
THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

NGO SUPPORT INITIATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA

QUARTERLY REPORT

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I. 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

BUILDING NGO CAPACITY

Public Center of Ecological Information Sharpens Its Mission Towards Stakeholders' Needs

With partnership grant funding from Counterpart, the Public Center of Ecological Information (PCEI) and the Beacon Project, a nonprofit organization from the USA, worked together to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for PCEI that reflected the NGO community in Kyrgyzstan. The plan was designed in collaboration with the local stakeholders and prioritized such areas of activity as fundraising, volunteer and NGO management as well as long-term newsletter development. Lessons learned through this planning process have been dispersed to the NGO community in Kyrgyzstan. The PCEI strategic plan was adapted to NGO needs and is currently used as a sample. Furthermore, the partners worked together to create a web page that documents all PCEI activities (<http://www.beaconproject.org/pcei>).

NGO Fosters Community Initiative and Corporate Partnership in Kyrgyzstan

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union Kyzyl-Suu village residents were without recreational facilities and services for the young people of the village. After a community roundtable facilitated by Counterpart, a group of villagers started a small NGO to spur community actions. Counterpart provided training and other support that dramatically increased the NGO's capacity. Resources from local businesses and the Kumtor Mining Company were mobilized to open a community-based Youth Center for 25 children. Groups interested in all activities such as arts & crafts, dancing, literature, the ecology of the Lake Issyk-Kul, and English language studies are making use of the center.

Kazakhstan Target NGO Fosters Affiliates and Other NGOs in Their Community

Counterpart has successfully developed the capacity of its target NGOs in many spheres including conducting training, consulting on project design and fundraising. This enables them to become umbrella organizations for other NGOs in their regions. For example, the Kiwanis Club of Taraz continues to replicate the model developed by Kiwanis Club International and recently helped to register subdivisions, Key Club and Kiwajunior, both targeting youth involvement in civic leadership. With training from the Kiwanis Club of Taraz, which also serves as a Counterpart NGO Support Center, these organizations have already been successful in fundraising and program design. The Key Club received \$450 from UNDP for a project to raise public awareness about soil degradation. Kiwajunior received \$1,800 from Mercy Corps to organize a summer camp for its members.

Association of Journalists Branches Out

Created as a result of journalists' participation in the Issyk-Kul Conference on Social Partnership, the *NGO Association of Journalists of Tajikistan -- Social Partnership* conducted three workshops, several round tables and a nationwide conference on partner relationships between different sectors of Tajik society. About 100 local journalists took part in these events. As a consequence, two new branches of the Association were organized -- in Khojand and Khorog -- and the overall number of members of the association increased by 26. These journalists tell others NGO success stories, and their relationships with

other sectors in dealing with the problems of creating a civil society. This increase in membership has stimulated an increase in the number of articles on NGO activities published in local media by roughly three times compared to the same period last year. The Association has now started to publish its own newsletter "3+1," the first newsletter devoted to covering the activities and impacts of NGOs in Tajikistan. The Association is a current grantee of Counterpart Consortium and has received extensive training and technical assistance from Counterpart Tajikistan.

PARTNERSHIP AND COALITION BUILDING

Partnership Efforts Increase International Awareness in Kazakh Art

The international community has had little exposure to achievements of Kazakhstan artists. The first exhibition of works of artists from Kazakhstan in the USA was organized by Kazakhstan government and went almost unnoticed. With funding from Counterpart, the Bridge Association from Kazakhstan and its US partner, the Central Asian Cultural Exchange, organized the second exhibition, which received enormous acclaim from international art experts and media and resulted in several partnership projects.

Private Farmer Association Helps Members Access Credit and Learn Market Skills

A 1998 survey identified more than 600 farmers in the Batken region of Kyrgyzstan. This large population lacks access to information and training about a range of market economics and agribusiness techniques and concepts. To improve their social and economic status, as well as to increase the level of farmers' awareness in the basics of market economy, the Batken Private Farmer's Association opened a resource center with grant funding from Counterpart. As a result, 230 out of 240 farmers trained at the center have submitted loan applications and have been awarded credits totaling more than 4 million sum. The PFA is also using a database to improve coordination among farmers.

Broadcasters Association Transcends Narrow Focus and Expands

The Association of National Electronic Mass Media (ANESMI), established in 1995, has undergone a self-driven metamorphosis that, among other issues, allows and encourages the membership and participation of non-broadcast media. At inception, the association had 17 members representing non-governmental electronic (broadcast) media. As a result of Association Development training from Counterpart, the NGO realized that in order to serve the greatest constituency and have the greatest impact, it had to expand its membership to include other print media. Renamed the National Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan, NANSMIT has 24 collective members with a total outreach of more than 700 people.

