development	3	50	62
Advocacy	1	16	19
Human Resource Management	1	16	19
Team Building/Conflict Resolution	4	59	85
Financial Management	1	1	20
Social Partnership	3	43	60
Governance	1	11	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>527</b>

### **Training Highlights**

#### ***Target NGO Trainings***

- Two trainings were conducted at the request of the Managing Board of the target group ANNOK.
- One training was requested/co-sponsored by the target area Pavlodar oblast Akimiat.
- One of three Association Development trainings was conducted for the Association of Artisans, a target group of Consortium partner ATA.

### ***New Modules***

- Three modules developed in September were tested and modified at three follow-up trainings (Human Resource Management, Social Partnership and Team Building).
- Training in *Governance* was conducted for a majority of Counterpart contract trainers by a Counterpart contract trainer who attended the Governance TOT in Moscow.

### ***Commissioned Trainings***

- *Baspana* commissioned two training sessions (NGO Management and Financial Management).
- USIS, the British Council and the Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan commissioned two trainings on Association Development for the National Association of Teachers of English Language, a potential Counterpart target group.
- SOROS commissioned Project Design training.
- The Water Users Association, working on a project funded by the World Bank, commissioned the first two seminars to be held in the South Kazakhstan oblast.

### **Training for Trainers**

- Two Counterpart contract trainers participated in the TOT on Governance in Moscow conducted by Counterpart International affiliate *PARTNER* and sponsored by Counterpart Kazakhstan.
- Counterpart selected and recommended a group of eight NGO leaders, including three Counterpart contract trainers, for the USIS-funded Philippines advocacy training designed for leaders of Central Asian NGOs.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

During this quarter Counterpart program staff prepared necessary documents and provided consultations to two NGOs whose partnership project proposals were awarded at the Counterpart November Grant Committee: Almaty Special Olympics Kazakhstan (partnership with Special Olympics International) and Information and Research Center for Civic Education, Almaty (partnership with the Center for Civic Education from Los Angeles).

The following six partnership project proposals were prescreened, selected and developed with help of Counterpart staff for the January Regional Grant Meeting:

1. Center for Democracy Education 'Leader', Almaty joint project developed with League of Women Voters, Colorado;
2. Southern Kazakhstan Public Center for Human Rights 'Sootechestvennik' partnership proposal developed with the Southern Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers (SKAL), both from Shimkent;
3. NGO Consulting Center *ZUBR*, Ust-Kamenogorsk proposal developed with the Marshak Foundation, Moscow;
4. Public Foundation *Help*, Kustanai, partnership proposal with the Kustanai-based Union of Business Associations *Alliance*;
5. Diabetes Society joint proposal developed with the Kiwanis Club, both from Taraz; and
6. Pensioners movement 'Pokolenie', Stepnogorsk, partnership proposal developed with the Stepnogorsk City Disabled Society.

Counterpart continued to help the Association of School Councils (Unions) develop a partnership proposal with the Parent Teachers Association, USA for the February/March Counterpart Grant Meeting.

### OBJECTIVE 3

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Database**

This past quarter the Almaty office continued to update the NGO database. New questionnaires continue to be entered into the database and approximately 60 queries were updated and processed. The Kazakhstan Performance Data: Baseline, Targets, and Actual Results based on the NGO Database has been updated. Additionally, the List of International Agencies has been updated to include 20 additional organizations and relevant information such as Mission Statement and organizational activities. Upon receipt of the necessary information from the UNDP center, USAID and Counterpart's regional support centers in Astana and Shimkent the list of international agencies will be complete.

### OBJECTIVE 4:

**Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Grant Activities**

In October two in-Country Grant Committee meetings were held to pre-screen and select best grant proposals for the November Counterpart Regional Grant Committee. Of the fifty-five grant proposals submitted, nine were selected and recommended for the November Grant Committee. Counterpart program staff successfully worked with the nine applicants to help their proposals meet Counterpart's grant program standards. All nine proposals were approved for funding at the November Grant Committee Meeting and are described in detail below. The remainder of the quarter was spent developing eight project proposals, including six partnerships for recommendation to the January Grant Committee Meeting.

***Information and Research Center for Civic Education, Almaty.*** This is a Partnership Grant with Center for Civic Education (Los-Angeles, USA). \$15,122 for implementation of the civic education program "We the people...Project citizen" in secondary schools of Kazakhstan. The Committee approved this grant in recognition both of its appropriateness to ODT Strategic Objectives and of its great potential to bring important changes to the system of education of Kazakhstan as it is planned to work actively with Ministry of Education of Kazakhstan. The grant leverages \$44,980 from other donors, including Soros, USIS, Ebert Foundation and Center of Civic Education.

***Special Olympics Kazakhstan (SOK), Almaty.*** This is a Partnership Grant with Special Olympics International. \$17,580 to conduct a comprehensive development project which will include carrying out seminars and training, creating a resource center and informational bulletin aimed at educating people with mental retardation and their family members about their rights and opportunities for protection of the rights. In addition, the project includes regional and management development initiatives and public education campaigns. The Committee believes that the grant will make an important contribution in strengthening SOK, allowing it to become a major and permanent NGO advocate for people with mental retardation. In addition, it will enable SOK to increase the number of knowledgeable individuals on NGO and advocacy issues. The grant leverages \$32,300 from Special Olympics International.

***Public Fund "Junior Achievement" in Kazakhstan, Almaty.*** This is a Corporate Challenge Grant \$10,260 for development and introduction of the integral programs of economic education for the 5-8<sup>th</sup> grades of secondary schools. The grant leverages \$6,000 from Hurricane Kumkol Munai and \$9,000 from Chevron Munaigas Inc. The Committee has approved the implementation of the same project in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The grant has a good potential in changing the situation with not only economic, but also civic society and democracy education for the whole Kazakhstan

***National Federation of Housing Associations, Astana.*** \$6,445 to conduct an advocacy project to protect the rights of members of condominiums (KSK), consumers of public utilities and other services of Housing Associations. National Federation of Housing Associations in Astana is one of our target groups. The proposed activities are designed to enhance the federation's credibility, providing it with greater standing in advocacy. The Committee believes that due to its critical geographic location the organization has an excellent opportunity to reach NGOs in the northern and central parts of Kazakhstan, thereby increasing their knowledge and skills in advocacy and other important NGO-related issues.

***Service of Ethnological Monitoring and Early Prevention of Conflicts, Shimkent.*** \$3,625 to set up a system of early prevention of ethnic conflicts and spreading out values of multi-cultural civic society via publishing a monthly bulletin. In approving this grant, the Committee felt that implementation of the project will provide a forum for more public expression of opinions on the sometimes controversial issues of concern especially in multi-ethnic communities. Moreover, the fact that a preliminary agreement with several government agencies had been reached seemed to be of a great importance for a successful conducting of the project could serve as a model for an NGO-government partnership.

***Kostanai branch of Kazakhstan Business Women Association, Kostanai.*** \$5,008 to organize the Democratic Leadership School and provide 60-70 women with special training within the school for the purpose of developing women leaders to be candidates positions in the local governmental administration during elections in 1999. The Committee saw this grant as a good way to encourage and enable women in this northern industrial city to play a more active part in public life. In addition, it will strengthen the branch's credibility and enhance NGO activity in an outlying community. The grant complements Counterpart work with BWA in Almaty.

***Consultative Information Center, Pavlodar.*** \$8,601 for organizing a consultation center for vulnerable groups (Public Reception Room). The Committee agreed that the grant will enable the NGO to serve as a model for social partnership between governmental authorities and the third sector which is of a strategic importance to Counterpart and NGO community in general. Besides, the project offers a possibility for linkages with other NGOs in the region, thus creating a network and the opportunity to address the other issues of civil society.

***Association of the Legal Persons "Soyuz of Non-commercial Organizations "Invalids of Kazakhstan" (SIS), Almaty.*** \$5,890 to conduct a training series in four major cities of Kazakhstan (Almaty, Astana, Pavlodar, Taraz) on inter-sector cooperation and social partnership, and issuing the guide "The Theory and Practice of Social Partnership". The grant is a powerful way to promote the idea of social partnership. In addition, the project will expand significantly a resource of knowledge and practical skills of the SIS staff who can further encourage a variety of interactions between the existing social sectors.

***NGO Ainalaiyn, Taraz.*** \$6,000 to train approximately 60 individuals to address women's rights and healthy life style issues in four districts of Dzhambul Oblast. The Committee approved this grant not for its health-related content but because it will enable the organization to strengthen the women's participation in the relatively rural community, where women's initiatives have been traditionally suppressed. Moreover, the group has a great potential in helping its constituency to learn practical skills in pressing authorities more openly on issues that concern them.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Counterpart program staff evaluated the *Conflict Management and Prevention* workshop organized in Almaty by the Counterpart grantee the *Almaty Center for Conflict Management*.

## OBJECTIVE 5

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3);**

### **Counterpart Affiliated Resource Centers**

In October Counterpart signed the first long-term cooperation agreement with the Karaganda Eco-Center. According to the agreement, the Eco-Center will start working as a Counterpart-affiliated Resource Center, providing information and technical support to local NGOs and the general public. Counterpart will support the Eco-Center by sharing all resources available in our Almaty office and NGO Support Centers.

Having limited resources available to open more NGO Support Centers throughout the country, Counterpart plans expand its outreach to the NGO community and broaden the Counterpart network by signing more agreements with other NGOs in rural areas.

During December, Counterpart staff helped the NGO Consulting Center *ZUBR*, chosen as a potential Counterpart Affiliated Resource Center in Ust-Kamenogorsk, and Eco-Center from Karaganda develop a partnership project for the January Counterpart Grant Committee.

### **Almaty NGO Resource Center (Almaty NGO RC)**

#### ***Information, Services and Technical Assistance***

The Almaty NGO RC continues to provide consultations, e-mail and Internet access, and responses to database and Internet inquiries for NGOs in the Almaty region. This past quarter it received visits from more than 75 NGOs. Highlights from this past quarter include:

- providing Internet searches for *Help* from Kustanai and for Jay Cooper on associations of trainers;
- establishing contacts and exchanging information with Counterpart Resource Centers in Bishkek, Tashkent, Dushanbe, and Ashgabad;
- creating an electronic list of literature in the Almaty NGO RC library;
- helping *Holocaust* get in touch with the museum in Washington and IREX;
- conducting introductory meetings for newcomers;
- developing rules and regulations for the Center with respect to operating hours and computer usage;
- reaching an agreement concerning cooperation with several resource centers such as USIA, UNDP, Soros-Kazakhstan, IREX; and
- subscribing to seven local newspapers for its library.

#### ***Roundtables***

Counterpart hosted a Women's NGO Roundtable. Participants included: eight Almaty-based women's NGOs; Counterpart's program staff and Regional Director David Smith; Sundaa Bridgett, acting Director of the CAR ODT; and Kate Johnson, the Program officer USAID WDC office. Representatives of Kazakhstan women's NGOs briefed Kate Johnson on the current status of women in Kazakhstan and discussed issues related to sex discrimination and women's civic involvement.

### **Counterpart Astana NGO Support Center (Astana NGO SC)**

#### ***Information, Services and Technical Assistance***

Highlights of activity from this past quarter for the Astana NGO SC include:

- Receiving visits from 210 representatives of the third sector and governmental officials, the majority of whom were consulted and received Counterpart information packages, and providing telephone consultations to five NGOs located outside of Astana;

- Providing the following technical support: e-mail and fax services to 58 NGOs; telephone service for 23 NGO representatives; computer access; document photo-copying; and translation assistance;
- Providing consultations on proposal writing and project design for 17 NGOs;
- Participating in two Counterpart trainings conducted by Almaty staff and contract trainers;
- Helping the environmental NGO *Kausar* register;
- Presenting office activities to the Eurasia University and participating in the presentation of NGO *Zharia*;
- Organizing a meeting between representatives of the Almaty based NGO *Green Salvation* and Astana *Kausar*;
- Holding a briefing on NGO development in Kazakhstan for Mr. Gerry Robins, a freelance journalist writing about NGO issues, and Gwynne Ariana Oosterbaan, a representative of Abernathy McGregor Frank (USA);
- Recommending three local NGOs to the British Know How Fund representative as candidates for financial support on mass-media;
- Helping representatives from *Zharia* establish contacts with Almaty-based women groups;
- Organizing a briefing for a group of Astana NGOs by Gulzia Nabieva, who recently participated in the Soros Foundation sponsored program *East to East* women's seminar held in Poland;
- Organizing a briefing for Astana women groups by a representative of the Almaty-based organization *Women of Orient* on the latest initiatives of this recently established coalition as well as the *Second Forum of Women of Kazakhstan* conference;
- Participating in the seminar on pensioners' rights, organized by Stepnogorsk Counterpart grantee *Pokolenie*;
- Participating in a the roundtable discussion of students of Eurasia University organized by the Commission on Human Rights under the President of Kazakhstan and leading a discussion on civic education; and
- Receiving a visit by the representative of Human Rights Watch, Ms. Cassandra Cavanaugh.

#### ***Roundtables/Conferences***

In November, the Astana NGO SC hosted a Social Partnership roundtable discussion moderated by Jamilia Asanova, NGO Support Center Coordinator. Attendees included 29 representatives of 11 local NGOs, governmental agencies, and mass media. The main objectives of this roundtable were to brief the participants on the concept of social partnership and help them develop a social partnership strategy for Astana.

#### **Promotion of NGO Development**

Since the capital of Kazakhstan was moved to Astana last year, the needs for the local NGOs have shifted to more emphasis on advocacy, lobbying and legislative skills. In an effort to help the Astana NGO community develop these areas, the Astana NGO Support Center initiated and facilitated a meeting of a group of leading Kazakh NGOs. Participants of the conference entitled *Cooperation Between NGOs and Government; the Development of Civil Society and the Legislative Base for NGOs* briefed Astana NGOs about the conference and talked about the need to reform the Kazakhstani NGO legislation. Participants shared their experience with advocacy and discussed possible ways for cooperation between the government and NGOs. Attendees included the Head of the Department of the Ministry of Information and Public Accord, Mr. Kozhkenov, and representatives of 18 NGOs.

#### ***Contacts/Relations with Government Agencies***

- Provided information on NGO legislation to representatives of the Presidential Apparatus, Ms. R.K.Mautenbaeva and Mr. E.Abdykarim.
- Invited Astana NGOs and the Head of The Ministry of Information and Public Accord, Mr.Kozhkenov, to the *NGO Legislation and Cooperation Between Government and NGOs* conference.

- Assisted representatives of IREX in establishing contacts with the Ministry of Information and Public Accord.
- Briefed a group of members of Parliament on refugees issues while meeting with them at the October NGO Legislation conference.
- Held a briefing on NGO development and social partnership issues for 10 senior officials representing central and local governments.

#### ***Contacts with Mass-media***

- Assisted the Counterpart Constituency Building representative in filming activity of two Astana NGOs *AzhNR* and *Zharia*.
- Organized mass media news coverage of all principal events involving the Astana NGO SC, including the October *NGO Laws Conference* and the roundtable of UNHCR.
- Contacted three members of the media and organized TV coverage of the Social Partnership roundtable on three TV channels.

#### ***UNHCR Program***

- UNHCR representative started to work in the Astana NGO SC on October 1.
- ACNSC assisted UNHCR in organizing a roundtable in Astana with the Ministry of Agriculture on October 22 and in Parliament on October 23.

#### **Shimkent Counterpart NGO Support Center (Shimkent NGO SC)**

This past quarter the Shimkent NGO SC provided logistic support for the three day Shimkent Staff Development Workshop for Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Centers (27 Counterpart staff members participated).

#### ***Information, Services and Technical Assistance***

This past quarter the Shimkent NGO SC was visited by 49 representatives of NGOs who were consulted and received the Counterpart information package. It also provided e-mail and fax support to 25 representatives of local NGOs; consulted seven NGOs on project proposals for submission to Counterpart; and organized three trainings, conducted by Counterpart contract trainers, for 38 representatives of Shimkent NGOs.

#### ***Roundtables/Conferences***

- Organized a roundtable discussion for local NGOs on issues of Social Partnership. Counterpart Kazakhstan Country Director Marat Aitmagambetov moderated the roundtable and participants included representatives of 12 NGOs, Sean Roberts, Program Officer, ODT/USAID, and Patrick A. Dickriede from the U.S. General Accounting Office.
- Facilitated a roundtable discussion for representatives of 10 NGOs from Taraz city to discuss problems of NGO development in that city and ways the Shimkent NGO SC can provide support.
- Participated in the seminar on refugee issues organized by the Counterpart grantee, South Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers (SKAL) and UNHCR.

#### ***Contacts with Mass-Media***

Distributed Counterpart videos on social partnership at two local TV stations and wrote and distributed a press release on the Social Partnership roundtable to local media.

## E. KYRGYZSTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**Design and implement a demand-driven training and technical assistance program for NGOs in support of institutional and programmatic viability, using existing in-country training resources whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### Target NGO Overview

The Program Coordinators (PCs) conducted eleven follow-up workshops for target NGOs during the reporting period:

- *Project Design and Fundraising for Sanitas* (Bishkek), resulting in designing a draft proposal related to partnership between Central Asian NGOs and developing a fundraising strategy.
- *Strategic Planning for Tree of Life* (Bishkek), at which a two-year strategic plan was developed.
- *Association Development* for the Association of Brokers and Dealers, resulting in a one-year plan was developed.
- *Strategic Planning and Project Design* for the Association of Consumer's Rights Protection *Aikyn*, resulting in the development of a two-year strategic plan and a draft proposal for regional activities.
- *Strategic Planning* for the Legal Initiatives Fund (Bishkek), at which a two-year strategic plan was developed.
- *Advocacy* for the Retraining Center for Disabled Children (Bishkek), resulting in a plan to involve the Center members in decision making process and strengthen protection of disabled children rights.
- *Advocacy* for the Social Initiatives Fund (Bishkek), where a plan for improving protection of internal migrants was developed.
- *Human Resources Management* for the Bishkek Educational Fund, at which participants defined ways to promote motivation of the NGO members and volunteers and to involve stakeholders in the decision making process.
- *NGO Management* for the Harmony and Tolerance Foundation (Bishkek), on which participants identified the need to create a Board of Directors and developed job descriptions for each staff person.

#### TTAPs

The Program Coordinators designed TTAPs for sixteen NGOs this past quarter in the following regions: In Naryn – *Bayastan, Tendesh* and *Soopker*; in Bishkek – *Association of Social Workers, Legal Initiatives Fund*, and *Harmony and Tolerance Foundation*; in the Jalalabad Oblast – *Justice, Aibek, Ulgu, the Society for the Protection of Rural Children's Rights, Kyak, Aksana*, and *Pamir*; the *Club of Job Seekers* in Kara-Balta; and in the Chuy Oblast – *Jez Oymok* and *Hairinisso*.

#### Staff Development Workshop

Twenty-seven participants from all five Central Asian countries attended the October Staff Development Workshop held in Shimkent, Kazakhstan. The overall goals of the workshop were to:

- develop a plan of training for each Center and each staff person to build their skills;
- develop a common guideline for daily activity of the Centers;
- establish a regular communication between the Centers;
- complete Strategic Planning exercises;
- develop an awareness of the Centers' staff of Counterpart Consortium's activities in Central Asia, its resources and other NGO Support organizations; and
- develop financial management skills.

## NGO Training

Type of Workshop	Workshops	NGOs	Participants
NGO& Community	2	29	42
Financial Sustainability	4	36	75
Public Education through Media	2	34	42
Association Development	2	19	50
Fundraising	1	11	20
Financial Management	1	18	24
Project Design	1	19	25
Advocacy	1	10	11
Social Partnership	2	24	33
Governance	1	10	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>341</b>

### Training Highlights

#### *New Modules*

#### Governance

This 2-day workshop is designed for NGOs that have a governing body, such as a board of directors or advisory board. The goal of the workshop is to improve and devise a more effective governing system for the NGO. The training helps participants:

- analyze the structure of an NGO;
- identify the NGO's strengths and weaknesses;
- design efficient models of governance;
- identify available resources; and
- understand methods of including local communities in NGO activities.

The Counterpart Contract Trainers Elena Tkacheva and Baktybek Sabirov conducted "Governance" training on December 22-23, 1998 in Bishkek. Nineteen representatives from 10 NGOs attended this workshop.

#### **Training of Trainers**

The Counterpart Contract Trainers Nurbek Imakeev, Nagima Tusupbekova, Elmira Turkmenova and Nuria Omurbekova took part in the AED-funded TOT workshop on *Advocacy* held in Manila, the Philippines.

The Contract Trainers Elena Tkacheva and Baktybek Sabirov took part in the TOT workshop on *Governance* held in Tula and Moscow, Russia.

### OBJECTIVE 2

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

Nine proposals out of 13 approved by the November Regional Grant Committee were partnership grants. Another seven partnership and three corporate grant proposals were prepared for submission to the January Grant Review Committee.

Through links with United States, the Counterpart office contacted Indian NGO activist Vijay Padakis from The "PADA" Group in India, in order to find partner in advocacy issues. Another proposal idea came from the US-based organization, Earthtouch. Earthtouch can provide some funding for a

partnership conference with the participation of NGOs from Kyrgyzstan and USA. Kalia Moldogazieva from *Tree of Life* has been developing a partnership project on Barskoon spill issues investigation. She has been in touch with Lorel Donaghey and Adriana Dinu in Washington DC to explore possible partnership opportunities.

The meeting of NGOs and international agencies, working with refugees/migrants was held in Bishkek Migration Management Center on December 23, 1998. UNHCR together with Counterpart organized this meeting, the goals of which were: to facilitate information sharing and cooperation between organizations working with refugees/migrants; to identify level of potential coordination; and to discuss possibilities of an establishing coalition of NGOs working with refugees/migrants. The main result was interest of participants to create a working group to clarify goals of a potential coalition.

The meeting of the NGOs of Naryn Oblast and the Forum of Kyrgyzstan NGOs was held on December 2, 1998. Fifteen representatives of the NGOs attended this meeting. The issues of the meeting were to discuss the mission and strategic goal of the Forum and to elect delegates to the Assembly of the Forum.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Database**

The Database Manager Alexander Korovisky continues to develop the Database structure. Information on international agencies and their projects has been categorized by sub-sectors. Training forms have been updated and information about participants of Counterpart training was integrated into the Database. Information on 123 NGOs was updated and 23 questionnaires about newly established NGOs were added. Data on projects approved at the last Counterpart Grant Committee and 21 projects of other international donors was integrated into the Database.

#### **Information Network**

The Information Manager Marat Nusurov and Website Manager Valery Orekhov continue to develop the Counterpart Information System. Accomplishments during this quarter include:

- recording CD versions #7, #8 and #9 of CANGO.NET Server, including the NGO Electronic Library, the Central Asian NGO Database, Newsletters, 36 Sites linked, and 44 NGO Home pages in English and Russian;
- adding seven new NGO homepages to the CANGO.NET web site: Association of Lawyer Scientists, Union of Tax Consultants, Association of Library Workers, Hireneso, Mok-Suu, Law Students Association, and a Charity Foundation named after Bazarbaev;
- adding seven links to the Web Site and connecting three new UUCP mail servers to CANGO.NET;
- opening 13 e-mail accounts for local NGOs on the Counterpart Server;
- updating the Internet version of the NGO Database and adding information on the Turkmenistani NGOs; and
- updating the listserver TNEWs, installing an advanced set of instructions, including better administration of access, and adding subscriptions through a Web browser.

#### ***Statistics on use of Counterpart Web site for NGOs in Central Asia***

The following numbers represent various requests made of the Web site during last quarter:

- There were a total of 65,539 hits on the Web site, 68% from outside hosts while 32% were internal.
- The total amount of the data transferred since April of 1998 was 376.3 MB.

- It was registered in statistic file, that 566 visitors were from Kyrgyzstan (domain .kg), 239 visitors were from USA (domain .com), 126 visitors were from Russia (domain .ru). Visitors from 28 countries accessed the Web Site this quarter.

### **Internet/Email Services**

83 visitors (543 visits) have used the Internet Center's facilities during the month working with e-mail (43%), Internet access (29%) and document processing (28%). The Assistant Marina Priezzheva provided 63 consultations and conducted four workshops, *Internet and E-mail*, for 44 NGO representatives. Representatives of 61 organizations received services of the Center and 17 visitors used the library. The Center has registered 17 NGOs, which have started to use the Center's facilities.

### **Documents-Publications**

The newsletters T-news #10, 11, 12 were issued during the reporting period. They contained information on training schedules, the Governance training session held in Moscow and the Advocacy training session held in Philippines and some useful tips about adult training for training contractors to brush up their knowledge and skills. The training manuals on *Team Building and Conflict Management*, *Human Resources Management*, *NGO Financial Sustainability* and *Social Partnership* were drafted and submitted to Counterpart Central Asia country offices for review, with the exception of the *Social Partnership* module. The general program brochures and the training brochures were updated in Russian and English. A brochure on Support Centers throughout Central Asia was drafted.

## **OBJECTIVE 4:**

**Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

### **Grant Activities**

In preparation for the November Central Asia Grant Review Committee meeting, 27 projects were evaluated in the in-country Grant Review Meeting for Kyrgyzstan held on October 14. Thirteen proposals, nine of which are partnership grant proposals, were approved and conditionally recommended for the regional Grant Review Meeting. A list of NGOs whose grant applications will be sent to the Regional Grant Review Meeting includes:

***Foundation of Legal Problems.*** \$7,245 to design a draft law "Amendments and Addenda to the KR Labor Code." This is a partnership project that was developed in cooperation with ARD/CHECCHI targeting the development of commercial law. Having been designed, the law

***Youth Human Rights Movement.*** \$12,484 for a study monitoring the lives of a group of children on the basis of which recommendations will be made to the Kyrgyz Government for action. This is a Partnership Grant in cooperation with the Helsinki Foundation on Human Rights. The Youth Human Rights Movement is a target NGO. As a result of the project the Movement hopes to create an NGO coalition that will address children's problems. Movement members will be trained by the Helsinki Foundation in methods of monitoring. The project presents a long-term strategy for mutual cooperation.