Artisan Association Helps Members Generate Income and Gains Official and Corporate Support

In order to respond to broad interest in preserving and rejuvenating handicraft traditions, the Craftsman Support Center was established in Turkmenistan with support from Counterpart Consortium and the Center of Cultural Heritage and Education. The Center provides training, consultations, information and product development support to almost 150 artisans. Members have sold \$1,300 in handicrafts with assistance from the Center. A recent exhibition featuring crafts from 32 artisans from all regions of Turkmenistan was held in partnership with the State Tourist Corporation and the Ak Altyn Hotel.

NGO Coalition Distributes Humanitarian Assistance and Strengthens Member Skills

A coalition of seven NGOs, many of whom are Counterpart grantees, have joined forces to receive and distribute humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups. Within the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed with the Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program, the coalition has already distributed several tons of material aid valued at more than \$1,300,000 throughout Turkmenistan. This contract will be extended to include additional projects identified by the NGO coalition itself.

Soldier-to-Soldier: A Difficult Linkage Begins

After nearly two years of encouragement by Counterpart Consortium, Counterpart International Headquarters and Counterpart's NGO Support Center in Khojand, a bridge between the US *National Association of Concerned Veterans (NACV)* and the Tajikistan local NGO *Union of Afghan War Veterans* was established. The Khojand NGO Support Center provided services to the local NGO, including: consultation, training, tutoring and computer access, e-mail use, FAX service, English translation and mediation services -- to help them to identify their common interests and establish relations between the groups. As a result, two representatives of the *Union of Afghan War Veterans* have been invited to visit the USA/Washington office of NACV, with the purpose to better understand their respective missions, activities and achievements, share and exchange experience and to discuss future relationships.

Environmental NGOs Gain Credibility by Working Together

Environmentally focused NGOs in Turkmenistan have been criticized and are self-critical regarding their tendency to work individually on projects rather than collaborating creatively to avoid redundancy and duplication of effort. A variety of eco-NGOs have cited Counterpart training sessions as neutral ground where they can meet and develop joint activities. Counterpart grantee Young Geologist and two more NGOs recently organized a clean-up of the Kopetdag Reserve accompanied by a public awareness campaign targeting visitors to the reserve, a popular summertime vacation destination. As a result:

- the local press covered the activity in two newspapers;
- the organizers were invited to a meeting with local government officials to design a joint strategy for the installation of more garbage cans in the park and in the city of Ashgabad;
- the NGOs were tasked by the city government with monitoring of the timely removal of garbage from trash cans and were provided with maps of public gardens and contact telephone numbers of responsible organizations to contact if waste is not properly removed; and
- one NGO was invited to an annual seminar of city teachers to speak about ecological education of students.

The three NGOs believe that they have finally received recognition by the local authorities as a result of banding together to convey a unified message and plan to continue their coalition development in the context of the upcoming NGO conference.

MEDIA/OUTREACH

NGO Membership in High Level Agricultural Planning Commission in Uzbekistan

The agriculture sector in Karakalpakstan is weak, but critical to economic development in the region. Counterpart grantee Farmers' Resource Center has gained public and official recognition for its successful work to help farmers understand their legal rights and improve their skills. As a result of this success, the State-organized Association of Farmers of Uzbekistan invited the Executive Director of the Center to participate in weekly conference calls to discuss strategies for supporting agriculture. The Center is the only NGO representative at the meeting, which includes the Minister of Agriculture, heads of state farms, city government officials, and the Cabinet of Ministers. The Farmers' Resource Center now has an excellent venue to advocate for its constituents and influence public policy through collaboration and cooperation.

NGO Facilitates Televised Parliamentary Candidate Debates in Kazakhstan

Members of the Association of Independent Mass Media (ANESMI) - a Counterpart grantee, target and active participant in Counterpart training workshops - used Counterpart TV debate training materials as a model in organizing the second TV debates in Kazakhstan for representatives of nine political parties running for Parliament. Opinion polls conducted after the conclusion of 1999 Parliamentary elections indicate that this particular TV debate had the most influence on public opinions and helped the electorate to make their choice during the elections.