***Mektep Adam Koom and Harmony and Tolerance.*** \$1,118 to enable 36 teachers of the Tonsky Raion of Issyk-kul Oblast to attend the workshop "Tolerance Education Through Interactive Methods of Teaching." This is a Partnership Project submitted in cooperation with the Public Association "Harmony and Tolerance." After training, the school teachers will offer tolerance education to 600 students in five schools in Tonsky Raion. The classes will be enhanced by the competition of stories and lessons dedicated to the conflict resolution.

***Bishkek Bureau of Children's Projects.*** \$6,050 to create an Association of Young Leaders in Kyrgyzstan. This is a partnership project, jointly designed with the Association of Young Leaders from Kazakhstan and will replicate the work of this youth civic education group. Initially, the Bureau plans to establish a coordination and information center by expanding its affiliates in six oblasts throughout the republic. Under the assistance of the Kazakh trainers from the NGO "Leader", a group of 15 people will be trained to conduct leadership workshops in Kyrgyzstan. It is anticipated that 250 young people from five oblasts will be trained. In May 1999 the Bureau will organize the conference for leaders, who have already been trained, in order to form the organizational structure of the Association of Young Leaders.

***Talas Farmers' Association.*** \$6,572 to open a resource center for farmers in Talas to help provide them information to enhance production and marketing of their goods and to strengthen the association. A series of roundtables also has been scheduled where farmers will openly discuss their problems with the representatives of various sectors of society. This grant is a follow-on activity to the work of Consortium partner Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs whose work now has ended.

***Junior Achievement Kyrgyzstan.*** \$8,850 to establish resource centers in Chui-Tokmok and Jalal-Abad, to work in the framework of the program "Applied Economics for High School Students." This is a partnership project, which has been designed with the Bishkek Financial-Economic Academy and presents a long-term strategy between these two organizations. The NGO will organize 4 five-day trainings on applied economics in Jalal-Abad and Chui-Tokmok for 80 teachers and then a team of trainers will be selected from the trained teachers.

***Professional Training Center for Disabled Children.*** \$6,222 to organize a series of activities advocating the rights and interests of disabled children by explaining them the Convention of Children's Rights, annual training children in writing, counting, reading and physical training. The Center also plans to submit a package of legal drafts on providing the disabled with jobs at state enterprises as well as provide consulting services to this type of enterprise.

***Association of Women of Kyrgyzstan for Ecological Security and Nuclear-Free World*** \$4,820 to establish a coalition of ecological NGO including Aleyne, BIOM, Tree of Life and Association of Women for Ecological Security. The coalition will strengthen coordination among like-minded organizations and consolidate their efforts in solving ecological problems.

***International Non-Governmental Coalition INC.*** \$4,822 to mount a program of public information aimed at changing attitudes to ecological resources in the Issyk-Kul Oblast. Jointly with the Association of Learned Lawyers the NGO will conduct surveys, which will be a basis for workshops, round tables, and conferences leading to documentation urging that this unusual micro-climate be declared a preserve.

***"Union of Rural Women" Public Association.*** \$3,815 to expand services of the Union's Information and Consulting Center which provides technical assistance and information on issues of relevance to women including small business development, women's rights and the Kyrgyz Labor Code. It is anticipated that the project will be funded in cooperation with the Dutch donor HIVOS. The project will be focused on Jety-Oguz, Tupsk and Ak-Suu Raions.

***"Dialogue" Non-Governmental Education Foundation.*** \$6,670 to engage Kyrgyzstani citizens in discussing the next annual budget of the country. Dialogue plans five twenty-minute TV programs encouraging citizens to speak out about problems related to the national budget. While preparing TV programs, the NGO members will travel throughout the republic to videotape opinions of people representing various regions of the country. Round tables will be organized in regions, at which the participants will watch videotaped programs. As an impact of the project, the NGO will submit a package

of documents to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic containing suggestions on the budget development.

**Investment Fund Association "Semetei."** \$12,880 to strengthen and consolidate investment funds in Kyrgyzstan by providing training to Kyrgyz investment fund representatives, preparing funds for listing on the Kyrgyz exchange and to create and disseminate information about investment funds through the media. This is a Partnership Grant with Pragma Corporation.

**Batken Farmers' Association.** \$4,840 to open a resource center to provide farmers of Batken Raion information on the basics of market economy, agribusiness, and veterinary science. It is planned that the Center will distribute questionnaires among farmers in order to identify their needs in training, and then invite specialists in the related areas. The Center will make a database on various types of farmers' activities to facilitate the search of partners.

In preparation for the Central Asia Grant Review Committee meeting the third week of January, 1999 thirty two projects were evaluated in the in-country Grant Review Meeting for Kyrgyzstan held on December 28-29. Eighteen proposals were approved and conditionally recommended for the Regional Grant Review Meeting. A list of NGOs whose grant applications will be sent to the Regional Grant Review Meeting includes:

- from the Osh Oblast: Chernobyl Union and the Union of Afghan Veterans;
- from Bishkek: Tree of Life; the Association of Social Workers; the Association of Central Asia Journalists; the Employment Promotion Association; the Tax Consultants Union, the Women Congress; the Association of Trainers; and Perecrestok;
- from the Jalalabad Oblast: the Support Center; Aibek; Justice; and the Rural Children's Right Protection Bureau;
- the Support Center in Kara-Balta; and
- the Support Center in Naryn.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Grant Manager Kuban Assanov monitored 16 Counterpart grantees this month:

- In Bishkek: the Kyrgyz Committee on Human Rights; the Association of Independent Lawyers; the Association of Lawyers Scientists; the Talent Support Fund; the Legal Initiatives Center; Bureau of Children's Projects; Junior Achievement; POLIS; and the Fund of Legal Issues.
- In Osh: the Legal Education Center; the Foundation for Promotion and Support of Economic and Legal Reforms; Ata-Jurt Society, and the Charity Foundation Talant;
- In the Jalalabad Oblast: the Rural Children's Right Protection Bureau and Aibek; and
- Mektep in Adam Koom in the Issyk-Kul Oblast.

The Grant Manager also received 7 final reports from the following Counterpart grantees: Aibek, Sanitas, ESMIK, Retraining Center for Disabled Children, Ak Ilbirs, Tendesh and Job Seekers Club.

## **OBJECTIVE 5**

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3);**

### **Bishkek Resource Center**

#### *Roundtables*

In October, Counterpart hosted a roundtable to discuss draft laws with stakeholders concerning drafts of laws about Philanthropy and Patronship of the Arts and Philanthropy developed by Parliamentarians and

the Government of Kyrgyz Republic. Attendees included 20 participants from Kyrgyzstani NGOs, parliamentarians, international agencies, media, and private sector representatives. One of the initiators, Andrey Filatov is the senior consultant for Jogorku Kenesh and participated in the regional conference *Social Partnership for Prosperity*.

A roundtable discussion concerning social partnership was held in Jalalabad on November 13. Ms. Gulmairam Uchugenova, the media manager of Counterpart Consortium together with the staff organized this meeting. Representatives of NGOs, local governments and mass media took part at this discussion. Mr. Bakyt Orunbekov, the Director of the Social Department of the Oblast State Administration in Jalalabad indicated the Oblast Administration is supportive of developing fruitful links between local governments and NGOs, and media may play an active role in facilitating such contacts. Mr. Orunbekov proposed local mass media to create special headings for NGOs. Participants discussed possibilities to have a schedule of NGOs' actions at the Center to keep journalists informed and to train media volunteers in each Rayon.

E. Kasybekov, A. Nusupov, and K. Asanov took part in the meeting held in Akimiat office with deputy Akim of Aksy Rayon on Social Affairs, Abdykerim Karabaev, on the issue of budget consultations with NGOs.

#### **Jalal-Abad Support Center**

During the reporting period the staff of the Center provided 38 consultations for NGOs, had 109 visitors and made 20 field trips to outlying villages.

The Assistant Elmira Mavlyanova took part in a meeting of the working group on "Integration/Resettlement/Repatriation" at the *CIS Conference*, held in Bishkek on September 30-October 3. Fourteen participants throughout CIS attended this meeting, facilitated by Counterpart Washington.

The Center took an active part in the meetings devoted to the referendum held on October 17. Government officials, Deputies and NGO representatives attended those meetings, on which issues of participation of NGOs in the referendum were discussed. Eighteen NGO representatives were accredited as independent national observers.

On October 23, representatives from 10 local NGOs, UNHCR, CARITAS and media listened to a staff presentation on the past two years' activity. Attendees were informed about services provided by the Center for local NGOs and refugee communities and its plans to transform the Center into local NGO support organization

The Center assisted *Kyak* in officially registering with the Ministry of Justice. The staff also helped in writing their charter and getting registered with the Tax Inspection and Social Department. The Manager N. Saparbaev consulted with them to assist in project design. Counterpart Program Coordinators Elena Dolgova and Felix Nam conducted TTAP seminars for members of the refugee NGOs *Kyak* and *Pamir*.

The Center continues to work with the Oblast State Administration, Akman Village government and Construction Company "Kench Ltd" on the Tash-Bulak Water Project. Despite delays related to funding hold-ups from the local governments, obtaining proper materials; and selling agricultural products contributed in lieu of funds, construction is progressing and the project is only slightly behind schedule.

The Center has also been working with 11 women refugees living at Lyceum #1 in Jalalabad City to help them organize themselves as an official CBO. The Center's staff has also been working closely with them to plan appropriately their proposed sewing business. For the same community the Center gave 300 som for their children's New Year's activities at school.

### **Kara-Balta Support Center**

During the fourth quarter of 1998 the staff of the Center provided 67 consultations for NGOs and had 101 visitors.

The officer of GTZ visited the Center to find out ways and possibilities to establish a medical center in Kara-Balta for refugees from Jayl, Moscow and Panfilov Rayons. Currently, refugees receive medical aid in the Bishkek Center only.

Assistant Akhtam Ismailov took part in a meeting of the working group on "Integration/ Resettlement/ Repatriation" of the *CIS Conference*, held in Bishkek on September 30- October 3. Fourteen participants throughout CIS attended this meeting, facilitated by Counterpart Washington.

The Center staff organized a roundtable held on November 17 in Kara-Balta, at which problems of farmers and land users were discussed. Fifteen refugee farmers, representatives of local governments, NGOs and media attended this roundtable. Participants highlighted the main problems facing farmers in the Jayl and Panfilov Rayons and discussed the possibility of establishing a farmer's association. Refugee farmers were interested in taking part in the Counterpart training *NGO Financial Sustainability*, which was ultimately conducted in December, and *Association Development*.

The Center staff facilitated a roundtable held on November 26 in Kara-Balta, at which local NGOs discussed activities of their organizations and shared information about each other. Twenty-two representatives from 13 local NGOs attended the meeting. Participants were informed about localization of the Center and resources available.

The Refugee NGOs *Hireneso* and *Muk-Suu* received the second installment from the NGO Trust Fund. The PCV Jennifer Riddle is providing assistance in the management of funds, given by UNHCR through Counterpart, to those NGOs. The Center provided assistance to these NGOs in creating an *Aksakal Soviets* (council of elderly people), which will be responsible for monitoring activity. These councils are traditional village institutions and village residents usually elect the members. Counterpart's PCs conducted TTAP workshops for these NGOs in November.

The Center staff conducted series of meetings with local businesses to attract additional resources for the Center for 1999. The Head of the Marketing Department of the JV Bakay (sugar plant) indicated that his organization will find an opportunity to provide the Center with Internet access for free in March, as a result of drastic changes in the exchange rate with USD. The administration of the KAS Kara-Balta (flour producer) also committed to assisting the Support Center by providing used computers some time in April of 1999.

### **Naryn Support Center**

During the reporting period the staff of the Center provided 44 consultations for NGOs, received 61 visitors.

The Center facilitated a series of meetings of government officials and NGO representatives devoted to the referendum held on October 17. 24 NGO representatives were accredited at the referendum as national independent observers.

The Center facilitated an October meeting between NGOs and the Deputy Governor of the Naryn Oblast. This meeting focused on partnership potential between Naryn NGOs and the local government. Attendees decided to establish a coordination center, which includes representatives of 4 NGOs, the local government and the Agricultural Bank of Naryn.

The Center organized a meeting of local NGOs held on November 11, 1998. Twelve representatives of Naryn Oblast NGOs attended the meeting. The issues of transformation of the Support Center into an independent local NGO and its structure were discussed. It is anticipated that the Support Center will become a membership type organization. The suggested membership fees for NGOs is 200 soms, for individuals 50 soms, and for Board members 500 soms. The meeting of the Board members will be held on January 1999.

The Manager N.Satarov took part at the seminar in Tashkent held by the OSCE Liaison office in Central Asia. The goal of the seminar was to train international observers for elections. Representatives from OSCE informed attendees about the work of the OSCE in Central Asia. Participants of the seminar also were familiarized with the criteria of free and fair elections, practical tools for an election day, and the OSCE Code of Conduct.

The Manager Nurdin Satarov met with representatives of the Justice Department of the Naryn Oblast on November 23. The goal of the visit was to discuss organizing the conference dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of Human Rights Declaration. He then facilitated the conference, which was held on December 9, 1998. Twenty NGO representatives and local government officials attended this meeting. The participants were introduced to the history of the human rights, the activities of the Justice Department of Naryn Oblast and the activities of the local NGOs *Tendesh* and *Bajastan*. One potential outlet for collaboration between the local NGOs and government is through joint development of a civic education program focused on human rights. Plans were made to discuss an outline for such a collaboration at a roundtable discussion scheduled for January, 1999.

#### **Aikyn**

Consumer Rights Protection Association *Aikyn* together with State Consumer Rights Protection Committee submitted a package of proposals to the Legislative Assembly of Jogorku Kenesh on December 10. Those proposals were prepared after series of meetings and roundtables, conducted by *Aikyn* and are dedicated to the certifying of food products, being sold to the public and to the quality of the public utilities services.

## F. TAJIKISTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

**Security Status:** The Quarter began with calm in most parts of Tajikistan, with Government and United Tajik Opposition cooperating in and concluding a set of joint military activities to restore order in Leninsky District adjacent to Dushanbe. Armed search and harassment of travelers and vehicles by a renegade Government Field Commander in the area north of Dushanbe (Varsob Valley and the Ansob Pass) continued unabated throughout the Quarter. The Central Government seems unwilling or unable to intercede and correct this behavior. Joint discussions between the Government and UTO resumed in mid-October and continued through the end of December.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, a group of roughly 1,000 heavily armed troops, under the command of a commander whose forces previously had brought the current government into power, invaded the City of Khojand in Northern Tajikistan. Government forces were successful in quelling the fighting in a few days and mopping-up activities were completed by mid-December in the areas around Aini (Zeravshan Valley) and in the mountains near the Shahr-i-stan Pass. At the end of December fighting between two UTO field commanders broke out at the UTO Headquarters building in downtown Dushanbe, resulting in 5 deaths and several people wounded, including both combatants and unarmed civilians. Calm was restored and Government and UTO have resumed their dialogue on national reconciliation.

### OBJECTIVE TAJ-1

**Design and implement a pro-active program including training, technical assistance and problem-related training interventions for local groups, CBOs, NGOs and Government to support programs and organizational capacity building in areas impacted by civil conflict and refugees/IDPs, using primarily existing in-country training resources whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.1; primarily PP 3 & 4)**

#### **TTAPs and Staff Development**

Training and Technical Assistance Planning (TTAP) interventions were conducted by Program Officers with officers of our new grantee NGOs and with NGO *Fidokor* as a post-grant follow-up. Needs for staff and board development were identified and discussed with all of the NGOs, including the ways that they might be addressed. An additional NGO *Peace and Prosperity* was scheduled for a TTAP, but the TTAP was postponed, due to lack of preparation by the NGO. Counterpart Program staff explained the process of the TTAP and the need for extensive participation by the staff and board of the NGO in order for the TTAP to be beneficial for the NGO. The session was rescheduled.

Counterpart Program Coordinators led a staff development workshop on Training and Technical Assistance Planning (TTAP) for Counterpart's staff in Dushanbe. The goal of the workshop was to acquaint all Program and Support Center staff with this tool. As a result participants recognized, that they need to participate in all of Counterpart's trainings in order to be able to assist NGOs better through the use of the TTAP.

#### **NGO Training**

During the quarter the following training workshops were provided. Two Training Workshops scheduled for Khojand in November were cancelled, due to the outbreak of violence in the city.

Type of Workshop	Workshops	NGOs	Participants
NGO & Community	8	62	135
Project Design	6	20	89
NGO Management	2	18	23
Financial Management	2	23	31
Newsletter Publication	1	7	11
Enterprise Development	1	8	13
Association Building	1	17	17
Human Resource Management	1	15	17
Social Partnerships	1	15	17
Team Building/Conflict Management	2	26	30
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>383</b>
<i>Special Trainings for Tajikistan</i>			
Problem ID Workshop	2	22	28
Participatory Methodology (Tolerance Education)	2	26	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>462</b>

### Training Highlights

Training Program Coordinator Kiomiddin Davlatov revised and updated the training database. The Training Reports' archive was refreshed: computer files and hard copies of all reports were organized. Revised Guidelines for Reporting were supplied to Contract Trainers and NGOs delivering training services.

A meeting with Contract Trainers was held to discuss problems, accomplishments and opportunities in Counterpart's future training program. Trainers and staff discussed the following in regard to the delivery of training and technical assistance services:

- Differentiation of contractors' fees based on criteria to improve professional quality of training;
- Problems of the existing reporting system and ways of improvement;
- Transition from "Contract Trainers" to "Contractor NGOs" ideas, suggestions, mechanism of implementation;
- Training targeted to expanded staffs of targeted NGOs;
- Reorganize trainers' room, arrange computer, printer, photocopying machine, training literature and other training- related materials;
- A training on TTAP will be provided for Contract Trainers to build capacity

### TOTs

Counterpart participated in a Training of Trainers (TOT) on "Disaster Management", organized by FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance. Counterpart supported participation of Buribek Buribekov, leader of NGO *Kalam* and new Manager of the Khurog NGO Resource Center to be set up and operated under a Counterpart grant to *Kalam*. Counterpart also assisted FOCUS to conduct aspects of the TOT, including Roles of NGOs in Community Participation, Use of Media and Local Resource Management.

## OBJECTIVE TAJ- 2

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous NGOs & CBOs, U.S. and other foreign NGOs, dealing with refugees/IDPs on issues related to peaceful and constructive reintegration, reconciliation and advocacy in support of participation in democratic processes (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2 and PP 1, 2, 3 &/or 4).**

The first follow-up workshop on "Making Democracy Work" was conducted by women from the local NGOs *Open Asia*, *Jahon* and *Women Voters*. Participants included 12 NGOs, currently implementing projects on civil society and human rights issues. Leader of *Open Asia*, Muborak Sharifi, who is also a Counterpart Contract Trainer, demonstrated good knowledge and skills in presenting and facilitating the workshop's module, previously introduced by Judy Davis of the Colorado (USA) League of Women Voters to Tajikistan women's NGOs at a Counterpart- and AED/GTD-sponsored workshop in Kazakhstan. Participants evaluated the workshop as excellent. In December, plans were made to develop another partnership exchange with the CLWV and Central Asia NGOs under the auspices of a USIS program.

The leader of the NGO *Fidokor* Dilbar Khaliliva participated in Conference "Humanitarian Assistance for Refugees," which took place on December 14-16, 1998 in Istanbul. 31 representatives from NIS NGOs and some international organizations implementing projects related with conflict resolution and peace building process were invited. The Conference Grant Commission recognized the project of *Fidokor* as the winner from among 15 proposals submitted. Leaders of the NGO *BUTA* in Azerbaijan and NGO *FDHR* Georgia showed interest in collaboration and exchanging experience with *Fidokor*. They came to an agreement to establish relationships with each other and invited *Fidokor* to visit their organizations in March month, 1999. *Fidokor* is a Counterpart target NGO and former grantee and was recommended by Counterpart to participate in this UNHCR-funded conference

Dilorom Atabaeva, Program Coordinator in Khojand NGO Support Center is assisting the local NGO *Afghan War Veterans* in setting up a partnership agreement and exchange with the US NGO *National Association of Concerned Veterans*. The first contacts between the two organizations were made during a training program sponsored through the efforts of Counterpart and the AED/Global Training for Development program in 1997.

The Regional Conference on Social Partnership proved a venue for fostering ideas and promoting media involvement in the NGO community. In Tajikistan the idea of establishment of the association of journalists interested in the idea of promotion of social partnerships between Government, business and NGOs became a reality in December. Assisted by Counterpart Consortiums' Constituency Building Officer Malik Kadirov, seven journalists who usually write about problems of NGOs met and established the association *Social Partnership* to implement and coordinate activities directed at bringing the three sectors together to jointly solve problems. On December 4<sup>th</sup> the founding meeting was held with 11 Tajik journalists present. The charter was ratified, officers elected and the Association was founded. Two of the 11 member Advisory Board represent business, 2 from NGOs and 2 from Government. To solve financial and technical problems of a newborn organization, participants decided to develop a grant proposal to Counterpart Consortium for assistance in this period of growth for the Association.

A meeting was held with SCF/US regarding their needs for NGO-related training for their local staff in the Khatlon Oblast. Counterpart referred SCF/US to two local NGOs – *Murod* and *Lady Leader*, both from this area and have Contract Trainers as members. Counterpart Program Coordinator Kiomidin Davlatov assisted the NGOs in the contracting process and agreements and plans for the workshops were completed. The two NGOs will be delivering services to SCF/US as a coalition or partnership.

Counterpart has selected two NGOs, *Murod* from Kurghan-teppa and *Fidokor*-from Dushanbe to work together to provide *Problem ID* training workshops, special trainings and follow-ups designed and developed to facilitate reconciliation in divided communities, in conflict-impacted districts in the South and East. The training activities will begin in December. These two organizations are experienced in working in these areas and have demonstrated their abilities to facilitate successful trainings.

The NGOs *Tajikistan Center for Citizenship Education*, *Women Voters* and *Fidokor* developed a joint proposal on tolerance education and conflict resolution issues, with the help of Counterpart's Program Coordinator. The collaboration will take advantage of the *Tajikistan Center for Citizenship Education's* contacts with donors and other international NGOs, *Women Voters'* excellent contacts in Government and higher education institutions, and *Fidokor's* ability to mount effective training and village-level interventions.

In the wake of the violence inflicted on Khojand, Counterpart has assisted local NGOs in coming together to discuss action to deal with the aftermath. The group *Club* issued a challenge to all NGOs and businesses for charity action. NGOs have responded with offers of help and support. *Club* has decided to collect funds and clothes for the most affected and needy groups. NGOs really feel the call for charitable action and have expressed serious concern for ameliorative action. Even low income people contributed with obvious caring and concern. This action is also a challenge to some extent to Government and business.

Counterpart Program Staff initiated meetings with the NGOs *Sharq* and the *International Center for Civic Education*, in regard to issues of civic education and the upcoming elections. Counterpart briefed these two NGOs on the interests of local NGOs in participation in many aspects of civic education, including particularly the electoral process. Counterpart explained also the efforts fostered by Counterpart by local NGOs in this regard. Both NGOs asked for Counterpart's assistance in contacting the other local NGOs and participation in future activities directed towards civic education and elections. Counterpart emphasized the need for NGOs and international organizations to work together on these difficult and widespread issues.

### OBJECTIVE TAJ-3

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Tajikistan CBOs and NGOs that includes specific provisions that enable community groups and CBOs in civil conflict-impacted areas of Tajikistan to access information relevant to the Peace Process and its environment from local, regional and other sources (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2 & primarily PP 1, 2, 3 &/or 4).**

#### **Database**

A major update of the database of Active NGOs was initiated in November. Database Coordinator Jamshed Rahmonberdiev redesigned and implemented a plan to assist NGOs in completing and collecting the Questionnaires using trained Collectors. The plan was implemented in early December and to date nearly 60% of active NGOs have completed the new Questionnaires. The remaining NGOs are located mostly in Leninabad and rural areas. A special effort will be made in January to reach out to these areas and complete the update of the NGO Database using the new Questionnaire.

#### **Documents-Publications**

The NGO Support Center in Khojand in December produced its fourth monthly Newsletter and distributed it to an expanded number of local NGOs and interested potential partners. Distribution this month was over 100 and the need and interest is apparently still growing. The first edition was four pages long and this one has grown to eight pages. We are looking forward to the next issues, which may include some color to highlight the coverage of local events and informative text.

### **NGO Support Centers**

The NGO Support Center in Kurghan-teppa was completed with the delivery and installation of computer systems and other office equipment. The formal Opening Reception is scheduled for early December.

Two meetings were held with the Eurasia Foundation/Tajikistan Director regarding two NGO Support Centers in Gorno Badakhshan: one a Eurasia Foundation sponsored project and one a Counterpart grantee. The importance of close coordination of assistance to NGOs and CBOs in all parts of Gorno Badakhshan (an under-served and very isolated area) was emphasized. Each NGO will focus its services in four of the eight districts and will closely cooperate and plan trainings and other NGO assistance services. It was noted that there are ample demands and needs in the area to keep both of the projects fully engaged in assistance to local NGOs. The two providers will meet regularly to share plans and discuss strategies for improving services.

While attending the Conflict Management Conference in Moscow, NGO Support Center Coordinator Farhod Bokiev used the opportunity to procure new resource literature for our Resource Centers. He visited several international and NGO offices and information centers in Moscow and found a good number of books, newsletters, magazines (about 60 titles in all) and an updated database of potential funding sources. Many of the publications obtained were located in Russian NGO support centers, e.g. Charity Aid Foundation, Center "Golubka," and the Russia Eco-Union. Some were purchased in bookstores and target business organizations, but they will be good resources for NGOs on Management, Team Building, Conflict Resolution and Skill Development. These materials will be shared among all three of Counterpart Tajikistan's NGO Support Centers.

#### **OBJECTIVE TAJ-4:**

**Assist Tajikistan CBOs & NGOs involved in the Peace Process to access financial and information resources in-country and abroad (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2 and PP 1,2,3 & 4)**

#### **Grant Activities**

***Women Voters (\$7,918)*** This group is newly formed. Their keen interest in women's roles in the electoral process was kindled by ideas discussed in the round tables in April and May and the Women and Elections Conference in June. The group is made up of generally well educated and well connected women. Their project is targeted on working intensively on the topic of civic education, voting rights and the electoral process with a large population of primarily women in one of the most populous districts of Dushanbe. They also will be working with other NGOs active in the electoral process and women's rights and has as an objective to increase their membership chiefly from the ranks of their beneficiaries. The group will also continue to attend relevant Counterpart and other trainings and seek technical assistance and involve their membership in developing a sustainability plan for the future.

***Kalam (Quill Pen) (\$12,390)*** This NGO is well established in Khurog, the capital of the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region in the remote Pamir area of Eastern Tajikistan. The members are mostly journalists with excellent relations with NGOs and Government and have put together joint partnership efforts with Government and with private sector. This project is supported by a combination of USAID and UNHCR funds to set up and operate an NGO Support Center in Khurog, which will supply information, technical assistance and training services to NGOs and communities in the area. There may be additional funding from Eurasia Foundation to another local NGO in an adjoining area to complement Counterpart's efforts to provide assistance in this mountainous area, where transportation and communication are difficult due to the civil conflict, proximity to Afghanistan and often inclement weather.

***Avesto Charity Association (\$8,410)*** This long established NGO has a good track record of successful project implementation and operation and experience in working with international organizations. It has a large membership (100+) that includes social work and medical service professionals and focuses on providing services to special social and vulnerable groups. This project is focused on re-integration into their communities of demobilizing soldiers (ex-combatants) through re-training and, as appropriate, medical and social rehabilitation. The project is also supported by in-kind contributions from the Government Ministry of Health.

***Women and Society (\$7,112)*** This Khojand-based NGO has excellent experience in working cooperatively with other NGOs. They have been actively involved in human rights and advocacy for women. Their current project titled *Kiparis* (Cypress) is targeting some 1800 women in Leninabad province to involve them in democratization and educate them on human rights legislation and issues. They will expand the existing human rights library, conduct trainings and round tables, produce and distribute a quarterly newsletter and involve local government, other NGOs and the local media in their activities.

***Law and Beneficence (\$11,000)*** This group has developed an ambitious project to assist children to know and assert their rights and to educate law enforcement and prosecutors as to the laws and rights of children. The focus area is in the southern part of Khatlon province, where a high percentage of refugee children are at risk of illegal detainment and abuse. The project will train 25 representatives of local law enforcement agencies as trainers to conduct workshops for other LE representative and some 2000 children and their families on the rights of children. They will also produce materials in Tajiki and Russian, distribute them to all participants and involve the media in covering the trainings and airing the issues of illegal detention and abuse of children.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The NGO *Association of Young Leaders* finished the first phase of its grant. As a result of the monitoring conducted by Counterpart Consortium, it was determined that organization did not produce evidence of having conducted a television viewers' survey, which should be conducted according to the project evaluation plan. Counterpart also requested a video tape copy of the TV programs prepared and shown by TV broadcasters; concern was raised about the relevance of aspects of the TV programming to the target issues.

An evaluation of *Fidokor's* grant "Peace to the Home of Each One" was completed in November. This project was aimed at building trust and cooperation among different ethnic groups in the Kabodion district, one of the areas most damaged by the civil conflict and impacted by the inflow of returnees. *Fidokor* successfully conducted six workshops, one roundtable and four community activities (events with the involvement of large number of people). Community leaders, representatives of different ethnic groups (Tajiks, Uzbeks, Arabs, Turkmen), leaders of refugee groups and local authorities participated in the interactive workshops. In addition, *Fidokor* published and distributed its newsletter about conflict and returnees to the population in Kabodion and to the NGO community in Tajikistan. It contained materials about returnees' rights, legal advice for frequently asked questions and other information concerning returnees. It also included folklore and verses composed by the different ethnic groups that illustrate the difficult life of refugees in Afghanistan. These grant-supported activities had some very positive effects:

- *Fidokor* was successful in bring down to a significant extent the levels of distrust and tension existing between the ethnic groups in Kabodion;
- Government officials in Kabodion changed some of their attitudes regarding NGOs. They realized how effective and important NGOs could be; and
- *Fidokor* helped to enlist the assistance of local resources, particularly from the Internat, for children of returnees.

## OBJECTIVE TAJ-5

**Facilitate constructive interaction between CBOs/NGOs and all levels of Government to serve community needs related to the Peace Process in areas prone to significant levels of ethnic tension, refugee/IDP impacts and/or civil strife (supports USAID IR 2.1.3 and PP 1,2,3, & 4);**

Counterpart Consortium partner ICNL representative Muatar Khaidarova and Counterpart NGO Resource Center Coordinator Farhod Bokiev met in November with local NGOs to continue their work on a draft of proposed Taxation Code. They finalized their comments and recommendations and submitted them to the Majles-i Oli (Parliament) at its opening session on November 12th. The reviewers found significant and serious flaws in the draft and made numerous constructive recommendations to the portions affecting charitable giving and NGOs. The new Taxation Code was passed by Parliament and signed by the President. It came into the force and was published in December. On review, it still has serious gaps and problems including insufficient definitions of NGOs and lack of exemptions for NGO earned income. Many of the recommendations made by NGOs were not included in the legislation.

The Tax Code was the subject of much debate we are told (outside observers are not allowed to attend Parliamentary sessions) and to date it is not clear what was modified, tabled or was passed unchanged. We have been informed that many Deputies (Members of Parliament) appreciated the informed and insightful recommendations from the NGO sector.

NGO *Civil Initiatives* received a small grant from AED/Global Project to conduct community-based training on topic "From Conflict to Civil Peace and Agreement." Training will be conducted in Tursunzadeh district, where ethnic conflict is endemic and will be conducted by Counterpart's Contract Trainers. The first training was conducted for local governmental officials at their request, although they were not included in target group of the project. The governmental representatives evaluated training very highly and asked NGO to continue this activity in future. Additional trainings will be held in communities around the district.

A meeting of NGOs with specialists from the Ministry of Ecology and UNDP in Khojand took place to discuss the issue of land degradation of wastelands and deserts. NGOs were informed about potential dangers and the proposed program for prevention and protection of lands. Our NGOs were encouraged to participate in the program implementation in Leninabad.

*Murod* conducted New Year's activities for 50 orphan children in Vakhsh district's boarding school. The NGO invited local donors and governmental organizations in the region. Most importantly, many former soldiers participated very actively as volunteers to prepare and present the activities.

In November, *Modar*, a Counterpart grantee, organized and conducted a special forum entitled "Roles and Activities of Women's NGOs in Tajikistan." In attendance were representatives from 10 women's NGOs and all 5 female Members of Parliament. The purpose was to acquaint the Members with women NGOs' activities and concerns. This was the first occasion that all of the women Members came together to participate in this kind of meeting to inform them and advocate for women's issues. The forum revealed serious interest and surprise on the part of the women Members regarding the range of issues and activities and the numbers of active women's NGOs in the country. They mentioned that previously only three or four women's NGOs had come forth to establish communication with individual Members of Parliament and that they lacked information about the scope and breadth of the good work being done by women's NGOs in Tajikistan. Also discussed were specific items of legislation being considered by the Parliament (Majles-i-Oli), including issues of elections, education, taxation and rights of women and children. The Members of Parliament asked the women's NGOs to suggest their ideas and recommendations to them in written form so that they may be presented to Parliament for consideration.

## G. TURKMENISTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**Design and implement a demand-driven training and technical assistance program for NGOs in support of institutional and programmatic viability, using existing in-country training resources whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### Target NGO Overview

Although the original indicators for Turkmenistan include only three target NGOs, the staff has determined that is difficult to implement a demand-driven program without a better sense of target NGOs and their needs. As a result of the successful implementation of the first TTAPs, the program coordinator team has been able to develop a preliminary list of five additional target NGOs that may eventually become satellite offices or resources centers. They have set a goal to establish an A, B, C target NGO list by the end of February which will include at least 20 target NGOs from all regions of the country.

#### TTAPs

Five TTAPs were conducted this past quarter for the following organizations: *Yashil*, the Special Olympics of Turkmenbashi, *Ceic Okara* (a patient's rights group), *Annageldy*, and the Association of Family Practitioners. Technical assistance and training plans were developed for each of the organizations with special attention given to the needs identified in the TTAP. Some issues of concern to the groups were management, governance, human resources development, and fundraising.

#### Staff Development

Three staff members, including two member of the Dahovuz water user's team, attended the 5 day staff development workshop in Shimkent. The skills developed will be used to implement a plan to work with local NGOs to develop a satellite office in Dashovuz to service the growing needs of the NGO community in the far northern region of the country. Additionally, the skills learned will be used in Ashghabad to expand the resource base and information sharing potential within the Ashghabad office. The participants felt that the most valuable result of the training was the ability to network with other country representatives and exchange information. The workshop provided them with a program overview of the NGO Support Initiative Program from a regional perspective, rather than on a county-by-country basis, a concept not previously communicated.

#### NGO Training

Type of Workshop	Workshops	NGOs	Participants
NGO and Community	9	101	164
Project Design	2	29	29
NGO Management	3	40	42
Strategic Planning	2	25	30
Association Development	1	15	16
Human Resource Management	1	14	14
Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	15	19
Newsletter	1	7	12
Social Partnership	1	11	13
Localization Strategy Workshop	1	1	11
6 Month Workplan Workshop	1	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>361</b>

### **Training Highlights**

Since the beginning of training session in Turkmenistan, 57 training sessions have been conducted by 26 trainers, including 8 trainers from other CA countries. 793 participants (227 from outside of Ashghabad) from 143 different NGOs have attended CCT training in Turkmenistan. 11 training modules have been executed in Turkmenistan, so far. Four additional modules: Governance/Board of Directors; Financial Management; Training Follow Up are planned for Turkmenistan in the next quarter. For the first time training in two modules was conducted in Dashouz.

The Center for Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs provided training facilities (including 5 computers) free of charge to Counterpart Consortium to conduct the first Newsletter Development training in Turkmenistan.

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Partnership Between Family Practice Association and Connecticut Family Practice Clinic**

November marked a critical turning point in the partnership grant development effort between the Turkmen Association of Family Practitioners and the Asylum Hill Family Practice clinic in Connecticut. The Doctors in the US responded to a preliminary list of cooperative activities drafted by the Turkmen NGO. The CC DC office has acted as a liaison between the partners on each side by working with the Country Director to ensure that both sides of the partnership are involved in a needs-driven and reciprocal relationship. It is anticipated that a fully developed partnership grant proposal will be presented to the January regional grant committee. The model will more than likely include doctors from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan as well.

#### **Counterpart Facilitates Assessment Visit of INTRAC Representatives**

Meetings for the representatives of INTRAC were organized with the following NGOs: Ecological group of education *Yashil*; Association of the Disabled of Turkmenistan; Turkmen Youth Center Dialogue; and Center for Patients' Rights *Keyik Okara*. The result of these meetings was acquaintance with the experience and work of various organizations, establishment of business contacts and prospects for cooperation next year between INTRAC and Turkmen NGOs. It is possible that some representatives of Turkmen NGOs will be invited to future trainings to be carried out by INTRAC in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Database**

The Turkmenistan program information has been completely updated and sent to Bishkek for inclusion in the regional database. A total of 150 NGOs are listed in the Turkmen list of NGOs working with CCT. Information from the database continues to be requested by organizations interested in civil society development in Turkmenistan, including OSCE, Soros, Human Rights Watch and various UN agencies.

#### **Information Network**

As a result of recent regional visits, CCT has entered into informal agreements with NGOs in four of the five regions to share information through the Internet in an effort to improve outreach outside of Ashghabad. These NGOs have also volunteered to serve as contact points between Counterpart and other NGOs and initiative groups who don't have access to communications.

### **Internet/Email Services**

The computer specialist continues to consult with NGOs regarding how to access information and how to design newsletters and announcements that can be disseminated electronically. The Ashghabad office has also received several requests from international organizations for information included in the website. Over 40 organizations will have e-mail boxes that they can access free of charge at our facility. We hope to install an additional phone line in the New Year, which will enable NGOs to access their e-mail from their own offices. The e-mail address [news@cpart.org](mailto:news@cpart.org) was opened and equipped with listserve information from international organizations such as *civilsoc*, *women-east-west*, *do-wire* and *antigone*.

### **Publications**

The first Issue of the CCT Newsletter made its inaugural distribution at the second annual Open House. The publication will be issued on a quarterly basis until the New Year, when it is scheduled for monthly production. The newsletter is a four-paged format and will be distributed in English, Russian and Turkmen languages.

Thanks to the initiative of our Turkmen-speaking staff and to the growing number of requests from Turkmen speaking initiative groups, the CCT office has produced its first promotional brochure in the Turkmen language. This small effort has a tremendous impact on outreach efforts, particularly in the regions. The government is also pleased by our ability to respond to the needs of the Turkmen-speaking public.

### **Donor Focus Group on NGOs**

Our office continues to host the monthly donor discussion group on NGOs, chaired by USAID Rep. Murl Baker. The continued focus is on sharing information between international organizations working with NGOs and to avoid duplication of efforts.

### **OBJECTIVE 4:**

**Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Grant Activities**

*Special Olympics of Turkmenbashi and "Umit" Center for Social Adaptation.* \$8,542 to create a system of social services which will improve the standard of living and social integration of vulnerable people and those with limited abilities into society in Turkmenbashi city. In addition to activities and services designed to facilitate social adaptation, the grant comprises a significant advocacy component whereby members of the NGO will represent the interests of different groups including handicapped adults and children, orphans, refugees, retired, elderly, and single mothers. This NGO argues that the protection of the human rights of children and adults with limited mental and physical abilities, and the need to defend the rights of the socially vulnerable segments of the population through targeted social assistance has become more urgent since the period of independence began.

*Unicum Intellectual Creativity Club.* \$5,714 to promote the upgrading of the educational and intellectual level of over 300 Ashghabad city adolescents by involving them in an after school legal and civic education program. This thematic educational program involves students from 6 schools in Ashghabad. The program is designed to promote the development of independent analytical thinking skills to prepare students for adult life through practical application of themes through team games, team-building and leadership. A special component of the program is three workshops (50 students) devoted to the theme "History of State and Law" targeting legal and civic education. In addition to city-wide intellectual game competitions, the students will also compete internationally through the internet. As a part of the project, the NGO also plans to develop a resource center library and develop monthly brochures to reach a broader audience and attract additional students.

***Turkmen Branch of Central Asian Association of Journalists for Social Partnership.*** \$7,212 to raise awareness about social partnerships and the role of all three sectors of civil society in order to promote the acceptance of the work of NGOs in Turkmenistan. The journalists who make up this organization believe that there is not a great enough awareness amongst journalists of the existence of the three sectors. They believe that by educating their fellow journalists they will be able to generate a greater media attention on social partnerships and improve the public's understanding of the role of NGOs.

***Center of Cultural Heritage Studies and Development.*** \$6,706 to assist artisans and producers of national cultural items through training, seminars, marketing assistance and the promotion of their products while at the same time upgrading the quality and awareness of national culture. This project also seeks to develop a new system of democratic principals in the sphere of artisan promotion. The first step of this process is the identification and registration of all artisans and manufacturers of folk applied items through a questionnaire/database system. The project also includes the establishment of a special shop where artisans from across the nation can sell their goods.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This past quarter Counterpart Turkmenistan conducted monitoring activities of the following organizations: *Dialogue, Yashil, Kopet Dag*, the Association of Disabled People, and *Fomatia*. Monitoring activities indicated that these organizations are conducting activities on schedule with their grant proposals. They are also submitting reports in a timely fashion. Through monitoring Counterpart has been able to help the organizations identify potential problem areas such as a clear fundraising strategy, proper government registration and a feasible governance structure. In many organizations, TTAPs are scheduled to address these problem areas.

## **OBJECTIVE 5**

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3);**

### **Ashghabad Resource Center**

#### ***Information Services and Technical Assistance***

This past quarter nearly 200 people visited the Ashghabad Resource Center for the following activities: consultations; general information; project development; e-mail and Internet service; and viewing videos. The Resource Center continued its bi-weekly video hour in which videos produced by NGOs are shown to interested individuals. CCT's office continues to provide a referral service for several international organizations hoping to establish linkages with Turkmen NGOs.

### ***Roundtables***

#### **Social Partnership Roundtable in Turkmenbashi City on the Caspian**

A roundtable was organized by the members of the Special Olympics of Turkmenbashi and the Social Adaptation Center Umyt was held in the mayor's office of the city and was presided over by the Deputy Mayor. Over 35 people attended the activity in which an informative and open discussion regarding collaboration ensued. Representatives of all three sectors as well as media were present and actively shared their perspectives. People from each sector requested that training be made available to all sectors and that training should take place in Turkmenbashi on a regular basis. The event was described in detail in the local newspaper, *Turkmenbashi Voice*.

#### **Social Partnerships Roundtable with Ministry of Social Welfare**

This roundtable brought together the NGO community with the Ministry of Social Welfare to discuss: defining priority directions for further interaction between Turkmen NGOs and the Ministry of Social Welfare; developing projects of social importance with support on the part of Ministry of Social Welfare; and compiling questions from NGOs and submitting them to the Ministry of Social Welfare. One very

positive result was the decision by the participants to create a working group on the development and improvement of the legislative base for social questions.

### **Social Partnership Roundtable in Chardjew (Lebap Region)**

At the request of the active NGOs working in Chardjew, a roundtable focusing on social partnerships was held in the training space of the NGO Annageldy. The atmosphere was intimate, as there were only 13 participants, however the size and dynamic were a positive mix and the group carried on a very productive discussion of the role of NGOs and their linkages with government. Representatives from the Mayor's office and the regional departments of health and education spoke highly of the NGOs helping them to carry out their activities. The Counterpart women's video was shown and had a tremendous impact on the audience.

### **Review of Grantees**

Thirteen people representing eight NGOs briefed Counterpart International's Vice President for Programs, Arlene Lear, and Regional Director, David Smith, and the CC staff on the successes of their projects, their challenges, and the modifications which they have made along the way. The overall result was a very positive discussion revealing many common denominators identified by the NGOs including: networking; growing collaboration with government to expand beneficiary pool; and public education related to NGO activities conducted within the framework of grant projects.

### ***Open House***

The CCT office held its annual Open House on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The event was timed to coincide with the visit of Counterpart International Vice President, Arlene Lear, and Regional Director, David Smith, who opened the event. Also attending was the new U.S. Ambassador to Turkmenistan, the Honorable Steven Mann, who made his first public appearance and speech in Turkmenistan at this event. Murl Baker, USAID's Representative, also spoke in favor of the development of civil society in Turkmenistan.

Over 90 people attended the event, representing NGOs, embassies, government, business and mass media. Representatives from 6 NGOs participated in performances during this event. The event was a very effective networking activity and greatly impacted the sense of community of the NGOs. Artisan NGOs held a craft sale and 25 organizations created displays to reflect the social partnership activities of their NGOs. Judging forms were completed by 68 of the visitors who evaluated displays in the following categories: Social Partnerships; Most Informative; Participation of Beneficiaries of NGOs in Development of Stand and Most Artistic and Original.

## **THE DASHOUZ WATER USERS PROJECT**

### **Program Highlights**

The community meetings in Turkmenbashi etrap in Dashouz, the site of the water users' association (WUA) project, have served as an appropriate forum to carry out "mini-trainings" on themes related to establishing an association through community development. Themes have included volunteering, membership and members' rights, ownership, six critical factors for managing a community serdop or cistern, and the responsibility of a water committee vis-à-vis the community it serves.

Through of series of meetings held in six communities served by the RO water plant in Turkmenbashi etrap or Dashouz velayet, three serdop committees have been established. Each committee has five members and meetings are open to the entire community. Responsibilities of the committees include assessing their communities' water needs and ability to contribute resources, determining the design of water storage facilities and costs, and consulting community members throughout the process.

### ***Partnerships***

The WUA team is currently exploring the potential to develop a collaborative program with Rotary International in order to acquire tanker trucks for the delivery of water from the USAID built reverse osmosis plant to the rural communities in its vicinity.

### ***Grant Activities***

The water committee in Sharau Yap received the first mini-grant of \$280 to build three community serdaps. These water storage facilities will serve 47 member families or about 120 people. The community collected 715,000 manat, \$73, as well as contributed time, labor and some materials. Through a series of meetings with the community and committee, estimates of costs, materials, and logistics were determined. Over a period of ten days the serdaps were planned and built, just in time for winter. We are looking forward to further work with the committee and community members, some of whom have agreed to go to other communities to share their experience.

### ***Social Partnership Roundtables***

Activities in Sharu Yap hit a high point at the end of November when the committee members presented their plans to build three serdaps to the local health department officials, the manager of the RO plant, Mr. Geldy and about 20 other community members in a social partnership event. During this meeting, committee members explained the design of the serdaps and their water distribution plan. Community members were able to comment and ask questions. Mr. Geldy and the health department officials offered recommendations to improve the design of the serdop in order to meet the RO plant's requirements for local storage.

On December 16, a meeting between community members and Mr. Geldy, the plant manager, and two SES (Sanitation and Epidemiology Station) representatives was conducted to discuss the local water committee's plans to install eight cisterns to store American water in their community. Outcomes of the meeting include planning another roundtable discussion between local communities and the appropriate government representatives to discuss possible solutions to the problem of water delivery to the various communities. Counterpart will organize and facilitate that roundtable discussion.

Two representatives from Winrock International, a USAID grantee in Turkmenistan implementing a Farmer to Farmer program, participated in the social partnership meeting in Garaul Gala to assess the potential of working with local farmers on establishing an irrigation users' association.

### ***Cooperation with Local Organizations***

As part of a consensus building strategy between CC and local organizations in Dashouz, CC staff met with members of : 1) the Dashouz Ecology Club, one of the first NGOs in Turkmenistan and influential within the NGO community; 2) Delta, a recently formed group that supports independent initiatives in all sectors; and 3) the Women's Resource Center, a women's support organization started through a Eurasia grant and an affiliate of the nation-wide Women's Union. The purpose of the meeting with Delta and Dashouz Ecology Club was to determine how we could collaboratively support local initiative groups through each of our strengths and to avoid redundancy and territorialism.

The purpose of the meetings with the Women's Resource Center and Women's Union representatives was to find an acceptable way for CC to work with these more governmentally oriented public organizations. We determined that CC could play a role their plan to open women's employment centers in each of the nine etraps by providing a training methodology TOT and possibly a Business Development TOT.

## H. UZBEKISTAN ACTIVITIES (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

### OBJECTIVE 1

**Design and implement a demand-driven training and technical assistance program for NGOs in support of institutional and programmatic viability, using existing in-country training resources whenever possible. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Target NGO Overview:**

Two seminars, *Governance* and *Association Development*, were provided for the Bukhara target group the Association of Private Tourist Industry Businesses. One 5-day adapted seminar on ways to increase was conducted for the *Tadbirkor Ayol* Association of Business Women, which included representation from all branches across the republic.

#### **TTAPs**

TTAPs were conducted with the Business Women Association of Nukus, the *Targibot* Center for Copyrights, the Association of Physicians of Uzbekistan, the Union of Defense Aral Sea and Amudarya, *Irosam, Ayol, Matonat*, and the *Mekhri* Women's Society.

#### **Staff Development**

In November, all Counterpart Uzbekistan staff, including staff from our NGOSCs, took part in a workplan-writing exercise, as an introduction to the localization agenda.

Also in this quarter, Counterpart Uzbekistan hosted a planning workshop, designed to develop approaches to the future localization of Counterpart across Central Asia. Jay Cooper and Janna Rysakova of the Bishkek Office facilitated the exercise.

#### **NGO Training**

Type of Workshop	Workshop	NGOs	Participants
NGO & Community	2	19	32
Project Design	1	8	12
Fundraising	2	20	32
Public Education through the Media	1	11	16
Small Business Development	1	9	15
Association Development	1	10	17
Human Resource Management	3	28	41
Team Building/Conflict Management	1	9	18
Special training	1	10	15
Information bulletin issue	1	10	19
Governance	2	20	28
Financial Management	1	10	16
Social Partnership	1	8	15
Special seminar PRA	1		18
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>294</b>

### **Training Highlights**

Apart from our regular schedule of seminars, Counterpart Uzbekistan program staff conducted a special Participatory Rural Appraisal Workshop in Ukhum Jizzak Oblast Village. As is our usual practice, Counterpart saw to all necessary arrangements, but – in addition to incurring no expenses (all paid by the German partner)- Counterpart charged a 20% administrative fee, which will later be re-invested in our regular training program.