Since 1997, Counterpart has worked with ANESMI, the Central Elections Committee and a number of international organizations to strengthen media, public and NGO involvement in election processes. The first candidate debates to be broadcast nationwide in Kazakhstan were held with Counterpart assistance in 1997. Material from initial training sessions and the 1997 broadcast debate were developed into a training video, that was also used in AED training on broadcast debates held in 1998 for participants from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Additional copies of the video training materials have been distributed to ANESMI and other NGO and Broadcast organizations throughout Central Asia.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY/LEVERAGING

Kyrgyzstan NGOs Demonstrate Increased Capacity to Generate Diverse Funding Sources

The ability of NGOs to obtain funding from diverse sources is an indication of increased capacity in a number of areas. Through participation in a range of Counterpart trainings, activities and small grant programs, two NGOs are implementing projects with funds from new or multiple donors.

- NGO *Women Constructors* is helping establish fresh water systems in new suburbs populated primarily by migrants from rural areas with grant funding from UNDP, Soros Foundation and Counterpart. In addition, a significant portion of the project is funded by local donations.
- The *Nature Lovers Club* has been awarded a UNDP grant to plant rare native species in city parks, working in partnership with the *Children's Creative Center Baldary*.

Women's Coalition Raises \$150,000 for Conference Supporting Women Candidates and Leadership Initiatives in Kazakhstan

More than 2,000 women participated in the first Kazakhstan Women's Fair of Goods and Ideas, which was organized by the Business Women's Association of Kazakhstan (BWA) and held in Almaty from August 26-29. The goal of the event was to encourage women to network and collaborate and to build support for women leaders running for office in October. Event preparation began almost a year ago with a specially tailored Fundraising training workshop offered by Counterpart to assist in developing a fundraising strategy and creating a coalition of women's group to launch the fundraising campaign to make the event possible. As a result, \$150,000 was raised from a number of corporate and foundation donors, including Chevron, Tengizchevroil, Nursat, and other international funds and agencies, as well as other leading international and Kazakhstani companies. Co-sponsors included the UNDP Gender Bureau, Sweden International Development Department (SIDA), and the President of Kazakhstan's National Committee on Family and Women's Issues

NGO and State Structure Combine Resources to Increase Youth Environmental Activism

The question of generating financial resources is the main challenge to Turkmen NGOs after the issue of registration. Counterpart grantee *Young Geologists* NGO has forged a partner *Turkmengeologia*, a State structure, to address the issue of financial sustainability. *Turkmengeologia* does not possess the human resources to conduct outreach activities to interest the public in issues of environmental protection. Conversely, *Young Geologists* has the human resources and equipment to conduct a public outreach campaign but no resources to finance outreach activities. *Turkmengeologia* has agreed to provide office and training space to the NGO free of charge at an annual value of over \$2,400. In addition, it sponsored two separate trips to the Caspian Sea and Chuli nature park for 21 schoolchildren at a cost of \$1,700.

NGO Promotes Volunteerism in Tajikistan

Counterpart grantee, *Adamiyat* (humanity) provides a variety of essential services to indigent elderly in Dushanbe, including food, clothing and medical support. This NGO has made significant progress to become sustainable through a multi-faceted effort. *Adamiyat* provided over 1,200 elderly people with medical and food assistance through their facility in downtown Dushanbe under contract with international organizations. However, there are many other elderly without access to this assistance. The NGO trained 16 full time volunteers to deliver the services to the elderly directly. To date volunteers have delivered food, medicine, cleaning services and other needed assistance to over 200 homebound elderly. Each volunteer wears a badge certifying him or her as a Volunteer of *Adamiyat*, even when they visit government agencies on behalf of their constituents. Government officials are beginning to recognize *Adamiyat*'s volunteers as spokespersons for their elderly clients and are beginning to respond in a positive and responsible manner.

PUBLIC POLICY/ADVOCACY

Baspana NGO Successfully Advocates the Rights of Dormitory' Tenants in Kazakhstan

Dormitories owned by the state have been the only available type of accommodation for many people with low income. *Baspana* specializes in advocating for the rights of the homeless and has successfully implemented a lobbying strategy to address the rights of individuals forced out of their homes and into dormitories. By practicing new skills and techniques in advocacy and social partnership learned from Counterpart training, the NGO has written appeals to the President, Parliament, and the Prime Minister. They organized a conference on "NGO and Government's Involvement in the Problem Solving for Homeless People". Their efforts resulted in adoption of a law that approves privatization of dormitories' rooms by their constant residents. Moreover, representatives of *Baspana* were included in an Expert Committee on Human Rights working under the President of Kazakhstan, which gives them an opportunity to advocate the rights of homeless people at the highest level.