### **TOTs**

Two trainers Elena Sabirova and Minas Meliksetov traveled to Moscow, to participate in a TOT in Governance. Nine CC Tashkent contractors took part on TOT in Issyk-kul on Human Resource Management, Team Building and Social Partnership.

### **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Catalyze the development of creative partnerships and strategic alliances between and among indigenous, U.S. and other foreign NGOs (supports USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

November saw the approval at the Regional Grant Meeting of the partnership grant between Junior Achievement USA our local Uzbek chapter. As described in detail on page XX, the grant calls for the introduction of the successful JA model into junior high schools throughout Uzbekistan.

Also in November, we received word that a proposal submitted to Brussels LIEN received the highest possible evaluation. The Tashkent-based NGO, *Women and Society*, developed the proposal with significant input from Counterpart's Tashkent staff. We are waiting for the final word on funding.

### **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Develop a functioning and sustainable communications and information-sharing network for Central Asian NGOs (USAID IR 2.1.1.2).**

#### **Database**

22 new NGOs were added to the database, while nine records were updated in accordance with information received. This updated information was then shared with the NGO support centers in Nukus and Kokand as well as to the Bishkek database center.

#### **Information Network**

276 members from 136 NGOs took advantage of the various services (e-mail, information and consultation) provided by our Tashkent Information Resource Center.

In December, the Information Resource Center welcomed its 1000<sup>th</sup> visitor.

Since the beginning of December, the Center has benefited from the assistance of a volunteer university student. Our volunteer has been more than helpful in providing computer support for NGO visitors, as well as working on translations for *Initsiativa*.

#### **Documents-Publications**

Issues #4, #5, and #6 of Counterpart Uzbekistan's monthly newsletter, *Initsiativa*, were published and distributed among NGOs.

#### OBJECTIVE 4:

##### Assist Central Asian NGOs in accessing financial resources in-country and abroad (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)

###### Grant Activities

***Farmers' Center, Nukus, Republic of Karakalpakstan.*** \$12,000 to provide information resources for farmers in areas of modern and environmentally friendly agricultural techniques, as well as in the legal rights and obligations of farmers in the semi-autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. This grant will provide the Center with premises, as well as a salary for a legal consultant, traveling expenses for the traveling consultant group and communications facilities. With Karakalpakstan in general, and Nukus in particular having been jointly identified by Counterpart Consortium and USAID as a strategic area for support, the Committee saw this grant as a catalyst for improvements in both the economic and civil spheres of public life.

***Junior Achievement Uzbekistan, Tashkent (Partnership Grant).*** \$25,000 to expand their highly successful applied economics teaching model in Uzbekistan, branching downwards to schoolchildren of middle school (grades 5-8) age. This is a Partnership Grant with Junior Achievement U.S.A. The latter organization will provide an instructor to train a core group of Uzbekistan-based teachers and Peace Corps volunteers in the Junior Achievement methodology and new subject matter. These trainers will then reach out to teachers in other oblasts, thereby extending the reach of the materials across Uzbekistan. The Committee was pleased that a group of teachers associated with Junior Achievement/ Kazakhstan also will be invited to the teacher training sessions, as well as to the sessions at which the materials will be adapted and translated.

***Association of Tourist Trade Enterprises, Bukhara.*** \$12,000 to help the fledgling Association to establish its offices, as well as to bring in a Canadian tourist trade consultant as a follow-on to training in Association Development recently provided by Counterpart and a Dutch consultant.

Located in another of the key strategic areas identified by USAID and Counterpart Consortium, the Association of Tourist Trade Enterprises is a new group. It unites both institutional and individual members representing the vast potential of the tourist trade for Bukhara, one of the oldest cities of the Silk Road. Apart from its institutional development aspect, the project is strong in advocacy urging greater scope to local groups as opposed to the state-owned "Uzbekturizm." Public outreach is another strong element of the project, with funds set aside for a campaign on TV, radio and in the press, advertising the Association's work.

***IROSAM, Samarkand.*** \$9,860 to provide free e-mail, Internet access and training for five NGOs, winners of a selection contest, and to offer seminars touching upon issues of registration, taxation and other areas of dire interest to the Third Sector in Uzbekistan. This project addresses two barriers to NGO development in Uzbekistan identified by local NGOs and international organizations. They are poor knowledge of NGOs' legal rights and responsibilities and lack of proper means of modern communication.

***Center for the Study of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Tashkent.*** \$13,708 to expand their holdings, with a view to increasing the number of users monthly. An important Tashkent-based with two branches outside the capital, this group is an important resource for human rights and legal scholars. To do so, they will be holding monthly roundtables with their readers, in order to receive feedback on new acquisitions and on the general functions of the library. The project features a strong outreach element, with a quarterly human rights newsletter ("Our Rights," co-sponsored by the UNHCR,) as well as a monthly bulletin on new acquisitions.

## **OBJECTIVE 5**

**Facilitate interaction between NGOs and all levels of government to serve community needs (USAID IR 2.1.3);**

In this quarter, our NGOSCs in Nukus and Kokand conducted the following activities:

### **Kokand NGO Support Center**

1. 185 NGO visitors received.
2. 2 project proposals prepared for review at Tashkent internal grant review.
3. 2 training seminars conducted (in Namangan and Kokand.)
4. Discussion with NGOs on Draft Law on Non- Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations.

### **Nukus**

1. 181 NGO visitors received.
2. 2 project proposals prepared for review at Tashkent internal grant review.
3. Training seminar hosted.
4. Official opening of Nukus office in new premises.
5. Arrangements made for meeting of Karakalpak NGOs with representative of Parliament.
6. Discussion with parliamentary representative and NGOs of draft law on advertising.

In November and December, Country Director Blair Sheridan and Deputy Director Lola Abdusalyamova met with the Khokims of Bukhara and Kokand, in order to map strategies for close cooperation between the local government and NGOs in solving pressing problems in the respective cities. The result was the development of an interim strategy for providing modest grants for pilot projects aimed at the alleviation of a broad range of social problems.

## I. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS

### KAZAKHSTAN

Localization planning has become one of the principal issues of Counterpart's activity during this quarter. It has two principal aims:

- to devise a model for each country for establishing the most valuable elements of the NGO Support Initiative in a sustainable localized Counterpart and
- to assess which parts of the Counterpart effort can be enhanced by a regional mechanism and make it a part of the localized entity.

Localization planning will serve as the basis of a proposal to USAID for a continued presence by Counterpart International beyond the end of the current Cooperative Agreement to assist in implementation of the localization plans in each country. It is anticipated that Counterpart International's role will be phased down incrementally over a period of approximately two years with the aim of leaving a localized capacity requiring no further outside technical support.

The localization process is being spearheaded by Counterpart's Deputy Regional Director and began formally in early November with a Strategic Planning session with all Regional Staff. Subsequently, the Deputy Regional Director has led similar sessions in each country. The results of these preliminary plans will be compiled during the month of January and serve as the basis of refined planning over the ensuing six months.

### KYRGYZSTAN

Because of budget constrains projected for 1999 it is make sense to reconsider Bishkek's office expenses spent for regional needs such as: regional TOTs, developing Training Manuals, Website, etc. and redistribute the costs of those items throughout the region.

### TURKMENISTAN

CCT continues to await official accreditation. Ambassador Steven Mann has endorsed our program with the Turkmen government and we are hopeful that this important and symbolic document will be signed by the New Year. Meetings with government representatives during the visit of Arlene Lear and David Smith also indicated an optimistic resolution to this issue in the New Year.

## J. LESSONS LEARNED

### KYRGYZSTAN

#### **Contract Trainer Development**

While conducting TTAP workshops and follow-up training it became that there was a greater need for more close cooperation with contract-trainers. Some of our contract-trainers were identified and hired by other international agencies.

#### **Support Center Staff Development**

At the Staff Development Workshop held in Shimkent, it became very clear that more work was necessary to strengthen the Support Centers. There were four main areas of focus to address this need: building the skills of the Support Center staff; building the capacity of the Centers; developing a localization strategy; and providing greater information support to the Centers.

### TAJIKISTAN

NGOs that worked hard to have input into the legislative process related to the Tax and Family Codes, which were passed by Parliament in November, were disappointed when the Parliament did not debate nor incorporate their recommendations into the legislation. Meetings held with key contacts pointed out to NGOs the critical importance of their involvement at the drafting stage of new legislation, rather than confining their work to comments on the draft. The success that NGOs had with the NGO Registration Law, where NGOs were involved from very early in the drafting process, underlines this hard lesson.

### TURKMENISTAN

#### **Collaboration with GONGOs**

CCT has reviewed its strategy for Turkmenistan and will be making a concerted effort to find creative ways to collaborate with existing GONGOs, such as the Women's Union. This approach is based on experiences during the first year, which have served to better reveal the intricacies of the cultural and political context of the public sector in Turkmenistan. Efforts have already successfully been made to develop special training sessions for these particular interest groups, as well as for governmental structures that have requested CCT's training for their staff.

#### **Turkmen Language Training**

The value of training in the Turkmen language has also been proven tenfold in this quarter! As a result, the number of contract trainers with Turkmen language ability has tripled. The value of training in Turkmen at the rural level has also been repeatedly highlighted, especially related to the water user's project. In addition to training, public outreach in the Turkmen language, through print media, television, radio and informational materials should be a priority.

#### **Advanced Planning for Training in Turkmenbashi etrap**

One lesson we have learned through conducting training in Turkmenbashi etrap and inviting local community members to Ashgabad is the need to spend more time on the invitation process and pre-training preparation of participants. Verbal explanations are not enough for people to understand what they will experience and learn from the training. Appropriate handouts and a meeting with the participants a day or two prior to the onset of training would be helpful in getting them mentally prepared so they better understand our expectations of them during and after the training. Without such careful preparation it often takes too long time for the participants to feel comfortable with the methodology and content as well as how the training will fit into their future work.

## UZBEKISTAN

For ensured success in Uzbekistan, especially in areas outside of Tashkent, sustained, personal contact with representatives of local government is key. Recent meetings in the Khokimiyats of Bukhara and Kokand, as well as a well established relationship with the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Jokargu Kenes of Karakalpakstan have already proven successful, in the form of increased understanding and commitment to support Counterpart programs in these areas.

As Uzbekistan continues its experiment with incremental devolution of political and economic decision-making power, local authorities – strapped for funds and ideas – have expressed increased willingness to assist Counterpart and our client NGOs in development.

## K. PROJECT CHANGES

### KYRGYZSTAN

In order to avoid budget constraints, the Kyrgyzstan Support Centers will reduce the number of regular trainings will decrease to three in December and two per month throughout 1999. This will allow the Kyrgyzstani offices to focus on the growing requests for TTAPs and follow-on training.

Counterpart Consortium held a workshop on localization strategy development on November 12, 1998. In addition to Counterpart's staff, the workshop was attended by representatives of the International Organization of Migration (IOM), UNDP, Jogorku Kenesh (National Parliament) and the NGO "Tree of Life". Vision, mission statement, strategic goal and objectives were developed.

### TURKMENISTAN

An important shift in project direction is the outward expansion into the regions. Visits and training/roundtables held in the regions, as well as the successful activities under the water user's project in Dashovuz have highlighted the need to offer more of the training and information sharing in the regions outside of Ashghabad. We have found that the local government is often more receptive to our activities than the central government in Ashghabad. In addition, people in the regions have been requesting training on a regular basis and have even assisted us in the logistical matters related to training in order to guarantee that we would, indeed, provide training in their areas. This regional focus has also allowed us to experiment with Turkmen language training, which has been very successful.

### UZBEKISTAN

A new approach has been developed in the strategic areas of Nukus, Kokand and Bukhara, in order to use our productive relations with the local authorities in the implementation of socially significant projects. We will be conducting a series of PRA/needs assessment exercises in these strategic cities, in conjunction with local NGOs and government. Both sectors will, following, this exercise, participate in the development of an action plan to address problems brought to light, with each side taking upon itself clear responsibilities and timeframes.

## L. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

### KAZAKHSTAN

#### **Coordination with ICMA**

Counterpart's Kazakhstan Country Director met with an ICMA representative, to discuss the possibility of Counterpart contract trainers developing and organizing trainings for real estate managers. The trainings would be based on two books recently translated by ICMA into Russian: Real Estate Management in Condominiums and Real Estate Managers Training in Russia. These trainings will help Counterpart's contract trainers improve sustainability as well as support the target group of associations of condominiums.

Counterpart's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager met with representatives of ICMA, a USAID contractor, to discuss coordination of the work of two offices in Pavlodar where Counterpart is helping local NGOs and administration develop social partnership strategy.

### KYRGYZSTAN

#### **Coordination with IOM**

A partnership project and an agreement between IOM and Counterpart is being prepared. There were several meetings with IOM key personnel and a working group consisting of representatives from the public sector and NGO community. The main goal of the project, which will probably start in January, is to develop a strategy for partnership between government, NGOs and business in emergency situations. It is anticipated that IOM will allocate about \$30,000 for this project.

#### **Coordination with Soros Foundation**

Counterpart's Country Director made a presentation to the Soros Foundation on the project being implemented in the Fergana Valley. Plans were made to meet again on the topic in the New Year to discuss coordination opportunities.

#### **Training Services Requested**

Counterpart will continue to conduct training activities at the request of the Soros Foundation. Training to date have included items such as training representatives of local authorities. The success of the Soros training is attracting other organizations like UNDP, who has requested facilitation services for a workshop related to its ecological program.

Several meetings with the veterinary and animal production consultant for Ministry of Agriculture were held to discuss ways of helping to establish a private veterinarians association. Another set of meetings was held with the Agricultural Training Advisor of the RADSf Secretariat to discuss Counterpart's providing TOT services for the Secretariat's trainers for a charge.

### TAJIKISTAN

#### **Meeting of Donor Organizations**

In December Counterpart convened the second meeting of Donor Organizations in Tajikistan. Representatives of USAID, Eurasia Foundation, AED, Mercy Corps International, Save the Children UK and UNDP/Women in Development attended this second meeting, as well as, for the first time, representatives of UNHCR, Soros Foundation and TASIF. The initial meeting had held in August, where it was decided to meet regularly to share information about grants given to local NGOs, changing guidelines and discuss the strategies for future cooperation. Soros, UNHCR and TASIF made presentation

on their grant programs and raised some concerns including problems with the bad banking system in Tajikistan and lack of laws and regulations related to those who give credit.

### **Training Services Requested**

Meetings were held with UNDP, SC/US and SC/UK Program Officers in regards to training needs for their personnel in the areas of Financial Management, Strategic Planning and other topics. Counterpart is assisting local NGOs to contract with these international organizations to provide the needed services for a fee, a key aspect of NGO sustainability. Additionally, SC/UK asked Counterpart to provide training workshops for community-based organizations (CBOs) in Shahrtuz district. IFRC has also asked Counterpart for recommendations regarding assistance in training for local staff.

### **Disaster Management TOT**

Counterpart was invited to participate in a Training of Trainers (TOT) on *Disaster Management*, organized by FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance. Counterpart supported the participation of the leader of *Kalam* and new Manager of the Khurog NGO Resource Center to be set up and operated under a Counterpart grant to *Kalam*. Counterpart also assisted FOCUS to conduct aspects of the TOT.

### **CIS Conference Working Group Meeting in Moscow**

Farhod Bokiev, Database Manager and Resource Center Coordinator, participated in the first meeting of the Conflict Management and Prevention Working Group of the CIS Conference held in Moscow. The CIS Conference is a series of Regional Conferences to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacements and returnees in the countries of CIS and relevant neighboring States. At this meeting it was decided to establish a Network of NGOs dealing with conflicts within CIS countries. Mr. Bokiev will be representing Tajik NGOs working on conflict resolution and management in that Working Group.

### **Coordination with Soros Foundation**

Program Coordinator Barno Gaibullaeva participated in a meeting to discuss the new women's program organized by the Soros Foundation. Many representatives of women's NGOs were invited, most of whom have been assisted by Counterpart. Participants were informed that Soros approved projects of Modar, Women Voters (both Counterpart grantees) and *Sarchashmai Hayot*. Representatives from all of these organizations also were active participants in Counterpart's "Making Democracy Work" workshop in Almaty Kazakhstan.

## **TURKMENISTAN**

### **Assistance to NGO Public Environmental Laboratory for GIS Training**

The Public Environmental Laboratory used the Counterpart training room free of charge for one week to carry out a Central Asian and Caspian NGOs training session in "Modern Computer Technologies and Environmental Protection Issues". The training, was funded by a Soros grant and conducted by a consultant from Montana. Though technical in nature, it focused on the complex issues of interconnected social, ecological and political problems that have lead to conflicts in the region. The purpose of the training was to facilitate the creation of an independent database organized by an NGO alliance from all interested countries. Attendees included representatives from NGOs in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The NGOs also benefited by receiving software and equipment allowing them to more easily develop the maps. The Turkmenistan NGOs also received a high-resolution scanner for maps, a digitizer (maps), a digital cameral and a plotter to print maps.

### **NGOs and Counterpart Attend NGO Capacity Building Conference in Istanbul**

As a result of the continued collaboration between Counterpart and UNHCR, the Ashghabad office was asked to nominate 5 NGO representatives to attend a three day NGO conference in Istanbul, facilitated by INTRAC. Four NGO leaders and one Counterpart Program Coordinator attended the event along with UNHCR staff. The group discussed common points of collaboration with the goal of linking to execute joint projects. UNHCR has asked Counterpart to assist it with the preparation of small projects with local NGOs that might eventually become implementing partners of UNHCR.

### **Continued Coordination with International Agencies for NGO funding**

CCT Programming staff continues to work with six NGOs on the development of projects that will be reviewed by UNHCR and Counterpart for the January grant meeting. CCT recently received a letter indicating that the New Zealand Embassy in Moscow is seeking opportunities to liaison with organizations located in Turkmenistan in order to administer a \$25,000 Head of Mission Fund (HOMF) with particular emphasis on institution-building and good government. The Country Director has made contact with the embassy and is awaiting further clarification on collaboration. The New Zealand Ambassador anticipates visiting Turkmenistan in February.

### **TACIS Environment Program Refers NGO to CCT for Assistance**

At the request of the Country Representative managing the TACIS Environmental Program in Turkmenistan, program coordinators have been working with an environmental NGO, *Chesme*, to improve it's project proposal and to assist the group in developing organizational management skills through our training program. It is anticipated that the project will be submitted for review at Counterpart's January grant meeting. The project will be a cost-share between TACIS, Counterpart Consortium and potentially UNHCR.

### **UZBEKISTAN**

LEAD Program and Counterpart Uzbekistan cooperated to conduct a republic-wide training exercise in Association Development for the membership of the Tadbirkor Ayol Association of Business Women.

Counterpart recommended NGO representatives to GTD for inclusion in the upcoming Advocacy training in the Philippines.

## M. LEVERAGING

### KAZAKHSTAN

During this quarter Counterpart continued to negotiate with UNHCR concerning their \$35,000 support to Kazakhstan Counterpart. This support is for activities outside of Almaty, which include, but are not limited to the support to the UNHCR Resource Center set up in the Counterpart Astana NGO Support Center, as well as a support to Astana NGO Support Center itself to cover their overhead costs in year 1999.

### KYRGYZSTAN

The agreement with UNHCR for further development of Support Centers in Jalalabad and Kara-Balta in 1999 is being prepared. UNHCR will provide funds not only to cover administrative costs of the Centers, but to support a limited number of projects to be developed with the assistance of the Support Centers. Therefore, Counterpart will facilitate the development of small grant committees in each Center, which will be responsible for selecting, approving and monitoring community development projects to be funded through the Centers.

UNHCR provided funds for TTAP workshops through NGO Trust Fund. Counterpart Program Coordinators have designed TTAPs for following NGOs/CBOs: *Hireneso, Mok-Suu, Kyak, Pamir, Jez-Oymok*, Harmony and Tolerance Foundation, and the Job Seekers Club. In addition, UNHCR also covered the costs of a Financial Sustainability training held in Kara-Balta.

### TURKMENISTAN

#### **Craft Sale During Open House**

Six NGOs participated in the craft sale during the Open House. They each set up stands and sold their handicrafts during the three-hour activity. The total amount of sales between the NGOs was \$120.00. The exposure resulted in more than just sales - a few of the artisans received requests from visitors to produce specialized items for them.

#### **Open Society Institute Support**

The participants referred by Counterpart to the Open Society Institute Women's Rights Workshop in Budapest will each receive a stipend of \$100 per month from OSI to develop a project in the area of women's domestic violence. It is also anticipated that within the next year, the Turkmenistani group will be awarded between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to implement the project.

#### **CCT Taps Global Funding for Romanian Social Partnerships Conference**

In a continued process of collaboration with the Global program in Turkmenistan, CCT was able to leverage over \$3,500 by sending a participant to a conference on "Mobilizing Community Resources for local Economic Development" in Romania through funds from the Global Training for Development program. After returning from the conference the prominent businessman went to Moscow to follow-up on opportunities for collaboration with Moscow-based attendees of the conference. He attributes the conference with improving his knowledge of how to link with government and NGOs, as well as how to manage his charitable affiliate organization more effectively.

#### **UNFPA Awards Grants in the Area of Reproductive Health**

Since conducting a project design activity for UFPFA in September, two program coordinators have continued to assist in the preparation of small grant proposals for NGOs seeking funding through UNFPA. The result has been the first disbursement of over \$15,000 in grant assistance this month. An additional \$30,000 is still slated to be awarded to NGOs under this program.

### III. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: AID TO ARTISANS

#### A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Aid to Artisans' (ATA) project component is:

1. to strengthen the institutional capacity and sustainability of Central Asian regional and local craft service NGOs and their members;
2. to promote regional harmony and economic integration by formalizing existing linkages between craft NGOs in three republics and extending these linkages to another two republics.

#### B. PROJECT IMPACTS

**Objective 1: Promote democratically governed, financially sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs.**

In December, Center Bahyt, ATA's one-year-old partner NGO in Kazakhstan, opened its craft shop, "Salon Bahyt", on the property of the Almaty College of Decorative and Applied Arts. At the opening ceremony, speakers reminded visitors of the role ATA's partner NGO, the Women's League of Creative Initiative, had played in the survival of the College during a period of great financial and administrative difficulty. They also noted that current members of Center Bahyt created the new NGO after witnessing the success the Women's League had by working together as a group. Aware of its need to develop a financial base of sustainability, Center Bahyt recently opened its craft shop to provide an urban Almaty outlet for crafts produced by members of ATA's partner throughout the region.

Partner NGO Sheber Aul (Kazakhstan) sought and received assistance from regional government officials in various steps related to the ATA-Exaco-Sheber Aul Artisan Village Revitalization project. In one instance, Director Rimma Nurtaeva requested expedited approval of a construction permit and a 50% reduction in the permit fee from the Regional Governor. Not to be put off by a secretary who would not allow her to wait in the office, Ms. Nurtaeva waited outside until she saw the Governor arrive, and then entered to catch his attention before she could be turned away again. Ms. Nurtaeva and the members of Sheber Aul had previously met Regional Governor Nurkadilov but renewed their acquaintance during the groundbreaking ceremony and press conference arranged with Counterpart and ATA assistance in September. Ms. Nurtaeva's actions demonstrate both growing confidence and improving skills in dealing with government officials by the members and leaders of this NGO.

**Objective 2: Build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts.**

Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) NGO member Kalipa Asanakunova was hired to serve as an assistant product designer and to conduct seminars for the Businesswomen's Association of Uzbekistan for the ATA/Counterpart LEAD microenterprise project. Ms. Asanakunova's ability to deliver such training is a direct result of ATA's work with TSF in building their capacity in the areas of product design and development. With funding from UNDP, TSF also published a full-color product catalog, which will allow TSF to more effectively market the craft products of their members.

According to Gozel Annamedova, of Turkmenistan: "Upon becoming a member of an NGO people began working together. Especially after the design workshop they are well aware of the advantages of working together. New NGO members understand very well that being a team they can solve some problems. For example, at the end of the design workshop we had a TV show where we spoke about the artisans' problems with getting crafts abroad, through Turkmen customs for sales and exhibitions. And now we have a law, which says that any artisan can get his craft anywhere if he proves that it is his product. This law is accepted on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, immediately after the TV show. Just jewelry made from expensive metal is prohibited to take abroad. People know that without creating NGOs they couldn't solve this kind of problem, and without ATA's assistance they would not create any NGO."

**Objective 3: Generate supplemental income for NGO members belonging to vulnerable groups such as women, unemployed and pensioners.**

KRIDI, a local Uzbek NGO that provided support to the parents of disabled children, was invited to participate in the regional craft fair in Tashkent. As a result of their participation, representatives of KRIDI collected more than one hundred dollars in donations from fair visitors. Their participation supported their goal of providing life skills training and supporting income-generating projects for their members.

In Turkmenistan, ATA's Local Coordinator wrote, "Before the New Year holiday artisans had a problem earning enough money to have a nice New Year holiday. During an NGO meeting, Peace Corps volunteer Leanne Ovalles offered her help in organizing a Christmas exhibition for international organizations such as the US Embassy, Peace Corps, the United Nations. Then we asked the Peace Corps Director to help us. She talked to those organizations and they allowed us to make a fair. Senior Liaison Officer of UNHCR Francoise Muller helped us very much to have three days fair at the UN building. Artisans had a good sale. Now they are happy to afford a nice New Year holiday. Artisans are finding ways of solving their problems." Before ATA began working in Turkmenistan, none of the artisans were organized in any sort of group. Competition between them was fierce, and they rarely made efforts to work together to solve common problems. As a result of ATA's efforts to bring artisans together in a positive way to look for a common solution to the problems many face, they have been working with each other more and more, and achieving newfound success together.