Kyrgyzstan NGO Fosters Diverse Youth Involvement in Elections

Polis has conducted a number of innovative activities to encourage young people to become more active in elections and the government decision-making processes. With grant funding from Counterpart, they have held televised game shows teaching election processes, developed peer counseling to introduce civics education to rural areas and held a mock candidate forum where they elected their own president, parliament and local governing bodies. As a result of the interest and skills developed through these activities, young people have initiated a number of their own activities that are making significant contributions to democracy in Kyrgyzstan and to the sustainability of *Polis*. For example:

- Bishkek university students have conducted similar activities in 16 different training activities;
- Several students in the Osh region have been asked to serve on election committees;
- Two program participants are helping the Ministry of Justice develop a voter education program for Jalal-Abad Oblast;
- Two participants have been hired by the NGO to coordinate a new project to establish a network of young voter clubs throughout the republic; and
- Almost 200 program alumni currently volunteer for *Polis*.

Union of Disabled Secures Government Support for Member-Requested Program

The disabled in Turkmenistan face even more severe barriers to employment than the general population, including issues of access and mobility in the workplace. In response to a large number of member requests, the Union of Disabled has been able to analyze data about all members seeking employment with a computer provided by Counterpart Consortium grant support. The analysis indicated that home-based work would fit the needs of a high percentage of members seeking employment. As a result, the Union of Disabled successfully sought assistance from the Ministry of Textile Industry, that now employs 30 members doing piecework on contract in their homes.

Information and Legal Support of the Afghan War Participants

Afghan War participants, given the present conditions of a market economy, are now in need of information, legal consultations and technical assistance. Most of them cannot access such support because services are fee-based and 70% of the war participants are unemployed. The Association of Afghan War Veterans in Kyrgyzstan was awarded a grant by Counterpart Consortium to implement the project "Information and Legal Support of the Afghan War Participants". As a result of the project 22 people received a discount for document photocopying, 23 war participants accessed in-patient and outpatient health services for free and 130 people were provided with information and legal support. The Association published and distributed nearly 60 copies of a brochure containing extracts from laws and government regulations related to the rights and benefits of Afghan war participants.

NGO Mobilizes Consumer Awareness and Advocates with Government

In Turkmenistan's transitional economy, product and service quality standards have declined sharply. Lack of access to information about existing consumer rights legislation has burdened consumers with additional risk and costs and prevents them from exercising their legal rights. Counterpart grantee *My Rights* is the only NGO in Turkmenistan that is addressing this critical need for advocacy and public education. Over the last three months the NGO has published a monthly newsletter, provided training for 250 people, conducted a series of public forums and operated a hotline to help consumers file complaints and better understand how to act on new information. As a result, 16 consumer complaints to the NGOs hotline were reviewed by staff lawyers who advocated on their behalf resulting in refunds totalling \$255.

BWA's Credibility Affects Business Practices in Bukhara

Small business leaders in Bukhara face difficulties securing financial credit from the Bukhara Oblast Labor Exchange for Business Development. The minimum credit limit of 500,000 sum made credit recovery almost impossible for businesswomen who mainly run small trade enterprises. The Business Women's Association of Bukhara – long supported by Counterpart -- approached the Head of the Labor Exchange with a proposal to reduce the credit minimum, thereby facilitating the credit application for local businesswomen. The Labor Exchange in Uzbekistan accepted the proposal by BWA and instituted a reduced minimum of 50,000 sum.

Karakalpak Farmers Lobby Government for Enforcement of Legislated Tax Breaks

The Farmer's Center, a Karakalpakstan NGO in Uzbekistan, and Counterpart grantee, has been conducting seminars and follow-on consultations on economic, agricultural and legal issues for farmers from several Karakalpak regions. As a result, farmers are now aware that they have been paying a "road tax" on rented vehicles from which they are legally exempt. The NGO helped the farmers contact the Chairman of the Association of Private Farms, a government entity, who agreed to intercede on their behalf with the Tax Committee. As a result, 12 private farmers were declared exempt from paying the road tax.

NGO in Khatlon Challenges Government and Citizens to Solve Marital Registry Issues.

A growing problem in southern Tajikistan is the increased number of unregistered marriages. In most instances, women are not aware of the rights they are waiving by entering into an unofficial marriage – forgoing any legal status or claim to a husband's assets and denying children proper registration status to receive state-supported services. The NGO *Khana-i-Umed* (House of Hope) was established to increase awareness of this issue. With support and training from Counterpart and the Kughan-teppa Support Center, the NGO has implemented a pilot project to provide training and consultations to 500 women and local officials, on women's rights, spouse disappearance, divorce registration and property claim issues. This is the first time that this issue has been raised publicly in the Khatlon Oblast. The NGO is planning to reach out to more women in 6 districts of Khatlon Oblast, using their volunteers in each district to conduct workshops.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

NGO Insures Regular Attention to its Needs from Local Government

Collaboration with local government at the implementation level is required to address many of the issues facing Housing Associations. Encouraged by the idea of social partnership promoted by Counterpart and having received the grant to strengthen its advocacy skills, the Pavlodar Housing Association (PHA) is now holding weekly meetings with City officials, including the Deputy Mayor for Housing Services to address numerous members' concerns including economic benefits, professional development, improvement of the public services' legislation. Improvements in the system of housing provision and better-informed participation in the housing reform are a few benefits received both by the PHA and Pavlodar governmental authorities from this cooperation.

Returnees and Military Solve Problems

The problems of refugees and displaced people returning to their homes and attempting to recover their lives are an ongoing concern in Tajikistan. A major factor in resolving problems and issues that stands in the way of integration has been a lack of understanding of the laws and the roles of those in the law enforcement sector. The local NGO *Murod* is conducting training to law enforcement supervisors and personnel in the Khatlon Oblast as part of an AED/GTD initiative. The NGO has conducted several workshops that focus on the problems related to reintegration and how they might best be resolved under the existing laws. These trainings were well received by the participants, who felt they all benefited greatly from the sessions and that they facilitated their efforts to resolve problems and come up with realistic solutions.

Successful NGO Brucellosis Campaign Documented by Kyrgyzstan Government Statistical Survey

In response to a sharp increase in the incidence of brucellosis in 1996, NGO Tree of Life conducted a series of awareness and prevention campaigns targeting farmers in two oblasts. A recently released report from the Ministry of Health and National Statistics compared the continued incidence of brucellosis in the oblasts targeted by the NGO and three other oblasts. The results were conclusive. Brucellosis cases decreased by 40% in one oblast and the number of human illnesses resulting from the consumption of contaminated meat products was also significantly reduced. In three neighboring oblasts, incidents of Brucellosis continued to increase.

NGO Gains Government Recognition for Refugees and Their Own Valuable Contributions

With a small grant from Counterpart, the NGO *Keik Ocara* provides services and advocates on behalf of more than 4,000 economic migrants and internally displaced people in Turkmenistan. After several attempts to collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, the NGO has successfully received recognition as a viable partner by the Ministry. From now on, the Ministry has agreed to provide letters waiving the medical fees for treatment in local medical clinics and hospitals to internally displaced people who have been referred by the *Keik Okara* center. During the last three months the NGO center provided services to over 197 patients, 65 of whom were directed to clinics where they received free medical check-ups and 5 of whom were admitted to the local hospital free of charge.

NGO Recognized for Positive Role in Economic Education Reform in Uzbekistan

Junior Achievement, a Counterpart partnership grantee, has been conducting training seminars for schoolteachers of economics. JA has been working hard to provide teachers with professional training in Uzbekistan by introducing comprehensive, diverse and contemporary methods of teaching economics. The Ministry of Education acknowledged the effectiveness of the training, the NGO's professional experience, as well as the great need for economic education in secondary schools. JA is now included in the educational program in the State Program of Teachers Professional Development. In September, JA will start its program for 60 teachers of Samarkand, Urgench and Ferghana

NGO Leaders Increasingly Acknowledged with Membership on National Advisory Bodies
Recently representatives of two Kazakhstani NGOs, Counterpart grantees and participants in Counterpart trainings, have been included in a state committee and a working group functioning under the government of Kazakhstan. This success illustrates that NGOs are not only gaining credibility and acceptance among government officials, but are also becoming key players in the decision-making process.

- The Director of *Sheber Aul*, a long time partner of ATA, was invited to sit on the Committee on Development of Small Businesses under the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Activities of this NGO aimed at advocating for the rights of artisans convinced the government of the importance of supporting and developing traditional crafts for the Kazakhstan economy.
- The Executive Director of the *Feminist League* has become a member of the State Working Group on Preparing the Report on the Realization of the Convention about Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. This is the first time that such a report will be prepared by Kazakhstan. Expertise earned by this NGO through the preparation of the Report on the Status of Women supported by Counterpart insured its inclusion into this expert board.

SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP

Ministry of State Income Cooperates with NGO to Combat Tax Illiteracy

Ignorance of the population on tax issues is a major factor in difficulties faced by the state and citizens of Kazakhstan. To alleviate this problem the Ministry of State Income and Legal-Info Company cooperated with Almaty NGO *Tax Standards Formation Fund (TSFF)* to distribute free copies of a CD containing a comprehensive tax legislation and information database which are planned to be sold in future. TSFF successfully used skills and techniques in organizing of informational campaigns gained at Counterpart Public Education through Mass Media training and immediately attracted attention of citizens, NGOs, business and state structures to this promotion campaign.

Improving Public Trust and Accountability of Civil Servants in Northern Tajikistan

The Executive Director of the Union of Women Entrepreneurs, a Counterpart target NGO, has been appointed head of a newly established Monitoring Commission including members from government, NGOs and the private sector to stimulate reforms and improvements in the Government-based law-enforcement systems and to foster citizen advocacy. The commission was formed to address lax law-enforcement, infringement of civil rights, and extensive corruption among law enforcement officials. The lack of a credible official response to solving these problems has damaged public morale and contributes to a cycle of lawlessness. Announcements of follow-up action, weekly meetings and regular media coverage is already resulting in improved public confidence and reports of lessened civil rights violations and tensions at roadblocks. This highly visible collaboration between the Government and NGOs to improve and advance the peace process and the development of civil society is recognized by many in local Government and the public as a positive step towards achieving a more participatory, democratic and civil society in Tajikistan.

NGO Mobilizes Community to Address Community Needs

The quality of school education was very low in the remote village of Too Moyun in Osh Oblast, Kyrgyzstan because the local school did not have adequate facilities or professional employees. Using the skills acquired at Counterpart Consortium workshops NGO and Community, Project Design and Fundraising for NGO the NGO *Mekhri-Shavkat* encouraged an initiative group headed by the school principal to establish a new CBO. This has begun a long-term collaboration between the two groups to address community needs including the ones mentioned above. As a first step of efficient partnership the newly established group received a \$250 grant from Mercy Corps International to restructure a local school into a lyceum able to respond to community needs. The lyceum was also supported by Soros Foundation with books totaling \$350.

National Housing Association Strengthens Ties with the National Antimonopoly Committee

Regular partnership contacts encouraged by Counterpart between the National Housing Association and the National Antimonopoly Committee recently resulted in the signing of a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding. Formalizing this social partnership has already resulted in the inclusion of four Association representatives on the National Committee for Housing Reform. In addition, through participation in an Antimonopoly Committee public hearing on utility tariffs, the Association successfully advocated for a three-month extension of the existing freeze on tariff hikes. Both achievements represent priority concerns of Association members in Kazakhstan.

City Government Benefits from Attendance at Counterpart Training in Kyrgyzstan

Since 1993 a broken water system in Tash-Kumyr has resulted in inadequate drinking water and the frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases. After attending the Project Design training offered by Counterpart Consortium, a city official worked with Counterpart staff to develop a proposal that was funded by Mercy Corps and helped the city repair the water system. As a result, 22,000 people now have regular access to potable water.

Raising Awareness, Corporate Support for Disability Rights in Turkmenistan

The disabled community is marginalized in every way in Turkmenistan and would benefit from increased public recognition, self-esteem and opportunities for community interaction. Two NGOs, Special Olympics and Umyt, have joined efforts in a partnership project funded by Counterpart to create an activity center in Turkmenbashi city. One activity of the center is psycho-social rehabilitation through sports. In June, the NGO partners leveraged \$11,600 from three corporate sponsors to send five invalid athletes to the 1999 Special Olympics Games where they won six medals. The victories were publicized in two local newspapers increasing public awareness of the NGOs' activities and resulting in 18 new NGO members.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NGO Helps Rural Community Establish Maternity Hospital in Kyrgyzstan

When the maternity hospital serving Talas Oblast was closed the women living around Koi-Sai village had to travel more than 50 kilometers on bad roads for pre-natal or maternity care and local health officials documented an increase in miscarriages and infant mortality. With grant funding from Counterpart, the Women's Support Center conducted a series of workshops for women throughout the oblast to educate them about this problem and foster a community-based response to the hospital closure. As a result, several attendees of the training formed their own organization to solve this problem. They received funding support from the Soros Foundation, and local government support for staff salaries and community volunteers in order to remodel a facility to serve as a small women's health clinic serving six villages around Koi Sai. Since its opening in January 1999, 87 women have given birth to healthy babies at this new facility.