**Objective 4: Facilitate networking among crafts-producing NGOs throughout Central Asia through regional crafts fairs and training workshops.**

Partner NGO Center Bahyt (Kazakhstan) encouraged members of ATA partner NGOs throughout the region to place handicrafts on consignment in the shop. Increasingly, partner NGOs throughout the five republics are working together to develop and share sales and marketing opportunities, and to view each other as colleagues rather than strictly competitors.

**Objective 5: Strengthen the participation of craft NGOs in civil society.**

Center Bahyt (Kazakstan) demonstrated improved ability in use of the media to promote its causes by writing a press release and inviting representatives of four television companies and a newspaper to attend the opening celebration. Despite the fact that Center Bahyt did not pay any media representatives or journalists to cover the event (a common practice when requesting media coverage), the shop was featured both in the local paper and on television.

Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) Co-Director Dinara Chochunbaeva met with an Advisor to the Minister of Labor concerning changes TSF feels are needed in technical / trades education in Kyrgyzstan. Ms. Chochunbaeva's actions demonstrate the understanding she has developed through her work with Aid

to Artisans of the importance of market demand in the free-market economy, and of her strengthened ability to lobby the national government for change. As a result of Ms. Chochunbaeva promoting the need for change to a more market-driven focus in the technical training for craftspeople, the Ministry is currently considering her for the position of a National Consultant.

In October, a member of the Bukhara Artisan Center (Uzbekistan) was approached by a local tax inspector who falsely accused him of keeping improper tax records, and then attempted to charge him a fine. However, through training provided by ATA and the Bukhara Artisan Center, the NGO member was informed about his rights as a craftsman. He showed the tax inspector a copy of the decree from President Karimov stating that all craftsmen have a five-year tax exemption. After reading the decree, the tax inspector acknowledged his error and left without collecting money from him. Craft NGO members are now familiar with their legal rights, and are no longer afraid to challenge local authorities when these rights are violated.

### C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)

#### **Objective 1: Promote democratically governed, financially sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs.**

Members of partner NGO Bukhara Artisan Center participated in a Board of Directors training in December, to strengthen its ability to govern its NGO democratically. ATA Local Coordinators in each country worked closely with Counterpart training staff to involve more ATA partner NGO members in Counterpart training during December, and to strengthen involvement in future training workshops.

In Kazakhstan, Peace Corps Volunteer Bruce Grover, who is assigned to work with ATA partner NGO Sheber Aul, has succeeded in getting members of the NGO to hold regular meetings resulting in successively increasing member participation. This is an essential step in improving the democratic functioning of the NGO.

ATA's Regional Director and Projects Coordinator provided individualized training to ATA's four Uzbekistani partner NGOs on membership building strategies. They covered the pros and cons of increasing membership, differentiating between membership categories, membership benefits, and developing strategies for increasing membership within an NGO. They also brainstormed with NGO leaders on their concerns related to growing too large and about less active members detracting from the NGO's overall strength.

Tajikistan partner NGO Women's Initiative oversaw the registration of its new sister NGO of the same name in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan in late November. This new NGO has 25 members. A new artisan NGO, Golden Heritage of the Aral Sea, was also registered in Nukus, Uzbekistan. Golden Heritage has 29 members.

#### **Objective 2: Build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts.**

As part of ATA's plan with its partner NGOs to develop financial sustainability, ATA continued its progress in making the regional craft fairs self-sustaining. Local Coordinators in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan used the events as a vehicle for training key NGO members in the organization and execution of regional craft fairs. In Almaty, the training was an extension of training begun in May, with partner NGO members taking more responsibility for actual organization and execution of fair preparations in November.

In Almaty, artisans paid nearly \$2,800 in booth and display fixture rental fees, more than half of total fair costs (including travel subsidies for Tajikistani and Turkmenistani participants). In Tashkent, ATA collected participation fees for the first time, and in Bishkek NGO partner Talent Support Fund collected over \$400 in participation fees to help offset fair costs. Furthermore, ATA reduced its subsidy of the Bishkek fair from \$1700 in December 1997 to \$640 in November 1998, and TSF organized and executed the fair with no technical assistance from ATA.

In Kyrgyzstan, partner NGO Talent Support Fund also conducted extensive product quality, marketing, and export training for their members as part of their ongoing drive to improve and increase export capacity as a means to long term financial sustainability. ATA partner NGO Meros Center (Uzbekistan) conducted a three-day training workshop, based on information learned from work with ATA and UNDP, for members concerning exporting of handicrafts.

With assistance from ATA, partner NGO Center Bahyt (Kazakhstan) opened a retail craft shop in Almaty as part of its plan for developing financial sustainability for this very young NGO.

**Objective 3: Generate supplemental income for NGO members belonging to vulnerable groups such as women, unemployed and pensioners.**

In Tajikistan, ATA's Local Coordinator, with assistance from Counterpart Consortium, organized and held a local craft fair in Dushanbe. With the ongoing uncertainty of the security situation in the country, and the recent closing of the US Embassy, this event provided an important opportunity for artisans from various regions of the country to sell their crafts to the typically inaccessible foreign market. Such sales provide critical income for many vulnerable families in rural communities. In addition, this event gave artisans an important opportunity in this conflict-ridden country, to experience the positive effects of working together.

CCWI (Tajikistan) continued its work with women in the Kofarnihon conflict zone of Tajikistan. Each time CCWI leaders meet with village women they discuss community concerns, issues of peace and reconciliation, and ways to work together. They also often discuss women's rights and issues of personal concern to the villagers. CCWI Director Maya Aminova and five other leaders share in responsibility for conducting such village meetings and workshops.

In Ashgabad, the ATA Local Coordinator collaborated with Counterpart Consortium to hold a small craft sale in conjunction with a Counterpart open house. As this was the first time ATA has held such an event in Ashgabad, Counterpart assisted ATA by providing space and helping in preparations. While sales were modest, this was an important first step in building a local market for new Turkmen handicrafts and to providing new opportunities for the craftswomen of the republic.

During ATA Regional Director Margaret Bishop's October visit to Turkmenistan, she and the ATA Local Coordinator visited artisans in the rural villages surrounding the community of Mary, approximately 350 kilometers from Ashgabad. Several of these artisan women had participated in ATA's prior training workshops in Ashgabad. ATA provided product design and quality consultations and discussed ways several of the women, including a physically challenged artisan, could work together to produce and transport crafts for sale in Ashgabad.

Partner NGO Bukhara Artisan Center (Uzbekistan) participated in a UNDP-sponsored craft sale dedicated to invalids. The Mayor of Bukhara wrote a letter of appreciation to the Center for its participation.

**Objective 4: Facilitate networking among crafts-producing NGOs throughout Central Asia through regional crafts fairs and training workshops.**

ATA joined forces with Counterpart and ICNL to provide training in association building to artisan NGOs from all five republics. The training was conducted in two steps. Phase 1 (in Almaty) covered team-building exercises for partner NGO representatives, an introduction to associations, and legal considerations in planning the start-up of a regional association. Phase 2 (in Bishkek) was an association development workshop customized by Counterpart for the twenty-five participating artisan NGO representatives. Participants discussed the logistics of creating a regional association of craft NGOs and initial decision-making required to launch an association.

Participants stated one of their reasons for desiring to create a regional association is to preserve and strengthen the inter-republic relationships they have forged as a result of joint participation in ATA-sponsored activities. Another widely expressed reason was the increased ability to solve problems together. They selected one representative from each republic to meet in Samarkand in mid-January to make decisions on these issues and to move forward with creation of the association. Ms. Dinara Chochunbaeva, Co-Director of partner NGO Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) has been spearheading this effort, initiating discussion among leaders and members of ATA's various partners.

**Objective 5: Strengthen the participation of craft NGOs in civil society.**

In Uzbekistan, partner NGO Bukhara Artisan Center (BAC) hosted two regional and local governmental officials at the BAC offices to introduce themselves and to discuss BAC's activities on behalf of the artisans and the greater community, its role in building tourism to the region, and its problems and concerns. ATA's Regional Director participated in this meeting and reinforced the importance of NGOs both as complementary organizations to efforts of the Uzbek government and as independent, not merged with state or parastatal organizations. Both officials expressed a commitment to respecting BAC's independence and agreed it can play a stronger complementary role if it remains independent.

Mr. Zarif Muhtarov, President of Meros Center, ATA's partner NGO in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, scheduled a meeting between the new Samarkand Mayor, Meros officials, and ATA Regional Director as part of building awareness of the NGO's presence and activities among public officials.

Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan) wrote a letter of support to the local administration in Tamchy village, on behalf of a women's group called "Tamchy." Such letters are important in building credibility of new groups with local officials and administrators. Through its own work, Talent Support Fund has developed a sufficiently impressive reputation that such letters from Talent Support Fund carry stature. In addition to writing the letter of support, Talent Support Fund Co-Director Dinara Chochunbaeva guided the Tamchy group in seeking support, themselves, from government officials. Because elections are pending, Ms. Chochunbaeva urged the group to contact a local candidate for Parliament, sharing her understanding of the importance politicians / candidates place on pleasing their voting constituents. As a result, the group has been provided with three workrooms and additional unspecified assistance.

Kazakhstan partner NGO Center Bahyt continued its regular activities on behalf of children at the Republican Children Hospital by providing a humanitarian donation of winter clothes, books, and pictures for the children. Center Bahyt also discussed plans for providing painting lessons to the children.

Sheber Aul (Kazakhstan) Director Rimma Nurtaeva participated in the Republican Forum in Kazakhstan's new capitol, Astana at the invitation of Deputy Parliamentarian Mr. Batalov to represent the artisans.

#### **D. LESSONS LEARNED**

ATA's partner NGOs have learned that tourist dollars can be a significant source of revenue for them and their members. Artisans from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan partner NGOs are now beginning to collaborate on how to build tourism links between the countries. Currently many tour operators take visitors to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan but less frequently to Kyrgyzstan and rarely to Kazakhstan. As part of the sustainability strategy of ATA's Kazakhstani and Kyrgyzstani partners, these organizations met with ATA's Local Coordinator from Bukhara, who also toured Sheber Aul artisan village and the Center Bahyt craft shop, in order to introduce other tour operators to the opportunity for visits to these sites. Two representatives of partner NGO Talent Support Fund also participated in an international tourism trade show in London in November to highlight the link between handicraft NGOs and tourism in Central Asia. In order to participate, TSF leveraged its work with ATA to secure additional funding from other private, state, and intergovernmental sources.

#### **E. PROJECT CHANGES**

Ms. Genia Orlovskaya, ATA Local Coordinator for Uzbekistan in Tashkent, finished her work with ATA in October. She left Uzbekistan to join her family in Russia. Ms. Gulbahor Salimova began work October 12, as the new Local Coordinator for Uzbekistan.

Ms. Adiba Asadova, Local Coordinator for Tajikistan, submitted her resignation in order to continue university studies in the United States. Ms. Maya Aminova has accepted the position as new Local Coordinator. Ms. Aminova began work December 1, 1998.

#### **F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

Kyrgyzstan partner NGO Talent Support Fund sent a representative to Yerevan, Armenia for training with the Armenian Crafts Enterprise Center (an ATA partner in a previous USAID-funded project in Armenia) as the second phase of Talent Support Fund's Counterpart Consortium partnership grant. Through this grant, TSF is greatly strengthening its ability to expand and properly manage craft export opportunities as the key to long-term financial sustainability.

ATA Projects Coordinator Beth Gottschling attended a roundtable in Tashkent in November with representatives of the British Council, UNDP, UNESCO to share information and coordinate activities related to their craft projects.

#### **G. LEVERAGING**

Coordination Center Women's Initiative (Tajikistan) requested and received a combination grant/loan from Save the Children-UK for \$1,700 (\$1,000 grant, \$700 loan). The grant will be used for the purchase of two sewing machines and to provide stipends for six women. The \$700 will be used for raw materials. Ms. Maya Aminova, the leader of CCWI, said her work with ATA was a factor in being awarded assistance from Save the Children.

Partner NGO Meros Center (Uzbekistan) received a \$5000 grant from ATA's Founders' Society to create a papermaking facility and gallery at the Center. This facility will contribute to Meros' ability to achieve financial sustainability by allowing them to generate additional income through paper production.

After a competitive bid process and lengthy negotiations with competing construction companies, ATA signed a contract in December for the Texaco-Sheber Aul artisan village revitalization project. Construction is expected to begin in early January. This project, which will enable the NGO to create a visitors' center to attract tourists to the village, is the base for ATA partner NGO Sheber Aul's plan for long-term financial sustainability.

**IV. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: THE CITIZENS NETWORK FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

See attachment 2 for final report.

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

**A. PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the ICNL project component is:

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

**B. PROJECT IMPACTS**

**Kazakhstan**

The legislation in Kazakhstan is in need of rapid development. As the NGO sector is growing at a high speed, outdated organizational forms and burdensome registration requirements inhibit NGOs. To address the overall issue of legislative reform, ICNL facilitated the creation of an unofficial NGO/governmental working group. The working group includes ICNL, lawyers, NGOs and parliamentarians. Through on-going meetings, the working group had strong support of NGOs, UNDP, USAID, parliamentarians and Counterpart. The initiative gained considerable momentum and press coverage at the national level. In these activities, ICNL efforts contributed to the following impacts:

*President Addresses NGO Law Reform in National Address*

In his annual address to the nation, the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbaev, expressed the need for NGO law development and the need for less restrictive registration requirements. Since October, these remarks have been echoed again and again by government representatives and NGO leaders.

*US-Kazakhstan Joint Commission Addresses Importance of NGO Legislation*

Government representatives from both the US and Kazakhstan also stressed the need for attention in the area of NGO law reform and incorporated this into their most recent *Joint Commission Report* which serves as a guiding agreement on joint US/Kazakhstan development programs.

*ICNL Contributes to Success of High Level Conference*

ICNL recently participated in a conference entitled "*Cooperation between NGOs and Government; the Development of Civil Society and the Legislative Base for NGOs.*" The Conference was organized by the Parliament of Kazakhstan, UNDP, and ANNOK (the Association of Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial Organizations). ANNOK is a local NGO and a partner organization of ICNL. The conference was attended by high-level government officials and was held in the Parliament chamber of the Senate. Among those attending were the Speaker of the House, the Speaker of the Senate, the Chairman of the Constitutional Council, Representative of the Presidential Administration, officials of the Ministry of Justice, parliamentarians, NGOs and international organizations. The President asked his representative to read a letter to the participants about how important the meeting was for the country.

ICNL provided the legislative and analytical background materials for the event, and INCL Regional Director, Rich Remias, gave a presentation on foundations and charities. The *ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Legislation* has been accepted by all participating parties including government, NGOs, and international partners, as the guiding analysis for the two legislative initiatives. The end result of the conference was a series of written resolutions. One resolution resolved to place the two legislative projects (new legislation on organizational legal forms and a charity law) on next year's parliamentary agenda. There also was a second resolution to form an official working group under the auspices of Parliament (see below).

#### *Senate Administration Agrees to Fund NGO Law Drafting*

No law can be formed without support of the legislature. After October's joint conference (described above), the Senate Legislative Committee re-formed the working group under official auspices and applied to the Senate Administration for budgetary support. Since that time, the senate working group has received the government funding and the approval of the Senate Administration to begin drafting a new NGO law.

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

##### *NGO Draft Law Passes Legislative Committee of Parliament and Moves to Floor for Vote*

Like the other CIS countries, the NGO legislation of Kyrgyzstan was far from international standards. To formulate better NGO legislation, ICNL facilitated the creation of an NGO law working group which included NGO representatives and parliamentarians. This group has been meeting since March. After finalizing a suitable draft that both reflects the concerns of the NGO community and complies with international standards of NGO legislation, ICNL and the working group submitted the draft law on NGOs to the Legislative Committee of Parliament. The completion and submission of the draft in itself symbolizes pure NGO/governmental cooperation. However, in December, the Legislative Committee approved the law for submission to the floor of Parliament. The first reading (of three) will take place in January or February 1999, at which time ICNL expects its adoption.

#### **Tajikistan**

##### *Empowered by Successful Passage of NGO Legislation, NGOs Contributing to Tax Reform in Tajikistan*

The working group of NGO leaders and government officials that drafted Tajikistan's new NGO legislation have developed an effective working relationship and have gained confidence and experience in the drafting process. They are recognizing that the next step in strengthening the enabling environment for NGOs is improved tax legislation that is consistent with the new NGO law. ICNL and Counterpart have been successful in involving NGOs in discussions of Tax Code amendments and the working group is not contributing to development of a replacement for the current, virtually defunct Tax Code. These amendments, if adopted, will provide some forms of preferential tax treatment for NGOs.

#### *Government Requests Further ICNL Assistance*

The Minister of Justice, representatives from Parliament and representatives from the President's Administration have expressed to ICNL's local partner, Muatar Khaidarova, the desire to work on further forms of legislation including a new NGO law and a law on charities.

#### **Turkmenistan**

##### *Government of Turkmenistan Agrees to Training on NGO Legal Principles*

The Turkmenistan government continues to be suspicious of the NGO community, but is beginning plans to work on general NGO legislation. The first step towards drafting new, improved legislation is to build on government's understanding the fundamental principles of NGO laws. ICNL succeeded in convincing Turkmenistan officials to participate in specially tailored training for government officials (30-40) on the international principles of NGO legislation. The topic is "The Legal and Regulatory Environment for Non-Governmental Organizations". With funding from GTD, ICNL will hold the training in cooperation

with the Institute on Democracy and Human Rights. ICNL will bring in three international experts to Turkmenistan for this event. *See Objective 1 for more details.*

### **Uzbekistan**

#### *Uzbekistan Parliament Adopts New Law on NGOs*

After an intense campaign, a new NGO bill was introduced into December's parliamentary session. In late December, that NGO law passed unopposed. This draft must undergo two more readings and revisions before it will become real law. Although ICNL contributed to the current form of the bill, ICNL must continue to influence the drafting process so that a comprehensive and fair law is created. For the time being, ICNL continues to funnel the drafters information and participate in legislative round tables. ICNL expects a final version to be signed into law in March of 1999.

## **C. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS (BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE)**

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**To assist indigenous organizations and individuals in constructing a legal framework that appropriately governs and supports the development of the NGO sector in the republics of Central Asia (USAID IR 2.1.1, IR 2.1.1.1., IR 2.1.1.2)**

#### **Result Indicator:**

The preparation of a draft NGO law conforming to recognized international standards for enactment by the Parliament (USAID IR 2.1.1, IR 2.1.1.1., IR 2.1.1.2).

#### **Activity Descriptions:**

##### *A. Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws*

#### **Kazakhstan**

##### *ICNL Assists Senate Working Group with NGO Law*

ICNL is currently working with the Senate Legislative Committee of Kazakhstan in drafting this new NGO law--to be completed by mid-February. This draft will elaborate on the current "Public Associations" legislation and regulate foundations, institutions, and associations.

##### *ICNL Brings NGO Law Expert to Kazakhstan To Meet with Senate Working Group*

ICNL again brought its CIS Program Director, Natalia Bourjaily, to Kazakhstan in November to meet with the Senate working group to give hands-on legislative consultations to the Senators. At this point, ICNL and the working group have decided to draft an initial NGO bill by mid-February. ICNL is currently providing concentrated assistance to the Senators. Thus far, ICNL has provided consultations, translations of different laws, detailed memoranda on the organizational legal forms of NGOs, and various articles on the specific legal forms. The current schedule will produce a comprehensive law on non-governmental, non-commercial organizations to be submitted to the Parliament by June.

##### *ICNL Contributes to Charity Law*

Although the Kazakhstan Tax Code creates tax benefits for charitable organizations, no legislation exists that can identify any such organization. The effect is that many organizations that carryout charitable activity cannot take advantage of existing benefits. Therefore, concurrent with its work on a general NGO law (mentioned above), ICNL is assisting with the drafting of a "charity" law that will define and regulate *public benefit* organizations. While the general NGO law will regulate the organizational legal forms of NGOs, the charity law will grant a "charitable status" to those organizations that operate for the "public benefit" and carryout charitable activities.

## Kyrgyzstan

### *ICNL Contributes to Consolidation of Competing Drafts*

One problem in Kyrgyzstan was fragmented efforts at legislative reform and each group having its own proposed draft law. ICNL initially addressed this problem by combining three competing drafts to form one final version which incorporated the best from each draft. This also served to coordinate the competing efforts. However, in September, two entirely new drafts were added to the legislative process - two new competing drafts running in opposition to the ICNL assisted draft. The Legislative Committee wanted to eliminate two of these three drafts before holding its final meeting where a final draft would be sent to the Parliament for vote.

For this objective, the Legislative Committee created a "task force" to analyze the remaining drafts. The group consists of eight deputies. This group was responsible for analyzing the competing drafts and making official recommendations to the Legislative Committee. For this, they primarily used the recent ICNL analysis of the competing draft laws. ICNL also met with the task force prior to their determination. At this meeting, the group of deputies decided that the final version of the draft was in tact and ready for submission to the Legislative Committee. The bill has since passed the scrutiny of the Legislative Committee and is now in Parliament waiting for adoption.

### *ICNL Contributes Comments to Charity Draft Laws and Participates Charity Round Table in Kyrgyzstan*

ICNL is currently officially analyzing a draft law on charity in Kyrgyzstan. The draft was submitted by the Kyrgyzstan Lawyers Association and will be introduced into the Kyrgyzstan Parliament in 1999. ICNL is attempting to provide comment on the draft and to make recommended changes. ICNL Regional Director, Richard Remias, participated in a round table for parliamentarians to discuss these drafts.

## Turkmenistan

### *ICNL Brings CIS Program Director to Turkmenistan to Meet with Chairman of Parliamentary Committee*

In November, ICNL brought its CIS Program Director, Natalia Bourjaily, and Regional Director of Central Asia, Richard Remias, to Turkmenistan to meet with governmental partners and outline future forms of cooperation. ICNL met with Vladimir Kadyrov, Chairman of the Legislative Committee and Director of the Turkmenistan Institute of Democracy and Human Rights. At this meeting, ICNL outlined a plan for continued work in Turkmenistan and discussed in detail arrangements for the March GTD funded round table for government officials. ICNL also met with Kadyrov's colleague, Mr. Egdirov, who is a consultant and has worked on many pieces of legislation. Mr. Egdirov gave ICNL a very detailed analysis of the situation in Turkmenistan regarding legislation.

### *ICNL Submits Amendments to Turkmenistan Civil Code*

ICNL has already contributed comments to the newly adopted Civil Code of Turkmenistan and plans to return to Turkmenistan for follow-up activities in March.

## Uzbekistan

### *ICNL NIS Regional Director Visits Uzbekistan to Meet with Working Group*

ICNL brought its NIS Regional Director to Uzbekistan where she met with those working on the new NGO law. This group consists of Deputy Saidov, Deputy Tursunov and other representatives. ICNL offered comments to the draft law. ICNL also presented the drafters with additional materials regarding NGO legislation for comparative analysis. These drafters finished a final draft law for Parliamentary consideration in early November. This draft law was passed by Parliament in December.

## ***B. Training of Government Officials***

### **Kazakhstan**

#### ***ICNL Proposes USIS IV Program Training for Senate Drafting Group***

ICNL also completed an application and received approval for a USIS IV Program for the Kazakhstan NGO working group. The group will study international forms of NGO legislation and hopefully incorporate these standards into the draft NGO law. This training will occur in the US in Washington, DC, where the ICNL main office will play a large role in its implementation.

### **Turkmenistan**

#### ***ICNL Receives GTD Funding for the Training of Turkmenistan Government Officials***

Many government officials in Turkmenistan are unfamiliar with the legal regulations that exist. This became very apparent during the *ICNL/UNHCR International Conference on NGO Legislation* last May. It was also apparent in Washington, DC, where Turkmenistan officials met with ICNL during a USIS funded IV Program. The government officials themselves expressed the desire for further training on the issue. Thus, ICNL has applied for and receive support from Global Training and Development to carry out a two-day training entitled, "*The Legal and Regulatory Environment for NGOs*". This round table will take place in March 1999 and cover the international principles, the current Turkmenistan NGO legislation and discuss ICNL's initiative. It will give government officials a chance to discuss legal reform. ICNL completed the formal request and itinerary and made application to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Turkmenistan.

## ***C. Providing Legal Materials:***

**Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan:** the following materials (in English and Russian) were provided to all interested parties in Central Asia:

- The Checklist for NPO laws
- New Legislation on Non-commercial Organizations in Russia
- The Tax Treatment of Not-for-profit Organizations. A Survey of Best Practices from Around the World
- Economic Activities of Not-for-profit Organizations
- The World Bank's Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-commercial Organizations
- Development of Legislation, the Regulation of Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia: Problems and Perspectives, Vadim Nee, Director of Law and Environment Eurasia Partnership
- Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan NGO Legislation
- ICNL recommendations to Tadjikistan Draft Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Compilation of Charitable Activities Laws and ICNL Comments to
- *Economic Activities of Non-Commercial Organizations*, prepared by the ICNL, for the Regulating Civil Society Conference in Hungary (May, 1996)
- *Development of Legislation, the Regulation of Non-Governmental, Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia: Problems and Perspectives*, Vadim Nee, Director of Law and Environment Eurasia Partnership
- *The Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector*, Leon Irish, President ICNL
- *Bases of regulating Activities of the Non-Commercial Sector*, Karla Simon, Executive Vice President ICNL
- *Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law*, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- ICNL commentary and proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code
- Azerbaijan draft NGO law (ICNL assisted project)

- Book *Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia*, written by ICNL local partner-Kazakhstan, Vadim Nee
- *The Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-Governmental Organizations* Yemen draft law
- Yemen Draft Law on NGOs (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Estonian Law on Non-Commercial Organizations (drafted with assistance from ICNL)

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Fair, consistent, apolitical implementation of the fiscal and regulatory policies affecting NGOs throughout the region (USAID IR 2.1.1.1).**

### **Result Indicator:**

Adoption by oversight and taxation authorities of regulations and enforcement practices that confirm to recognized international standards for fairness, especially the right of appeal to an impartial judiciary, unaffected by political affiliation or opinion (USAID IR 2.1.1.1).