NGO Leadership Spurs Official Action to Support Makhalla Efforts to Improve Programs Supporting Children and Youth in Uzbekistan

Counterpart Consortium's NGO & Community training workshop was conducted for Makhalla chairmen in Namangan recently in cooperation with the *Namangan Children's Fund*. The Children's Fund then conducted similar seminars in four districts for Makhalla representatives and State officials. Following the workshops a meeting to discuss children and youth issues was organized by the Children's Fund, Makhalla representatives and the City Hokimiat that included district Hokimiats, parents and youth. The need to provide positive social activities for children and youth was identified. The City Hokimiat is granting playgrounds and buildings to four makhalla committees who promise to develop programs for children and youth. Initial thoughts are to offer programs in language study, household management and career guidance with future programs in leadership development.

Turkmenistan NGO Links City to the World Through E-mail and Internet

Lack of information and local sources of news contribute to the isolation of small cities in Turkmenistan. In order to address this problem, the *Dostluk Language and Culture Center* of Turkmenabat, a Counterpart grantee, has opened an internet and e-mail training center and public access center that has already trained more than 200 people. As a result, students and teachers have established contacts in 11 countries. Relatives who moved to the US were reunited with a resident after many years. The community has received donations of textbooks and other educational materials and the Dostluk Center has strengthened ties to similar organizations in other countries.

Counterpart Training Successfully Leverages Makhalla Support

Earlier this year a training session on NGO & Community was adapted for makhallas and conducted by Counterpart staff in Uzbekistan. At the seminar the leader of Bukhara Artisan Development Center, offered to help the Makhalla Chairman develop a plan to address the high numbers of unemployed women in the Makhalla. As a result of this cooperation, a sewing shop with on-the-job training for 15 women was opened in Bukhara and an embroidery shop was opened in an outlying village. Makhallas brought women together with NGO-artisan masters to teach women traditional crafts, which will bring additional income to their families and, moreover, provide needed profession.

NGOs Leverage Makhalla Support as a result of Counterpart Training

Poor medical habits, together with evidently weak health services are an ongoing problem for Karakalpakstan residents. After attending an adapted Counterpart training on NGO and the Community, the Makhalla leaders in Nukus, Uzbekistan developed a program to work jointly with the local NGO, *The Center for Culture of Health Preservation*, to improve the medical education of Makhalla residents. The Makhalla and NGO opened a club and convened listeners for lectures on health issues. 196 Makhalla residents of all ages participated in the six lectures conducted by NGO specialists. The Club will continue to operate on a continuous basis to promote healthy lifestyles to Makhalla residents.

Grassroots NGO Fosters Housing Associations in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Lack of municipal services, compounded by urban migration have resulted in rapidly worsening basic health conditions in high rise apartment buildings throughout Dushanbe and other cities in Tajikistan. Most have no existing community structures to lead residents to affect their own solutions. After attending Counterpart training, a group of environmental enthusiasts formed an NGO so that they could address the problem from a position of authority. NGO *Zan wa Zamin* (Women and Earth) has designed a strategy to build community associations in the high rise apartment buildings and have already helped residents of five buildings begin working together to clean and maintain public spaces in and around their apartments. Empowered by this initial success, they are working to facilitate creation of a Central District Housing Association, linking individual apartment committees into a coalition.

NGOs Open-up Restricted Areas

There is very little NGO activity in the Darband District of the Karategeen Valley in eastern Tajikistan as a result of ongoing conflict and a resurgence of conservative religious leaders. Due to the recent departure from the area of a very conservative religious leader, the relatively new Dushanbe-based NGO *Parvin* held a forum for a large group of local women. The meeting hall was overcrowded with women eager to hear of ways and means to help themselves establish NGOs and to receive training. *Parvin* helped the group successfully select 50 young people for to receive training in the Dushanbe City Trade School. As a result of their Counterpart training and their successes in assisting people in the Darband area, this NGO is planning to discuss and implement a systematic effort to follow-up and further assist women in Darband and other nearby areas in the Karategeen Valley.