### **Activity Description:**

**General:** *See the Project Impacts section and Objective 1 & 2.*

### **Kazakhstan**

*ICNL Finishes Analysis on Kazakhstan Tax Code and Contributes to High Level Conference on Taxation*  
Currently, there are two pieces of tax legislation that relate to our draft law: the current tax code and a proposed "alternative" tax code. Although adoption of an entirely new tax code is not likely, ICNL is examining both pieces of legislation so that any draft will coincide with either variation. As for the current tax legislation, ICNL has completed and disseminated an analysis of the NGO provisions and their corresponding laws. The analysis is being used to ensure that our draft law on charities is drafted in a way that is consistent with the present tax legislation. ICNL also attended two meetings of the working group on taxation to discuss the possible inclusion of preferential tax treatment for NGOs.

After this interaction, ICNL was invited to the conference, "State and Tax Standards" which was held in the Majilis (Lower House) of Parliament. The Entrepreneurs' Association and Parliament of Kazakhstan sponsored the conference. ICNL contributed material and introduced the topic of the taxation of NGOs in Kazakhstan.

### **Uzbekistan**

*ICNL Finishes Analysis of Uzbekistan Tax Code*

ICNL has also finished an analysis of the Uzbekistan Tax Code that will be used as a guide for potential changes to the Uzbekistan tax regime. The analysis has been disseminated to government officials and members of the working group.

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Increase the capacity of indigenous NGO representatives and lawyers to sustain momentum on legal reform, improving public sensitivity to the rule of law in targeted countries (USAID IR 2.1.1, IR 2.1.1.1, IR 2.1.1.2, IR 2.1.3.2)**

### **Result Indicator:**

The result will be an active legal and NGO community effort to engage in public dialogue on the value and need for effective legal structure to protect the rights of the NGO sector and the public interest (USAID IR 2.1.1, IR 2.1.1.1, IR 2.1.1.2). Indicator will be the increase in the overall number of NGOs, which have rule of law agendas and/or lobby for the NGO sector.

**Activity Description:**

**General:** *See the Project Impacts section and Objective 1 & 2.*

**Regional*****ICNL Carries Out Training for Artisans***

ICNL held a three-hour advocacy-training workshop for Aid to Artisans in November. This event was a follow-up to last Summer's regional artisan meeting. Both artisan NGOs and USAID representatives were present to take part in a discussion concerning advocacy. The NGO representatives were from all over Central Asian. ICNL local partner, Vadim Nee carried out most of the training focusing on the methodology of advocacy. This was also used to demonstrate the need and use for advocacy in the pursuit of legislation. ICNL has also assisted Aid to Artisans with their registration of an international regional artisan NGO. ICNL also assisted with ATA plans to build an artisan village (craft center) and answered questions regarding its relative VAT.

**Kazakhstan*****ICNL Works with Regional ANNOK in Formulating Suggestions for NGO Law***

Balanced NGO legislation requires the proper participatory involvement. This can be difficult in an environment where NGOs are divided and scattered among regions. To address this issue and ensure nation wide NGO participation, ANNOK and ICNL have created a partnership funded by Counterpart. ANNOK (Association of Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan) is a national NGO umbrella organization that has serious outreach potential. ANNOK is one member of the working group and will fund the active participation of dozens of NGOs. The partnership grant will allow ANNOK and ICNL to benefit from each other's resources and increase the role of NGOs in the drafting process. ANNOK will serve a direct link to the NGO community. ICNL on the other hand, can provide the requisite expertise and serve as facilitator of the initiative.

The plan for NGO involvement includes a series of "public meetings" around the country to discuss draft legislation. ANNOK and ICNL will then collect and analyze the various comments made by NGOs and attempt to incorporate these issues into the draft law. Three of these meetings have taken place and ICNL has gathered these summations in the form of official suggestions, which ICNL will forward directly to the Senate working group. The regional meetings will re-commence sometime in January.

**Uzbekistan*****ICNL Contributes to Soros International NGO Law Training in London***

ICNL local partner, Inna Bagdasarova, was asked to participate in a Soros sponsored study on NGO legislation. Uzbekistan government officials and NGO leaders were sent to London to learn about English NGO laws. The purpose of the visit was to enable the group, who are involved in drafting legislation on NGOs in Uzbekistan, to meet their counterparts and representatives of non governmental organizations. Issues discussed: legislative framework required for NGOs to operate effectively; the possibility of partnership between NGOs and government departments and local authorities; the monitoring of NGOs; tax breaks, and; to see the range and quality of work that British NGOs are doing in the UK and overseas.

***ICNL Engage NGOs, Government Officials and International Organizations in NGO Law Dialogue***

ICNL local partner, Inna Bagdasarova, spoke at two UN conferences in Uzbekistan regarding the new draft legislation. These conferences dealt specifically with the new NGO law recently adopted by Parliament (noted above). NGOs and government officials engaged in serious and thoughtful discussions over content of the new law. Ms. Bagdasarova's comments

#### OBJECTIVE 4

Promote credibility of the sector to affect its capacity to provide needed services and advocacy of responsible legislative positions (USAID IR 2.1.1.2, IR 2.1.3)

**Result Indicator:**

Through drafting and seeking enactment of laws that promote transparency of finances and operations, and public information about these laws, increased public trust evidenced by increases in public participation in and response to NGO activities (USAID IR 2.1.3, IR 2.1.3.1, SO 2.3).

**Activity Description:**

General: *See the Project Impacts section and Objective 1 & 2.*

#### OBJECTIVE 5

Assist in promoting contracting between governmental entities and NGOs for the provision of social services (USAID SO 2.3, IR 2.1.3, IR 2.1.1.2, 2.1.1.1, IR 2.1.1)

**Result Indicator:**

Contract negotiations culminating in contractual relationships between governments and NGOs

**Activity Description:**

General: *See the Project Impacts section and Objective 1.*

#### OBJECTIVE 6:

Assist in developing mechanisms to increase the level of self-regulation of the sector (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)

**Result Indicator:**

Through umbrella organizations, codes of enforceable standards established for NGO financial and operating practices (USAID 2.1.1.2).

**Activity Description:**

The activities described under other Objectives of this Report increase the level of self-regulation of the sector and they are directly related to this Objective. By providing general technical assistance ICNL is preparing grounds to the future specific work purposed to assist umbrella NGO organizations with the development of codes of enforceable standards established for NGO financial and operating practices. When the new better legislation will be adopted ICNL will start more specific activities in this area.

### D. ISSUES AND/OR PROBLEMS

**Kazakhstan**

With the success of the October conference held in Parliament, ICNL must maintain to momentum and cooperative spirit of government officials in relation to their NGO constituents. ICNL will continue the dialogue between these groups by means of regional round tables and on-going assistance to government officials.

**Kyrgyzstan**

The political situation in Kyrgyzstan is also currently unpredictable. The government was recently forced to resign so that new political appointments can be made. These most recent events will most likely be resolved by mid-January. It may prove difficult to effect the Parliament with such events looming. ICNL will closely monitor the situation to determine what steps to take in the immediate future.

### **Tajikistan**

The political situation in Tadjikistan remains fragile and is still approached in a delicate manner. Seemingly, however, all sides want to agree on progress. Perhaps the ICNL and Counterpart initiative can serve as a catalyst for the peace process by involving NGOs, government officials and opposition representatives. ICNL will return to Tajikistan in February to carry out two round tables with Counterpart.

### **Turkmenistan**

The government is now opening to reform however, those tendencies are based on the Russian example. Although there are many positive aspects as to how things are done in Russia, these examples may not work for everyone. The best laws and reform paths are country specific and take into account the experience, history and socio-political norms of that country. ICNL must ensure that the government officials involved in such reform are provided with a wide-spectrum of material including in-country assistance.

### **Uzbekistan**

Now that a new law has been accepted, the Parliament will start its revision process, which will involve two subsequent readings in Parliament. ICNL must mobilize the NGO community and reach the various high-level people that are involved in this process in order to effect further positive revisions to the law. ICNL will continue this process in close cooperation with NGOs and Counterpart Uzbekistan.

## **E. LESSONS LEARNED**

### **Kazakhstan**

Continued cooperation with government officials is key to effecting the legal and regulatory environment. ICNL has learned that on-going relationships with key government officials is crucial to the overall initiative. Such cooperation builds trust and confidence which in turn is exhibited in the overall productivity of the initiative.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

With the successes over the last year, ICNL has learned that patience and consistency are effective in weathering political uncertainties. Despite political developments in the last year, ICNL maintained a consistent legislative initiative which has blossomed into a multi-representational draft NGO law which complies with the international standards of such legislation. That law is currently in Parliament waiting for adoption.

### **Tajikistan**

Despite the unpredictable nature of the situation in Tadjikistan, ICNL must continue to focus on the issue of legislative reform. To do otherwise would be a disservice to the governmental and NGO partners that ICNL has worked with. ICNL continues planning activities in Tajikistan. Recent events in Tajikistan have caused concern and delay on the part of international organizations. This hesitance is weakening the already fragile political situation and hindering the efforts at overall development. Nonetheless, ICNL and its local partner continue to work on the various legislative initiatives in Tajikistan and are currently planning three events for February. ICNL has already assisted in the drafting of a new public association' law, proposed amendments to the Civil Code and forwarded Tax Code amendments.

### **Turkmenistan**

Relations with the government must be maintained on a high-level to achieve any real progress. ICNL, Counterpart and USAID learned that meeting with high-level government officials directly can be effective in overcoming specific government interference.

## **Uzbekistan**

ICNL has proven that determined NGOs and organizations can influence the government to consider new concepts. After consolidation of efforts and an intense awareness campaign, the President and government accepted the idea of NGO development in Uzbekistan. Soon thereafter, a draft law was written and passed to Parliament. That law was adopted in its first reading and currently undergoing minor revisions.

## **F. COODINATION AND COOPERATION**

### *A. US and International organizations:*

#### **Regional**

All ICNL activities have been coordinated with the USAID regional offices.

In addition, Mr. Remias established cooperative relations with the following organizations: ABA; NDI; IRIS; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TASIC, OSCE, UNHCR, UNDP.

Dan Bliss, Regional Director of Eurasia came to Almaty to discuss potential forms of cooperation with USAID. Eurasia also held a separate meeting with ICNL regarding regional activities. ICNL gave detailed reports on ICNL/legislative activity in the region in order to avoid duplication and seek some form of cooperation in these efforts.

#### **Kazakhstan**

ICNL continues to cooperate with Soros, UNDP, UNHCR, ABA, AED/GTD, IFES, and the Almaty OMT team. In addition, ICNL, UNDP and Counterpart met to coordinate further activities and to discuss how these organizations can further develop the current NGO/governmental cooperation. ICNL also met with Scott Newton of ARD Checchi and USAID representatives concerning the Kazakhstan MOJ and how to better coordinate overall efforts between USAID's OMT and ODT team.

ICNL was asked to attend a special USAID/UNDP cooperation meeting at USAID to discuss ICNL cooperation with UNDP. Although the ICNL/UNDP relationship was highlighted, the goal of the meeting was to build upon overall existing cooperation between USAID and UNDP.

ICNL also completed an application and received approval for a USIS IV Program for the Kazakhstan NGO working group. The group will learn about international forms of NGO legislation and hopefully incorporate these standards into the draft NGO law.

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

ICNL cooperates very effectively with USAID Resident Advisor on Commercial Law, Fred Huston, who helped to develop strategy for the joint working group to finalize the NGO draft law; with Scott Kearnin, the NDI Representative; with the ABA who assisted with the successful drafting process; Howard Ockman, the Group Leader for IRIS/CA who helped ICNL to translate comments to three draft laws from Russian into English and offered his advice on how to proceed.

#### **Tajikistan**

The Counterpart/ICNL relationship has blossomed into a new NGO law. ICNL has also worked closely with the ABA and in particular, the Soros Foundation to identify initiatives and effective assistance programs.

### **Turkmenistan**

ICNL has already established working relations with UNHCR, USAID/Booz-Allen legislative expert, ACCELS, and GTD. ICNL has also worked closely with USAID's office in Turkmenistan. Murl Baker of USAID and ICNL Regional Director of Central Asia, Richard Remias, met with the Minister of Justice to seek the Ministry's active participation in the GTD funded training, "The Legal and Regulatory Environment for NGOs" to be held in March of 1999. The group also discussed the Counterpart registration and other forms of USAID/Turkmenistan cooperation.

### **Uzbekistan**

Many groups and organizations have an active interest in ICNL's legislative project. In addition to working within the Counterpart Consortium, ICNL has established active cooperation with AED, UNHCR, ABA, World Bank, Eurasia, OSCE, Uzbekistan's Business Women's' Association, and local NGOs. The UNHCR and OSI also held international conferences in cooperation with ICNL. ICNL has also established a relationship with Golnara Yoldasheva Deputy from the Olyi Majilis and Director, of the "Healthy Generation" NGO in Uzbekistan. This is a high profile NGO that may actively participate in the working group.

*See Project Impacts and Activity Description under Objective 1.A.*

***B. NGOs: ICNL has active cooperation or interaction with the following:***

#### **Kazakhstan**

Vadim Nee, ICNL's main partner and NGO Law Expert; the Shimkent Association of Attorneys, NGO umbrella organization--ANNOK (Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations), the Union of Attorneys of Kazakhstan, the Consumer Protection Rights Group--"Legal Initiative"; Business Women's Association, the Association of the Invalids Organizations "Zhan"; Women and Law; Legal Development of Kazakhstan; Information Innovation Center; "AntiNar"; Pensioners NGO "Pokoleniye"; Association of the lawyers of Kazakhstan; Roman Podoprigora, Higher School of Law "Adilet".

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

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

#### **Tajikistan**

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

#### **Uzbekistan**

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

***C. Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments:***

#### **Kazakhstan**

Murat Ospanov, Speaker of the Majilis; Baegeldyi, Speaker of Senate; Roza Koanshbayeva, Senator; Irak K. Elekeev, Deputy; Sabyr A. Kasimov, Deputy; Zinaida Fedotova, Chairman of Committee on Legislation and Justice-Legal Reform; Basurmanov Zhumabek, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights with the President; Vesnin Victor Nikolaevich, the Deputy of the Lower Chamber of the

Parliament; Peter P. Kolesov, the Senator (the Upper Chamber) of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Yaroslav Shevtsov, Chief Specialist of the Department of Economic Legislation of the Institute of Legislation with the Ministry of Justice; Nurlan S. Moldokhmetov, Deputy Minister, and Kubasova Irina Alexandrovna, the Director of the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice; Shimkent Lawyers Association.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

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

### **Tajikistan**

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

### **Turkmenistan**

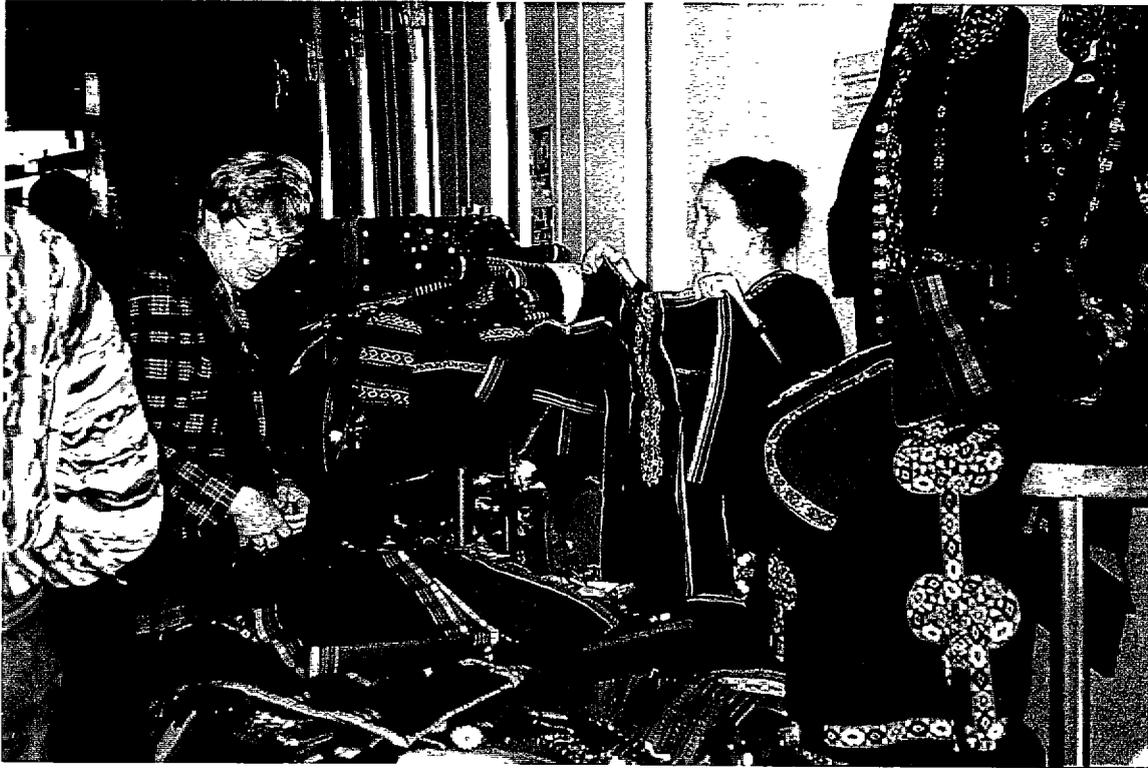
Mr. Remias met with officials from the Ministry of Justice and the Minister himself, Chairman of Legislative Committee on Economics and Social Policy, and Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

### **Uzbekistan**

Akmai Saidov, Deputy and Director of the Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Deputy Minister of Justice Pulat Samatov; Pulat Akhmetov -Head of the Control-Analytical Department, NGO Bureau, Ministry of Justice; Akhmat Toursunov, Director, and Kasanov Mikhail Yuryevich, Deputy-Director of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Olyi Majilis (Parliament); Bakhodir H. Umurzakov, Minister of Social Maintenance; Sayera Rashidova, the Authorized Person for Human Rights (Ombudsman).

## **H. LEVERAGING**

*Throughout this Report, the cooperative nature of ICNL's work is highlighted. ICNL plans to work on the highest possible level to achieve tangible results. This cooperative effort involves everyone from the diplomatic community, UN organizations, USAID counterparts, local and national governmental entities and moreover, the representatives of the indigenous NGOs region wide. Please refer to Section F. Coordination and Cooperation.*



Above: Ms. Gozel Annameredova, a leader of the Turkmen Crafts Center, displays product for a shopper at the Almaty regional craft fair, which was organized by ATA partner NGO Center Bahyt. Below: The Turkmen Crafts Center developed a product hang tag after attending ATA training on how to create promotional materials.

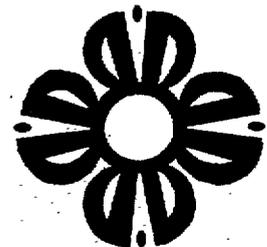


This product was made by crafts women of Turkmenistan who earn their living by such crafts as: carpets, felt making, embroidery, hand weaving and knitting. Buying this craft will help these women greatly.



Это изделие сделано ремесленницами из Туркменистана, которые зарабатывают на жизнь такими ремеслами, как ковроткачество, вышивание, вязание, производство войлока. Покупая эту вещь Вы им очень поможете.

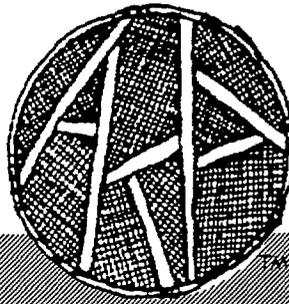
Mir 2/2,20 Turkmenbashy St.,  
Flat 61, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan  
Tel.: (3632) 44-00-29, 24-38-51  
E-mail: ata@cpart.org



**Turkmen Crafts  
Center**



Funded by USAID



A member of the Counterpart Consortium

## AID TO ARTISANS, INC. - Central Asia Program

The ATA Central Asia Regional Newsletter is free to members of ATA partner NGOs

№ 3, October, 1998

### Business Tip – Hang Tags Help Sell Your Products!

Foreigners, in particular, like products that have a story. When buying Central Asian handicrafts, foreigners do not just buy the product, they buy the culture, the tradition, the hopes and dreams of the people. In short, they buy the story. That story can be the meaning of a symbol in the design. It can be that the product was made by a woman in a remote village or in a war-torn part of a country. The story can be that the product was made using hand-shorn wool from local sheep, and dyed using traditional plants. The story can be that three artisans worked together to make this product special. One carved the wooden handle, another made the leather laces, the third the metal grommets that provide the decorative finish. The story can be how the product was first used in the artisan's culture.

If language differences are a barrier, or you send your products to be sold in a shop somewhere else, how can you tell the story? It's easy. Make a product hang tag!

A hang tag is a small decorative tag of heavy paper, and usually attached to the product with a short string so it hangs from the product (hence the name "hang tag"). The hang tag should identify the artisan or group which made the product, and something distinct or unique about the product – the story.

Hang tags represent you, the artisan, as well as the product. Hang tags are your voice to convince the potential buyer to purchase the product. Hang tags can be handwritten if legible, or they can be printed on a computer. They can be colorful or black and white, printed on one side or two, folded or flat. They should be creative and attractive. Most importantly, they should be neat, easy to read, should identify the artisan or group and where they're located, and TELL SOMETHING UNIQUE OR SPECIAL ABOUT THE PRODUCT. ■

For more information on hang tags and how to make them, contact ATA Local Coordinator in Kazakhstan, Ainura Ashirova.

TEXACO INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY, AID TO ARTISANS, AND SHIBER AUL CRAFT NGO DEMONSTRATE SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP IN KAZAKSTAN with Counterpart Consortium, and the US Peace Corps, to collaborate on a construction and technical assistance / training program to span two years. TEXACO made a major grant to ATA to fund construction of an artisan center which will house workshops, a tea house / meeting room, and a small retail shop. The Peace Corps, Counterpart Consortium, and USAID are joining ATA and TEXACO to provide technical assistance in the form of business training, guidance in democratic governance, equipment, and other support to the Shiber Aul artisan NGO.

Counterpart and ATA held a groundbreaking ceremony and press conference at the Shiber Aul village September 2 to kick off the project. More than twenty media agencies attended the event and provided extensive news coverage on radio and TV in Russian and Kazak languages, and in both Russian and English language newspapers. Distinguished guests included the US Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Elizabeth Jones, Regional Governor of the Almaty Region, Zamanbek Nurkadilov, and other local government officials as well as representatives of other international organizations and members and residents of Shiber Aul. ■

### ATA, the Artisans, and Peace Corps Team Up

Aid to Artisans and Peace Corps have recently joined forces with ATA partner NGO Shiber Aul in Kazakhstan, Talent Support Fund in Kyrgyzstan, and with the artisans of Turkmenistan on three separate projects. Bruce Grover has begun working with Shiber Aul in Kazakhstan, Allison Howard has begun working with TSF, and Leanne Ovalles has been working informally with the artisans of Turkmenistan. "Two heads are better than one", and three organizations can be better than two! Think about how your artisan NGO might work together with ATA and another artisan NGO or other partner to share experiences or execute a special project. ■

### CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

to Center Bahyt, ATA's newest partner NGO in Almaty. Center Bahyt was founded in early 1998 by graduates and staff of the Almaty College of Applied and Decorative Arts. The organization currently has 28 members. It is based in Almaty and has one branch in Turkestan. It completed registration in June. For more information on activities and membership, contact Bahyt Abdikarim, the leader of the Center, in Almaty at Abay Str., 56 A, phone number: (3272) 425777, 429971. ■

Published by Aid to Artisans, Almaty office.  
Tel.: (3272) 62-16-44, 62-15-44, fax: (3272) 62-50-09  
E-mail : atacoord@cpart.alma-ata.su

**Natural Dyes** – In Kyrgyzstan artisans participated in a June workshop on using natural dyes. The workshop was organized by ATA partner NGO Talent Support Fund and conducted by ATA consultant Michelle Whiplinger and her assistant Arnie Litt.

**Wood, Metal, and Leather** – In July, ATA Consultant Mary Whitesides traveled to Central Asia to conduct product design workshops with members of ATA's partner NGOs Center Bahyt and Shiber Aul in Kazakhstan, Bukhara Artisan Center, Khiva Artisan Center, and Kokand Artisan Center in Uzbekistan. More than forty NGO members participated.

**Papermaking** – Papermaking expert Alexandra Soteriou donated her time to conduct an assessment visit for a papermaking workshop and training with ATA's partner NGO in Samarkand, the MEROS Handicraft Development Center. If funding is found, the workshop and training will be set up in the future.

**Product Design** — Internationally acclaimed designer Lynda Grose conducted a product design workshop in Ashgabat for Turkmenistan artisans in late August / early September. Together, Lynda and the artisans developed and produced more than forty new products using traditional embroidery and felt-making motifs and techniques. Lynda has worked several times with the artisans of Kyrgyzstan to develop their highly successful felt products. ■

*A member of Sheber aul Aidar Moldahanov  
with his wooden bowl made in the workshop  
with Mary Whitesides*

**UPCOMING EVENTS - NOVEMBER**

**ATA Regional Holiday Craft Fairs**

(NOTE: first day listed below is set-up)

November 6 - 8	Almaty
November 20 - 22	Tashkent
November 27 - 29	Bishkek

*Mark your calendars now and begin making your new products!*

**NGOs AND ASSOCIATIONS**

There has been a lot of talk among NGOs in Central Asia lately about "associations". What are they? If I belong to an NGO, can I join an Association? Why should I do both? Here are answers to a few common questions.

An association is a group of people who share common interests in work, hobbies, or other areas. "Associations are founded upon the principles of democracy, volunteerism, and common interest... Associations, by definition, exist for the mutual protection and advancement of their members. They call themselves a host of names — associations, federations, alliances, guilds, societies, networks,... Although they come in many shapes and sizes, they are all associations, sharing the twin goals of helping their members and advancing society." The American Society of Association Executives.

You may join both an NGO and an Association. In some cases, an association may group together members of several NGOs. An example of this would be a regional association comprised of members of similar NGOs from different countries.

Joining both an NGO and a larger association of people with similar interests can give you and your fellow association members even greater strength by having a larger number of members and therefore even greater strength to promote ideas and advance causes.

For more information on associations, please see your ATA Local Coordinator and / or the Counterpart Consortium representative for your area. ■

**For more information on ATA in Central Asia please contact:**

Kazakstan (Almaty) -	Ms. Ainura Ashirova Tel/fax: (3272) 62-50-09 E-mail : atacoord@cpart.alma-ata.su
Kyrgystan (Bishkek) -	Ms. Ainura Bozgunchieva Tel.: (3312) 61-00-22 fax: (3312) 61-00-21 E-mail: ata@counterpart.kg.org
Uzbekistan (Tashkent) -	Ms. Gulbahor Salimova Tel/fax: (3712) 76-42-04 E-mail: ata@cpart.silk.org
Uzbekistan (Bukhara) -	Ms. Raisa Gareyeva Tel.: (36522) 37-277 E-mail: raisa@salom.bukhara.silk.org
Tajikistan (Dushanbe) -	Ms. Adiba Asadova Tel.:(3772) 21-75-59, 21-82-65 E-mail: ata@cpart.td.silk.org
Turkmenistan (Ashgabad) -	Ms. Gozel Annameredova Tel.: (3632) 35-70-05 E-mail: ata@cpart.sibnet.tm

Published by Aid to Artisans, Almaty, Kazakhstan

81



November 23, 1998

**Honorary  
Co-Chairmen**

Henry H. Fowler  
Melvin R. Laird

**Chairman**

Frank C. Carlucci

**Board of Directors**

Lucy Wilson Benson  
John R. Block  
Wallace J. Campbell  
John J. Cavanaugh  
Andrew J. Goodpaster  
Leonard H. Marks  
Clifton R. Wharton, Jr

**President**

John H. Costello

**Counsel**

Randal C. Teague

**Honorary Advisors**

Joseph W. Barr  
Harold Brown  
Earl L. Butz  
Frederick B. Dent  
C. Douglas Dillon  
Orville L. Freeman  
Alexander M. Hag, Jr  
Clifford M. Hardin  
Henry A. Kissinger  
G. William Miller  
David Rockefeller, Jr.  
Donald H. Rumsfeld  
George P. Shultz  
Cyrus Vance

Mr. Joel Levin  
Director, NGO Support Programs  
1200 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Ste. 1100  
Washington D.C. 20036

**RE: Final Programmatic Report - Kyrgyzstan NGO Support Initiative**

Dear Joel:

The Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs is pleased to submit its Final Programmatic Report for the Kyrgyzstan NGO Support Initiative project. Included herewith are final recommendations for additional assistance to CNFA host partners, an overview of program activities, lessons learned, a summary of all program impacts, and a final inventory of property and supplies.

The Final Financial Report will be submitted once the final expenses of Kathryn Rasmussen are reconciled after her return to the U.S..

Per conversations with Jay Cooper, the items on the inventory list were turned over to Counterpart International in Bishkek.

It has been a pleasure working in collaboration with you and Counterpart International over the life of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William N. Witting  
Director, Agribusiness Volunteer Program

**Washington, DC**  
1111 19th Street, N.W., Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
tel 202-296-3920  
fax 202-296-3948  
E-mail cohead@cnfa.org

**Moscow, Russia**  
Moscow 119285, Russia  
4 ulitsa Pudovkina  
tel (7 095) 143 09 25  
fax (7 095) 143 09 98  
Combellga (7 502) 221 62 34  
E-mail moscow@cnfa.msk.ru

**Kiev, Ukraine**  
Kiev 252133, Ukraine  
26 Lesya Ukrainka  
5th Floor  
tel (380 44) 295 1312, 294 7961, 294 9071  
fax (380 44) 295 3055  
E-mail kiev@cnfa-ukiev.org

**Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**  
107 Kievskaya Street  
5th Floor  
Bishkek 72000 Kyrgyzstan  
tel (7 3312) 22 38 13, 22 38 46  
tel (7 3312) 21 16 97  
E-mail tomcnfa@imliko.bishkek.su

**Chisinau, Moldova**  
121/A, 31 August str.  
277012, Chisinau, Moldova  
tel (373 2) 241 321  
fax (373 2) 243 669  
E-mail bahen@cnfa.moldnet.md

**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
62 Livingstone Avenue  
Box CH 502  
Chisipite, Harare, Zimbabwe  
tel (263 4) 735 977  
fax (253 4) 721 535  
E-mail mitch@id.co.zw

## **Final Report on Citizens' Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA) Activity in Kyrgyzstan October 31, 1998**

This document offers an overview of CNFA's work with Private Farmers Associations (PFAs) in Kyrgyzstan during Phase II (August 1997 - October 1998) of the USAID-funded NGO Support Initiative Project, which built on the earlier work of CNFA in Central Asia during Phase I (April 1995 - July 1997).

### **I. CNFA Objectives in Kyrgyzstan under NGO Support Initiative**

**Objective 1:** Strengthen existing and emerging private farmers' associations (PFAs) in Kyrgyzstan as self-sustaining, democratic rural NGOs through in-country technical assistance from Kyrgyz field staff, U.S. state Farm Bureau experts, and other resources of the Counterpart Consortium.

**Objective 2:** Strengthen the capacity of rural PFAs to advocate the interests of farmers and widen their influence with local and national government.

**Objective 3:** Increased participation of women in PFA activity.

### **II. CNFA Approach in Achieving Objectives**

#### *Phase I*

During Phase I of the project, CNFA support to PFAs consisted primarily of training in various aspects of democratic governance and organizational development, building partnerships between U.S. Farm Bureaus and Central Asian PFAs, and providing grants through Counterpart Consortium to equip PFA offices and support partnership exchanges. Volunteer experts from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) conducted the training for PFAs, staying in Kyrgyzstan an average of three weeks and training farmers in areas such as: boards of directors, policy development, general assemblies, etc. AFBF visitors, accompanied by CNFA local staff, traveled to selected regions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan to provide on-site instruction to farmer groups generally in the form of seminars. During Phase I, CNFA supported partnerships between the AFBF and emerging PFAs in Central Asia. Farm Bureaus from three states, Kentucky, Indiana, and Oregon, formed partnerships with oblast-level PFAs in Uzbekistan (Ferghana oblast PFA), Kazakhstan (Taldy-Korgan oblast PFA), and Kyrgyzstan (Osh oblast PFA) respectively. Another aspect of CNFA support was the Counterpart grant program. Eight PFAs received grants through Counterpart during Phase I of the program, primarily for establishing offices and traveling to the U.S. to learn about U.S. agriculture and American Farm Bureau structure and activities, and to develop the U.S. - Central Asian partnerships.

Near the close of Phase I, CNFA altered its strategy for Phase II. The two key principles of the new strategy were to work with rayon- rather than oblast-level PFAs, and to use Bishkek-

based local staff to travel to the regions from Bishkek and conduct training. In Kyrgyzstan, during Phase I of the project, CNFA worked with the Osh oblast PFA, with limited activity with oblast PFAs in other regions. At the close of Phase I, CNFA set a target of 15 rayons throughout the country - to be determined at a later date - in which it would support PFA development during Phase II.

### *Phase II*

CNFA introduced some key changes in approach during Phase II. First, as mentioned above, CNFA targeted the rayon rather than the oblast, as the level at which it would focus support for farmer groups. Second, CNFA hired field staff in its target regions to provide most of the training and support to farmer groups, with AFB experts used to supplement the knowledge of field staff or to cover topics on which field staff had little expertise. Third, during Phase II CNFA rarely encouraged PFAs to apply for Counterpart grant funds, since it wanted to see evidence that the PFAs were truly working in the interests of the membership before supporting a grant application to the Consortium.

During September-October 1997, CNFA staff traveled throughout Kyrgyzstan to meet various farmer groups, collect data in order to develop a strategy for supporting PFAs in Kyrgyzstan, and determine which rayons to target during Phase II. After field visits to each oblast of the country, CNFA decided to focus its support to PFAs in two of the country's six oblasts: Talas and Dzhahalal-Abad. CNFA selected all four rayons of Talas and eight rayons in Dzhahalal-Abad as areas of focus. These 12 rayons represented a reduction from the 15 rayons originally listed in the CNFA workplan.

CNFA selected Talas and Dzhahalal-Abad to avoid duplicating other donor activity, and due to their potential for PFA development. During the initial assessment of farmer groups in Kyrgyzstan, CNFA concluded that many donor projects were conducting work similar to CNFA's. However, CNFA's approach of sending field staff out to villages to conduct seminars, and its work on democratic governance, advocacy, and commercial topics appropriate for farmers' associations was indeed unique. CNFA noted the following donor-funded projects throughout the country in support of PFAs: Mercy Corps-Europe (MCE) had begun a year-long project in Issyk Kul oblast on a democracy program for PFAs that was linked to the Mercy Corps credit program. In Osh oblast, two donor projects with longer-term funding, GTZ (agricultural extension) and ACDI (credit associations), were working in part with the PFAs there. Caritas, a Swiss NGO, was supporting an agricultural extension service to advise farmers in the three southern rayons of Dzhahalal-Abad oblast, but not working with farmers' associations specifically. In Naryn oblast, Helvetas, a Swiss organization, was active in providing assistance to and supporting the development of PFAs. UNDP was also working with rural groups as vehicles to channel credit, but not on the farmer association theme. Thus, many organizations were working with farmers and rural groups, but none was providing the support that CNFA was offering in strengthening the organizational foundation of the PFAs, teaching farmers to advocate their interests, and working to increase the participation of women farmers in PFAs.

In order to maximize the impact in the target oblasts of Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, CNFA, working through the Agricultural Training and Advisory Service (ATAS), CNFA hired two field staff each in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad for a one-year period to work with farmers on association development. CNFA-Bishkek set the following themes - predominantly related to organizational development - as priorities for instruction: boards of directors, services to members, accounting and record-keeping, advocacy, agricultural cooperatives, and use of mass media for public information.

### *Talas*

At the start of Phase II, the situation in Talas was as follows: there was one oblast-level PFA - the Kutman-Jer Union of Private Farmers - and no PFA structures at the rayon level. Kutman-Jer reported that it had 162 members as of November 1997, but it was later learned that no farmers had paid membership dues for 1996 or 1997. CNFA activity therefore was focused on developing the rayon-level structures in order to strengthen the Kutman-Jer at the rayon level and give it a solid grassroots foundation. With a view to supporting Kutman-Jer in achieving sustainability, CNFA considered it necessary for the PFA to increase membership, emphasize democratic principles of governance, and improve services to members.

CNFA planned to hold a minimum of 22 seminars in the Talas region and reach 440 farmers from September 1997 - December 1998. As a result of its support to the farmers' association in Talas oblast, CNFA projected an increase in total membership in Kutman-Jer to 200 farmers by the end of its activity in October 1998.

### *Dzhalal-Abad*

As in Talas, there were no donors working with farmer organizations in Dzhalal-Abad oblast. Two PFAs existed in Dzhalal-Abad at the start of Phase I: one PFA covering the northern rayons, and one covering the southern rayons. Since the PFAs had formed recently, no membership information was available but an estimate of 60 members was given for the northern rayons and 30 members for the southern rayons. In Dzhalal-Abad, CNFA planned to hold 27 seminars through December 1998 with a target of 540 attendees. The seminars and training offered were expected to result in a total of 200 PFA members throughout Dzhalal-Abad oblast by December 1998.

## **III. Phase II Activity and Accomplishments: September 1997 - October 1998**

### *A. General Accomplishments*

#### **1. Development of Field Staff**

CNFA has accomplished a great deal during Phase II of its program to support PFAs in Kyrgyzstan. This was largely due to the hiring of field staff, two of whom had experience in the agricultural extension service already and two who were university professors of Animal Science. The change to regional staff working in the target areas had several benefits.

85

First, it made the program much more flexible by reducing the reliance on AFB experts as the main source of training for farmer groups. CNFA field staff replaced the AFB experts and CNFA-Bishkek local staff as the main trainers on farmer association development. This enabled the project to use AFB experts to conduct seminars on topics for which CNFA field staff were unqualified. Second, hiring field staff in the regions gave CNFA a regional presence, made the program more mobile, and enabled CNFA to reach more farmers with its work due to reduced travel costs and lower salaries required for employees in the provinces. Third, since the field staff hired were experts in agriculture they were able to provide advice to farmers on the technical, economic, and legal aspects of farming that would arise during the course of a seminar. As agricultural experts, they were much more effective with farmers than were trainers who had no background in agriculture. Fourth, the hiring of field staff was done with a view to leaving behind trained specialists in association development, to work in agricultural extension long after CNFA ended its activity in Kyrgyzstan.

In addition to traveling to villages and rayons to conduct seminars for farmer groups, CNFA field staff provided one-on-one consultations to farmers who stopped by the field offices in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad. Farmers often requested assistance in developing a charter for the PFA, developing services to members, and other aspects of PFA activity.

CNFA provided several months of training and experience to field staff in the area of association development. Close cooperation with many donor projects in Kyrgyzstan allowed the project to continually upgrade the skills and knowledge of its field staff by arranging training for them by other groups on a wide range of topics including: proper use and application of crop protection chemicals, calculation of social fund tax for farmers; and procedure for collateral registration. Further, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) provided training for CNFA field staff and farmers on advocacy. CNFA field staff also attended Counterpart International's Advocacy training in preparation for their seminars with farmers. On credit management, CNFA cooperated with the Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) and the Financial Company for the Support and Development of Credit Unions (FCCU) under the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan. Expatriate advisors to the World Bank Sheep and Wool Development Project provided training to CNFA field staff on marketing. Further, CNFA-Bishkek local staff attended Counterpart International's Small and Medium Enterprise seminar and drew on the knowledge gained to develop the Small Enterprise seminar for women farmers.

Through its work, CNFA has made a valuable contribution to building local capacity in agricultural training and advice. CNFA field staff - two specialists each in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad - are specialists in the field of agriculture and will likely continue to work in agriculture in the future, perhaps in the newly-formed Rural Development and Advisory Service (RADS).

Several projects active in the agriculture sector expressed interest in using CNFA field staff

to provide further training to farmer associations. Helvetas, a Swiss organization supporting the Rural Advisory and Development Service (RADS) in Naryn, Issyk Kul, and Dzhalal-Abad, will contract with CNFA field staff for training of farmer associations and women's NGOs in Naryn. Mercy Corps has also inquired about using CNFA field staff in Talas for training a Credit Association in marketing, developing business plans, and organizational structure. Counterpart International proposes to use CNFA field staff in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad as contract trainers to allow continued support to farmers' associations in those oblasts. This is clear evidence that CNFA has contributed to developing local capacity in farmer association development.

## **2. Seminars and PFA Formation**

Approximately 2000 rural residents attended a total of 83 CNFA seminars throughout Kyrgyzstan but primarily in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad. As of October 1998, in just 14 months, CNFA had well-exceeded its target of 980 participants in seminars. By basing its field staff out in the regions and sending them to villages to conduct seminars, CNFA was able to reach over 2000 farmers in CNFA seminars throughout Kyrgyzstan. This does not even include participants in CNFA-sponsored meetings and sessions that fell outside of the eight main seminar topics listed below. CNFA unfortunately did not record visitors to its field offices or the central office in Bishkek for individual consultations on PFA issues or general questions on agriculture. On average, at least five farmers per week visited the Bishkek office for consultations, and about the same number visited each of the field offices in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad.

Second, as of October 1998, there were seven rayon PFAs (of seven targeted) formed in Dzhalal-Abad oblast and four rayon PFAs (of four targeted), one oblast PFA, and one women's PFA formed in Talas oblast. Thus, in all targeted areas farmers formed PFAs during the 14 months of CNFA support. Further, as of October 1998, in Talas oblast there were 212 PFA members total, and in Dzhalal-Abad at least 300 PFA members. This clearly demonstrates farmers' interest in the PFA as a self-help organization. Further, these PFAs are not being formed in order to fulfill a certain function - such as disbursing credit - of a donor-funded program. The PFA members and leadership understand that CNFA has only training to offer them - no credit, no material resources - and CNFA staff rarely mention the Counterpart grant program to PFAs until the PFAs have actually provided some services to their members on their own. Thus, the PFAs are no longer forming to "get something" from donors, but to give something to the farmers of the region.

CNFA understands that the sheer number of PFAs formed is an inadequate indicator of the program's success. Rather, it is the number of PFAs still in existence after one year, three years, or five years from the time they were formed that reveals the success of the program. Sustainability is a big concern for these PFAs and some of the newly formed PFAs may fail due to lack of member commitment and/or lack of financing.

One event that appeared to be a major setback has actually been a major success for the project. At the start of Phase II, CNFA elected to work with the Kutman-Jer PFA in Talas. Thus, the PFA took upon itself organizing farmers for seminars, etc. CNFA worked mainly through one person, the PFA president, despite efforts to work with the board of directors and the membership. Further, CNFA supported the PFA in winning a sizeable grant (\$9,000) from the Counterpart Consortium. In March 1998, about three months into the grant period, the PFA staff informed CNFA that the PFA president was misappropriating some grant funds. After an audit by Counterpart and CNFA, the PFA was given one month to correct errors in bookkeeping and present receipts for missing funds. The PFA membership learned of this and called for a special general meeting of the membership to clarify the situation and decide on the future of the organization. At the meeting, the membership raised the question of a change in leadership in light of the mishandling of grant funds. The majority of PFA members voted to retain the existing leadership. CNFA subsequently ended its support to the PFA due to the leadership's lack of interest in serving its members and encouraged Counterpart to cancel the grant to the PFA. This ended CNFA's cooperation with the Kutman-Jer PFA. Eventually, most of the PFA members quit that organization.

This enabled CNFA to develop new contacts and work through farmers at the rayon and village levels. The project is now targeting truly grassroots farm groups in Talas whose leaders are genuinely interested in building an organization that helps farmers in their region. These farmers have positive reputations with the agricultural extension service and credit institutions in Talas. This was a very important lesson learned for the project and confirms the need for locally-based staff who know the farmers and can better judge whether to work with a certain group of farmers. Further, that the membership forced its leadership to report on its activities and expenditures is a significant impact of CNFA's work. Without raising the level of understanding of rural residents about the nature of membership organizations and how they function, farmers in the Kutman-Jer PFA likely would not have questioned the leadership's activities.

The end result of this event is that on July 30, 1998, farmers - many of whom had belonged to the Kutman-Jer PFA in Talas, founded a new oblast PFA. This PFA is a true grassroots organization, with rayon-level associations and farmer-representatives in many villages of Talas oblast. The initiative group that formed the PFA had 26 members, and about 200 farmers have pledged to join the PFA. Moreover, the initiators of this movement traveled to villages throughout Talas oblast and explained to farmers that they should not view the PFA as a source of credit. The fact that farmers join despite the understanding that the PFA is not a credit vehicle demonstrates tremendous progress made during just 11 months of work during Phase II and is an outstanding accomplishment in light of the fact that at the start of Phase II, most farmers saw the PFA only as a vehicle for gaining credit and joined the PFA only for that reason. Farmers now have a better understanding of the PFA's role as most fundamentally an education and advocacy organization, with possibilities to branch out into commercial activities such as marketing and agricultural cooperatives.

### **3. Development of Training Materials**

CNFA has developed training materials for farmer groups. CNFA-Bishkek developed a PFA manual that describes for farmers what a PFA is, what benefits it serves, its organizational structure, and essential steps in establishing a PFA. Additionally, CNFA has developed the following training modules: 1) PFA structure; 2) Board of Directors and Committees; 3) General Assembly; 4) Policy Development and Advocacy; 5) Credit Management; 6) Development of Cooperatives; 7) Small Enterprise Training for Women Farmers; and 8) Marketing. These training materials are available in English and Russian and will be left with appropriate organizations that work with farmer groups in Kyrgyzstan. By distributing these materials to local organizations such as the Rural Advisory and Development Service (RADS), Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC), the National Bank Finance Company for the Support of Credit Unions (FCCU), and Helvetas, CNFA increases the likelihood that other organizations will conduct similar training sessions for farmers on democratic governance, advocacy, and the commercial aspects of farming.

### **4. Coordination with Other Organizations**

Another reason for CNFA's success during Phase II has been the outstanding cooperation with various organizations funded by other donor projects. CNFA worked closely with the Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) created under the World Bank Rural Finance Project, the Financial Company for Support of Credit Unions of the National Bank (FCCU), the Agricultural Training and Advisory Service (ATAS) and the Agri-Business Center (ABC Center) both of which form part of the Rural Advisory and Development Service (RADS), and the Kyrgyz Agricultural Market Information System (KAMIS). CNFA advertises these organizations as sources of support for PFAs. For example, KAMIS provides weekly and monthly reports on prices for agricultural inputs and produce, and direct links with farmer associations can be useful for the farmers in order to choose the right output markets and supply sources; ATAS provides advice on technical and economic aspects of farming and distributes newly issued decrees and laws which are essential to the farmers protecting their rights vis-a-vis government officials who misinterpret the law to the detriment of farmers; KAFC provides agricultural loans to farmers, and so on.

On a number of occasions, CNFA has invited KAFC representatives to meetings of farmer groups in order to answer questions on agricultural credit. Employees of KAFC, FCCU, the IRIS Commercial Law Project, NDI, and the World Bank Sheep Development Project have all contributed to the training for CNFA field staff. Further, CNFA field staff were instructed to include representatives of the credit unions, sheep breeders' associations, water user associations, and other groups analogous to farmers associations, that would benefit from CNFA training. CNFA invited representatives of the above-listed projects to the policy forum for farmers and parliamentarians where they each presented a short overview of their projects in order to give farmers and parliamentarians an idea of the various initiatives and support being provided to the agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan.

Lastly, CNFA has been active in supporting farmer participation in RADS, an NGO

governed at the national and oblast levels by councils comprised of representatives of farmer organizations, donor organizations, and the Ministry of Agriculture. CNFA played an active role in facilitating compromises between farmers, donors, and the Ministry. Farmers trusted that CNFA will work with them to support the development of an agricultural advisory service that fulfills the training and education needs of farmers, as opposed to a service that is top-down in nature and does not meet farmers' needs.

## **B. Accomplishments Related to Objectives Measured by Result Indicators**

**Objective 1:** Strengthen existing and emerging private farmers' associations (PFAs) in Kyrgyzstan as self-sustaining, democratic rural NGOs through in-country technical assistance from Kyrgyz field staff, U.S. state Farm Bureau experts, and other resources of the Counterpart Consortium.

### ***Results Indicators:***

- a) Targeted PFAs adopt components of AFB management and organizational practices.
- b) Increased participation of farmer-members, in lieu of government technocrats as elected officers, board or committee members in targeted oblast and rayon PFAs.
- c) Targeted PFAs demonstrate skills in farm management and association development as measured by member participation in board selection, and general assemblies; strategic planning and business plans, formation of committees, transparent financial management systems; increased income from membership dues; development of democratic bylaws; and clearly defined roles for freely elected officers;
- d) Targeted PFAs increase membership by 25 percent due to enhanced services to members and public outreach through the media.

All PFAs formed during CNFA's Phase II work have organized by the following process:

- 1) Hold an initial meeting of farmers to discuss the benefits of a PFA and vote on whether to pursue activity in organizing a PFA;
- 2) Organize an initiatives group to develop the PFA charter (bylaws), identify candidates for the board of directors, and organize the foundation meeting;
- 3) Hold a foundation meeting open to all farmers where the PFA charter is discussed and finalized and the initial board of directors and officers are democratically elected;
- 4) Register PFA as a legal entity

In all 11 PFAs formed during Phase II, board members and officers were elected democratically at a general meeting of PFA members. These emerging PFAs hold monthly meetings of the board of directors and have appointed various committees, i.e. membership, women's, budget, revision as needed. In addition to working with the farmer groups on their charters and attending the PFA initiative group and foundation meetings, CNFA field staff have taken the farmer groups through exercises to develop annual workplans, budgets, and

strategic plans for longer-term development of the organization. Further, these PFAs will hold their annual general meeting of membership during the fall months. During these general meetings, the membership elects board members and officers, express that its ideas on what activities the PFA should pursue over the next year and offer policy resolutions that may eventually become the positions that the PFA advocates to government and parliament.

The PFAs are evolving into the "democratic rural NGOs" stated in Objective 1. However, it will take time for them to become truly democratic. Traditionally in the Soviet system and in Central Asia, the rank and file members of an organization did not question the leadership and accepted without question the decisions taken by leadership. In Central Asia, title and position are very important and render significant power to the holder. Thus, the tradition would be for the PFA presidents to be above the membership and somehow beyond question. For the society to become truly democratic, this mentality of blind support to leadership must be changed. CNFA is working to change the mentality in rural areas by encouraging PFA members to hold their leadership accountable and to question them regularly on fulfilling their workplans and properly allocating membership dues.

**Objective 2:** Strengthen the capacity of rural PFAs to advocate the interests of farmers and widen their influence with local and national government.

***Results Indicators:***

- a) Kyrgyz PFA leaders and members trained in and adopt FB model for democratic policy resolution and development process;
- b) Kyrgyz Parliamentarians and PFA representatives from oblast PFAs advocate interests of farmers through participation in 6 forums on agricultural legislation;
- c) Institutionalization of consultations between Kyrgyz parliamentarians and PFAs regarding pending legislation to ensure resulting legislation is responsive to the needs of PFA farmer-members.

The key accomplishment under this objective has been to create a link between the national parliament and the PFAs. CNFA has facilitated a total of six meetings between PFAs and parliamentarians. Three of these meetings were held in the regions where parliamentarians met with constituents in their home electoral districts. Two parliamentarians in particular - Mr. Zhuraev of Osh and Mr. Zheksheev of Issyk Kul - were very supportive of CNFA's advocacy work and cooperated with the project to hold meetings with farmers in their home regions. Though the project considered Osh and Issyk Kul non-target regions, due to the responsiveness of Mr. Zhurayev and Mr. Zheksheev, CNFA chose to facilitate meetings with farmers in the Osh and Issyk Kul regions in order to encourage farmers to address their concerns to their elected officials.

Four times, farmers from all six oblasts met with parliamentarians in Bishkek. The first

policy forum in June 1998 convinced farmers and parliamentarians of the need for such meetings on a regular basis. For the PFA representatives, the forum provided an opportunity to put into use the CNFA training on policy development and advocacy. For the parliamentarians, the forum provided a valuable opportunity to meet with farmers and listen to issues of concern to agricultural producers.

The legislative forum, conducted in October 1998, was less successful in terms of the response by parliamentarians but its impact was probably greater than the first forum due to some consequent events. The preparatory sessions leading up to the forum were crucial in exposing farmers to an activity - providing feedback to legislators on draft laws - they had not engaged in before. Farmers reviewed a total of two draft laws - pastures and cooperatives - and discussed in general the subjects of land rights and mortgage. On the two draft laws, farmers developed recommendations that they presented to parliamentarians. During the legislative forum, many farmers expressed hope that some project would pick up where CNFA left off with the work on advocacy. Farmers are keenly interested in the policy development and legislative review activities and understand why such activities are important.

Further, the day after the forum, farmers had an opportunity to appear on national television with their elected representatives and voice their opinions about agricultural cooperatives in particular and agricultural development in general in a special episode of the talk-show "Fourth Microphone". Secondly, farmers at the forum decided to found the Kyrgyzstan Union of Private Farmers Associations (KUPFA). An initiative group set December 23-24 as the dates for the founding meeting of the association. Farmers decided to found such an organization in order to better communicate with their elected representatives in Bishkek and to exchange information and experiences with farmers throughout Kyrgyzstan.

PFA members in the target regions have attended CNFA seminars on policy development and advocacy and, due to the special training sessions held prior to the meetings with parliamentarians, a handful of farmers from the four non-target oblasts now understand the basics of policy development and advocacy as well. These farmers have been through the process of developing positions on issues of concern, and presenting these issues to elected officials in a concise manner. CNFA and the PFAs have indeed made significant strides in widening the influence of farmers in the national government and parliament. During the CNFA sponsored policy forum in June, parliamentarians of the upper house spoke hopefully of future meetings with farmer representatives, a regular dialogue between farmers, and continued after the forum to discuss issues individually with farmers from their districts to get at solving some of the issues that reduce farm profitability. The agricultural extension service, following CNFA's policy forum in June, sponsored regional meetings of farmers and rural residents to further develop issues for consideration by parliament and government officials.

CNFA's advocacy work also paid dividends in a conflict between the Kaindinsky Sugar

Factory and sugar beet producers in Chui oblast. The factory is the only one operational in Chui oblast, (several factories exist for the processing of sugar beet but have stopped working due to low volumes of produce as a result of soil exhaustion). In the last few years, farmers have begun to grow beets again due to their high profitability. After waiting in line for days for the factory to accept their produce, being fined by corrupt highway police quick to take advantage of the situation, farmers appealed to their elected officials to set up a commission to study the situation. The longer farmers were forced to wait for their produce to be received, the more their produce dried out and the sugar content of the beets - the measure by which farmers are paid - decreased. Further, the factory was deducting twice the amount it should have for technical losses during processing from the final payment to farmers. A woman farmer who had attended CNFA's policy and legislative forums led the call for the parliament to assist farmers in battling the factory. The farmers succeeded in getting a special commission created to examine the problem.

Thanks to CNFA's advocacy work with the farmer groups, many Kyrgyz farmers now appreciate the need for uniting and utilizing their voice. The policies and laws adopted by government officials and lawmakers in Bishkek - i.e. land tax rates, lease terms on land in the reserve fund (Redistribution Fund), social fund tax rates - and the mechanisms for their implementation - i.e. procedures for clearing goods through customs, tax collection - greatly affect the socio-economic condition of farmers and rural residents. Farmers have realized that by uniting to conduct a dialogue with parliamentarians and government officials, they are more likely to achieve solutions to their problems than if they remain silent and/or try to address these issues individually rather than collectively.

**Objective 3:** Increase participation of women farmers in the ongoing activities of PFAs.

- a) Women's committees developed in all targeted oblast PFAs and 50% of rayon PFAs.
- b) 50% increase in the number of female board and committee members in each targeted PFA.

CNFA achieved both of these goals during its 14 months of work in Kyrgyzstan. Further, CNFA local staff conducted a special seminar on "Rural Women and Small Business Development" for women farmers in two rayons of the country. However, the expectation that a significant number of women would participate in PFA activities was not entirely realistic. There are several reasons why this either should not be expected or realized under the project.

First, it is not farmers as individuals who are becoming members of the PFA. Rather, it is the farm family that becomes a member of the PFA. Normally, household representative in the PFA will be the male head of the household, or the female in the case where there is no male or when a decision is made that the female will represent the household for whatever reason. Second, to specifically devise activities to increase participation of women in the PFA can

often be more damaging than productive. Women are best included by being encouraged to participate in general - not "women-specific" - activities. Preferably if women perform particular activities on the farm such as book-keeping, selling goods at the market, or care for domestic animals, then training in these areas not only helps the women but indirectly may improve the fortunes of the household.

### **Conclusion: Lessons Learned and Recommendations**

In fourteen months of activity during Phase II - only half of that with field staff in the target regions - CNFA has made a large contribution to the development of democratic farmers' organizations in Kyrgyzstan. Farmers now understand the aspects of democratic governance so essential to the development of strong organizations. Further, they appreciate the need to promote their interests to government.

#### **Lesson Learned**

##### 1) Village vs. Rayon

CNFA quickly understood that the territory to target in order to support truly grassroots organizations would be the village and not the rayon. Initially it was considered that time and budgetary constraints made this difficult since reaching villagers means traveling to villages and this immediately increases programming costs. However, by the end of the program CNFA was holding the majority of seminars in villages, avoiding rayon centers where the same people - not necessarily farmers - showed up time after time. If democratic reforms are to happen in Kyrgyzstan, the mentality of villagers must be changed. CNFA has seen signs of a change in mentality among rural citizens, but this will take more than one year.

##### 2) Training must address commercial topics

At the start of Phase II, CNFA seminars covered democratic governance and organizational development themes related to PFA activities. In March-April, CNFA altered its approach to offer farmer groups seminars on topics related to farming as a commercial activity such as credit management, development of agricultural cooperatives, marketing, and business skills for women farmers. While CNFA continues to emphasize the democratic governance theme with farmer groups, offering farmers seminars directly related to their economic activities is much more interesting to them and keeps farmers interested in attending CNFA seminars. The farmer is first and foremost an entrepreneur and addressing his/her needs as an entrepreneur is essential to gain the farmer's attention in the first place.

##### 3) Courtesy meetings with local and national government officials

CNFA when possible arranged meetings with representatives of the rayon and oblast administrations in the target regions. Support at the local level is crucial to the success of such a project. Also, frequent updates to the Ministry of Agriculture ensured that national government officials were aware of the project goals and activities. During the course of the project it became clear that government officials are largely ignored in the efforts to change the mentality of rank-and-file citizens. This results in the environment changing around these government officials, and the officials still behaving in the "old way" because their

mentality has not been changed. More than ever, government officials need to be encouraged to be part of the process and need to be brought in to seminars, planning activities and need to be included on distribution lists for reports, etc. Otherwise, the mentality of the general population changes but the legal and policy framework that regulates socioeconomic development does not change because the people who formulate it are still behaving in old ways.

#### 4) Grant mentality

In its work with credit institutions, CNFA learned that the credit mentality in Kyrgyzstan is still quite nascent. Farmers and rural residents have realized slowly that credit must be repaid. Everyone is looking for a grant, but when organizations receive grants, they are often squandered. Thus, CNFA has adopted a tough strategy in relation to supporting grants for PFAs. For organizations such as PFAs, it is important that the members make a financial contribution. This is proof that they believe in the organization and see it as a worthwhile investment. If these organizations simply rely on grants, there is no guarantee of commitment by members, no guarantee that the organization would exist in the absence of grant funds, and therefore leads to the suspicion that the organization is really formed because of external influences, and not because people saw a need for the organization. Such organizations are not sustainable.

#### 5) Pairing of trainers out in rural areas

In conducting seminars, CNFA local staff worked much more effectively when they were paired as opposed to alone. The pairing of trainers not only keeps participants interested due to a change in the presentation style, but puts the trainers in a better position to critique the seminars since they are each in the role of observer at various times.

#### 6) Use of existing expatriate and local expertise

CNFA on several occasions arranged training for its field staff and farmers by using local and expatriate specialists on the ground already in Kyrgyzstan. This allowed field staff an opportunity to constantly improve their skills at no cost to the project.

#### 7) Insufficient number of trainers in Dzhalal-Abad.

During the course of the project, it became apparent that the CNFA should have hired additional staff for the Dzhalal-Abad region. CNFA experimented by having trainers work in pairs in Talas and individually in Dzhalal-Abad. It was clear in evaluating the project's last series of seminars on marketing, that the approach of pairing trainers was clearly the better one. Further, with over 800,000 residents in Dzhalal-Abad as compared to about 250,000 for Talas oblast, just two staff in the region was quite insufficient to cover the demands of farmer groups for training in association development and commercial topics.

#### 8) Group Formation Activities

One issue that must eventually be resolved is how to coordinate and consolidate various donor-funded initiatives on group formation. CNFA promotes farmer group formation for

the general purpose of collective action on educating farmer-members, dissemination of information to members, promotion of farmer interests, and possible commercial activities such as group purchase of agricultural inputs (seed, feed, fuel, fertilizer, machinery) and marketing of agricultural products. KAFC and UNDP have formed farmer groups as a vehicle for credit. FCCU forms groups in rural areas for credit. Water User Associations (WUAs) have been forming to manage intra-farm water resources. Thus, there are many organizations promoting group formation for various reasons.

Most of the groups formed, though they have different purposes, have similar governance structures: board of directors, committees, general meeting of the members, and hired staff. All projects would benefit from shared information and coordinated activities. There is much donor financing directed toward these groups, and all projects would have more impact if the efforts of donors were coordinated.

Further, it may not be necessary for separate groups to form for each separate activity. For example, in both Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, credit unions or credit cooperatives have formed as sub-groups within the larger PFA. Similarly, WUAs may be able to form within the PFAs. The situation now where a group forms to fulfill a certain function has led to confusion among farmers and rural residents on the role and purpose of the groups, and unnecessary overlap in the activities of such groups.

#### **Recommendations for Future Activity**

The end of CNFA activity in Kyrgyzstan in October 1998 will leave a large gap in the support for the development of democratically-governed farmer's organizations in Kyrgyzstan. Though other international donor projects target the PFAs for credit and other activities, CNFA's is the only program that reaches out to the villages with the messages of democratic governance and advocacy. Through training local agricultural extension agents and preparing training modules for distribution to various organizations working on farmer group-formation activities, CNFA has gone to great lengths to see that its work is sustained after October 1998.

Rural residents in Kyrgyzstan however, would benefit from continued work on democratic governance, advocacy, and training on commercial aspects of farm production. CNFA field staff, who have worked in the system of agricultural extension for three years, confirm that there is no other project or organization that addresses the democratic governance topics. It was that theme, along with advocacy, that field staff, in their evaluation of the project, emphasized as being crucial to the development of transparent farmers' organizations that serve the interests of their members.

CNFA has filled the role of a national farmers association during Phase II. At present, there is no national farmers association to activate farmers and provide them information on happenings in parliament, etc. It was a deliberate policy of CNFA to discourage the hasty formation of a national PFA when the rayon and oblast PFAs were still in very early stages

of development. CNFA pushed for true grass-roots organizations comprised of genuine farmers and formed at the initiative of the farmers themselves. A national farmers' association would form in time, but first the farmers needed to understand the role of the PFA and work to create functioning rayon and oblast level structures. The lack of a national farmers' association did however, hinder farmers' ability to maintain a dialogue with Parliament, speak with a united voice, and have that voice heard.

As a result of CNFA's policy and legislative forums, farmers have initiated the formation of KUPFA, the national PFA organization. The founding meeting is to be in December 1998. Concern about how farmers would come together to meet with their elected representatives in CNFA's absence was a strong catalyst for stimulating interest in an NFA.

### **Recommendations to Counterpart International**

1. To provide useful support to farmers' associations requires specialists who understand agriculture. Using CNFA field staff from time to time as contract trainers to support farmers' associations will support target PFAs at some level depending on the time and resources available. However, CNFA provided consultations to a substantial number of "walk-in" farmers. In addition to giving advice on forming PFAs, these consultations mainly focused on providing information on various programs in agriculture that provide support (technical, financial, educational) to farmers. It is recommended that Counterpart hire one person in the Bishkek office with expertise in agriculture to ensure that Counterpart staff can meet farmers' needs.
2. The following farmers associations warrant further support. They are listed from strongest to weakest as determined by CNFA staff.

#### **a) Talas Oblast PFA - 212 members**

The Talas oblast PFA is by far the strongest of these organizations. It was founded in July 1998 and has representation at the village level throughout Talas oblast. All rayon presidents and committee heads are members of the board of directors. Further, the founders of the PFA made significant financial contributions to the PFA. The board has a policy of not accepting members until membership dues are paid.

The PFA board of directors would benefit from Counterpart's, financial management, strategic planning, and NGO and mass media seminars. Further, any trainings on commercial aspects of agricultural production such as contracting and farm budgeting, would be useful. CNFA worked very closely with this PFA during the final months of the project.

#### **b) Ala-Buka rayon PFA - 123 members**

This rayon PFA works in close cooperation with the Kyrgyz Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) to provide agricultural credit to its members. It was registered in July 1998 but has worked since April on setting up credit cooperatives. Counterpart seminars that would help this organization are: strategic planning, financial management, and small

business development. CNFA field staff worked very closely with this PFA.

**c) Batken rayon PFA - 100 members**

This group of farmers was recommended to CNFA by KAFC in June 1998. Since Batken is located in Osh oblast, outside of CNFA's target oblasts of Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, CNFA had little contact with this PFA other than through KAFC. During October, CNFA field staff conducted a series of seminars for the PFA, and feedback from the field staff was positive. Training in all of CNFA's seminar topics, primarily in the areas of democratic governance, planning, and financial management.

**d) Suzak rayon PFA - No information on membership numbers**

This PFA would benefit from training on democratic governance topics, association development, strategic and financial planning. CNFA was unable to conduct many of its planned seminars for Suzak farmers due to the flooding there in early spring that affected many farmers.

**e) Ak-Siy rayon PFA - 100 members**

CNFA has been heavily involved with this PFA since September 1997. The PFA has good skills in democratic governance, but its members do not pay dues. The leadership has helped about 30 farmers qualify for KAFC credit, and is very active in contacting international donor organizations. The organization would benefit from training in financial management and strategic planning.

Other PFAs may form as a result of CNFA's work in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, but as of the end of the project, the above-listed groups are those that most warrant further support.

**General Recommendations to USAID on Farmer Association Development:**

CNFA has the following general recommendations to USAID for continued support to PFAs in Kyrgyzstan:

1. Expand work into the four remaining oblasts - Chui, Issyk Kul, Naryn, Osh - where CNFA had no presence on the ground. Farmers from these oblasts who participated in CNFA advocacy activities expressed an interest in forming a National Farmer's Association. However, to avoid the formation of a top-down association, training in the villages to build the rayon and oblast associations is necessary. In the four oblasts mentioned above, there are no oblast farmers' associations and few rayon farmers' associations. Thus, it is necessary to conduct explanatory work at the village level in order for farmers at the grassroots to understand the structure and benefits of a farmers' association.

The same series of seminars that was conducted by CNFA field staff in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, should be conducted in villages of the remaining four oblasts. As in Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, all activities should be coordinated with the local extension service, KAFC, KARIS, credit unions, and all other projects that target groups of farmers. This work would

require four full-time association development specialists in Osh oblast, and two full-time association development specialists each in Chui, Issyk Kul, and Naryn.

2. In Talas and Dzhalal-Abad, work with PFA Boards of Directors and Committees on institutional and organizational development activities. For example, enforce the following practices: an agenda for each board meeting that is distributed beforehand, minutes of each meeting are read allowed and approved by board members at the following board meeting, minutes and agendas are filed stored in a file for easy understanding of main decisions taken at meeting, clear membership records and notation of payment of dues for the year, proper general assembly held each year and policy resolution process developed, more regular interaction with elected representatives in national parliament. For this task, one full-time local field staff would be required in Talas, and four in Dzhalal-Abad; two to cover the northern rayons and two in the southern rayons.

3. Certainly thematic areas for further development are agricultural cooperatives and advocacy. On cooperatives, perhaps one or a series of pilot projects could be supported, building on CNFA's work in democratically governed farmers organizations. Agricultural cooperatives have a similar organizational structure to the PFA, and operate according to similar principles as the PFA. Further, cooperatives are a priority of the Government, and a "demonstration" project would provide an opportunity to learn a bit more about cooperatives before starting a full-scale promotion of the cooperative concept.

On advocacy, farmer groups would benefit from another year or two of continued support and advice on promoting their interests to the legislative and executive branches of government. CNFA has managed to introduce the concept of advocacy to the farmers, but still much work remains to be done to cultivate an ability among farmers to constructively engage elected representatives and government officials in discussion on farm policy.

Inventory List		
Number	Name	Quantity
1	Computers:	
	a) IBM-486 "Ideal"	1
	b) IBM-586 "Energy" + CD- ROM drive "Backpack" (insi	1
	c) Laptop NEC "Versa S/33"	2
2	Printers:	
	a) Laser Jet 6L	1
	b) Canon BJ-200ex	1
3	Phones "Panasonic"	3
4	Panasonic Machine KX-SP100	1
5	Net Card NE2000	1
6	Modem E-mail "U-Robotics"	1
7	Power Filter/Adapters :	
	a) 125 Volts	1
	b) 220 Volts	1
8	Transformer 220V/220V + 220V/110V	1
9	Heaters	5
10	Safes	2
11	Fans	2
12	White Boards (Small and Big)	2
13	Black Divisions	2
14	Jalousies	2
15	Office chairs	4
16	Chairs	4
17	Tables + file desk	8+1
18	Carpet	2
19	Night table	1
20	Box with cassettes	1
21	Video cassettes	4
22	Bookcases	2
23	Hanger	1
24	Garbage pails	3
25	Watch	1
26	Baskets for documents	6
27	Coffeepot	1
28	Table lamp	1
29	Office refrigerator	1
30	Office furniture (sofa+sofa chairs)	1+2
31	Post box	1
32	Rolodex	1
33	Electrical pencil sharpener	1
34	Car "Jeep Cherokee" 4WD 4DR SE 1993y, white	1
35	Spare parts for Jeep:	
1	Wheel nuts	5
2	Fuel filter	6



# Counterpart International Facilitates Social Partnership in Central Asia and WESTNIS

*"Social partnerships are critical for democratic society building. Projects should not be developed or implemented in isolation; rather, all sectors of society should participate in this process for citizens' prosperity in the broad sense of the word."* (M. Tairov, Kyrgyzstani NGO leader, at a recent Counterpart regional Social Partnership Conference)

"Social Partnership" is collaboration among NGOs, the private sector and government to solve community problems in a sustainable way. Counterpart International is a non-profit, international human-development organization established in 1965 as the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP). Counterpart's central purpose is to empower local institutions, through partnership, to better address community-defined needs in a sustainable way.

Counterpart International is encouraging social partnership as an approach to problem-solving in the Western Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union (WESTNIS) and Central Asia. USAID funds these NGO capacity building programs, and Counterpart has applied its own 35 years of experience to accomplish dynamic results.

Historically, government, the private sector and NGOs have been isolated from each other by distrust and mutual misconceptions about each other's motives. These attitudes have translated into a lack of mutual credibility. Counterpart sees its role as a facilitator—to change those perceptions and then build the skills and mechanisms necessary for collaboration. Social Partnership provides the framework in which this can happen. When it does, the results are remarkable. For example:

- At a recent Social Partnership conference in Central Asia, a businessman from Turkmenistan helped NGO leaders understand that he wanted to contribute more than money and was motivated by a desire to make a better future for his children. Now, he is a regular NGO volunteer and is challenging other private sector leaders to get involved, as well. He is an active participant in Counterpart training workshops and networking events designed to foster dialogue and collaboration between NGOs and the private sector.
- Ukrainian NGO *Viktoria* provides innovative drug and alcohol abuse counseling services to hard core intravenous drug users previously labeled "hopeless" by community leaders, with grant support from Counterpart. They have been able to dramatically expand their services by operating in a former

## Guest Column

By Arlene Lear,  
Vice President for Programs,  
Counterpart International

military base contributed by the government of Ukraine, which was impressed by the professional quality of the services they deliver.

- In Karakalpakstan (an autonomous Republic in Uzbekistan), a member of Parliament is a regular visitor to the Counterpart NGO Support Center in the capital city. He has successfully

lobbied the Ministry of Justice to accept a specially-designed training session to help it better understand how it can support NGOs that are already making a difference in the devastated Aral Sea region.

Social partnership—and the very idea of NGOs—is revolutionary in the Former Soviet Union (FSU). Community leaders need access to training, technical assistance and information to adapt these concepts for their own purposes. Counterpart support services have helped to strengthen the skills of local NGOs and to foster collaboration with government and the private sector.



In WESTNIS, the Counterpart Alliance for Partnership focuses on building NGO capacity in service delivery to vulnerable groups. Training workshops on Social Contracting provide a successful approach for NGOs and government to work together to provide services that government can no longer provide alone. NGOs can provide cheaper services to more people. For example, the Ukrainian NGO *For Survival* delivers a public education campaign on elderly healthcare for the Ministry of Family and Youth that reaches an average of 600 people per quarter.

In Central Asia, the Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia seeks to foster increased citizen participation in the political decision-making process through strengthening the NGO sector. Counterpart offers a training module on Social Partnership that facilitates the development of concrete collaboration between NGOs, government and the private sector.

For example, Junior Achievement Kazakhstan, a Counterpart grantee, has received strong support from the private sector to train 2,000 teachers in an integrated applied economics curriculum. Based on this success, the Ministry of Education recently formalized the inclusion of two JA courses in the official national high school curriculum.

There are many more examples of successful social partnership in Central Asia and WESTNIS. Publicizing local models for success is critical to establishing a sense of stakeholder

*(continued on page 9)*

*(continued from page 8)*

ownership. For example, at the Central Asia Social Partnership Conference, participants set up an exhibit hall with videos, CD-ROMs, photographs, publications and other tangible examples of successful social partnerships from their own countries.

Local media can also play a valuable role in promoting collaboration and social partnership concepts by increasing public awareness of local success stories. In Central Asia, Counterpart helps NGOs develop stronger skills in public education through the media with a training module and specialized technical assistance from its Constituency Building Division. Journalists involved in those efforts were included in the recent Social Partnership Conference. As a result, 10 journalists from around the region have formed the Association of Journalists for Social Partnership. The association's mission is to build public awareness of social partnership and the valuable contributions NGOs can make to the social, political and economic transitions in the region.

Even these few examples illustrate the value of social partnership as a means of fostering stakeholder ownership of the community development process. Obviously, all the problems of these regions in transition are not yet solved. NGO activists, government officials and business leaders are collaborating to solve them one at a time. This is social partnership and Counterpart is proud of its successful facilitator role in Central Asia and WESTNIS.

STATUS OF GRANTS MADE BY COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM  
 PROJECT PHASE II  
 AS OF JANUARY 1, 1999

<i>Country</i>	<i>Allocated Budget</i>	<i>Grants approved</i>	<i>Remaining</i>
Kazakstan	\$560,000.00	\$479,872.07	\$80,127.93
Kyrgyzstan	\$400,000.00	\$308,862.00	\$91,138.00
Tajikistan	\$180,000.00	\$134,222.00	\$45,778.00
Turkmenistan	\$160,000.00	\$87,131.00	\$72,869.00
Uzbekistan	\$400,000.00	\$308,113.40	\$91,886.60
<b>TOTAL, CENTRAL A</b>	<b>\$1,700,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,318,200.47</b>	<b>\$381,799.53</b>