NGO Helps Village Obtain Access to Drinking Water in Rural Kyrgyzstan

Mangyt Village in Osh Oblast obtained drinking water directly from irrigation pipes, resulting in 12 documented cases of typhoid in 1998. Through community mobilization from NGO *Mekhri Shavkat*, the village established a community-based water committee. Using skills learned through participation in Counterpart training workshops, the NGO helped the community develop a proposal that won \$3,000 in grant support from the International Water Secretariat. As a result, 2,000 villagers in two communities have access to running water and there have been no cases of typhoid yet this year.

NGO in Karakalpakstan Leads Grassroots Environmental Education Reform

Despite the severe tangible effects of the Aral Sea disaster in Karakalpakstan, the environment curriculum in schools remains inadequate. Counterpart grantee, NGO *Shagala* has been addressing this problem by conducting seminars with teachers to introduce environmental topics and play-based methodologies. This innovative approach was so popular and has been in such great demand that the NGO has trained 300% more teachers than originally planned. As a result of participation in NGO programs, teachers and students in eight schools have formed clubs to promote environmental awareness in Uzbekistan.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION (Tajikistan Only)

Local NGO Mediates Conflict between Armed Groups in Gorno Badakhshan

A clash between two armed splinter groups in Khorog, the capital of Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO), resulted in five casualties and a high level of tension between the groups and in the Khurog community. In the aftermath, the local NGO *Volunteers* contacted leaders of both groups and offered their services as a mediator of the dispute. In collaboration with local high-level government officials and local leaders, the NGO convened negotiations that lasted several days. As a result, they managed to help the groups reconcile their differences and to stabilize the situation in this town of 25,000 inhabitants. The NGO *Volunteer* played the major role in this process and was able to succeed, due to its image, popularity among the population and its capable members, nearly all of whom have received training and technical assistance from Counterpart's NGO Support Center in Khorog.

NGO and Makhalla Leaders Collaborate in Community Based Conflict Resolution in Tajikistan

A recent outbreak of violence in Gulbutta Makhalla, an under-served low-income area on the outskirts of Dushanbe, created tension, anger and fear of continued violence. Although the family of an arrested man requested his release due to lack of evidence, militia officials feared that his release would spur more violence. Because of their established reputation, NGO *Umed* was asked to help by accepting custody of the soon to be released prisoner. *Umed* facilitated a meeting of community leaders who agreed to form a Council of Elders to decide this and future community disputes. The prisoner was released to the joint custody of *Umed* and the Council of Elders of the Makhalla and the Council also agreed to hear and discuss the original neighbor dispute that led to the altercation. NGO *Umed*, a Counterpart grantee, Counterpart Conflict Resolution and Team Building training workshops as especially useful in providing them with the skills needed to facilitate a community-based solution to this problem.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

During this quarter the Washington office prepared conducted staff development training for three different trips to the US by Central Asian staff. In July, Natasha Naumova from Kyrgyzstan, Dina Mukhamedieva from Uzbekistan and Jeren Khakyeveva from Turkmenistan spent two weeks in Washington to:

- survey models and approaches to volunteer development and management and develop staff resources to contribute to Counterpart efforts to introduce volunteer programs in Central Asia;
- strengthen Counterpart staff knowledge about community development, including housing associations and community-based organizations;
- develop contacts and first-hand knowledge of practical models for NGO programs in service delivery and advocacy in a number of critical sectors for future partnership facilitation efforts and on-going NGO consultation services; and
- learn about NGO Support organizations at the local, national and international level both to strengthen linkages between them and learn from them for the localization process in Central Asia.

In late August Serdar Yagmurov and Atjan Babaev from the Dashoguz office in Turkmenistan visited Washington after attending a conference on participatory methodologies in Canada. The main goals for the visit were to learn more about how different NGOs structure their organizations and how the US addresses water issues, specifically in rural areas.

In late September, Janna Rysakova from the Bishkek office came to the US for a meeting at the World Bank. Her trip was extended by a week to learn more about community based development strategies and see different examples of NGO management in the US. For this trip, energy was focused on complementing information presented to Natasha Naumova in the first training, thereby expanding the exposure of the Bishkek office staff to different models.

During this quarter, Counterpart began preparation of a concept paper to extend the NGO Support Initiative in Central Asia with a focus on localizing the programming and infrastructure. The concept paper reflects extensive input by local staff, including the country strategies developed at the Strategic Planning Workshop held in Samarkand in May.

Counterpart Consortium bids a fond farewell to Aid to Artisans this quarter. Their program ended on August 31, 1999. ATA has been a member of the Counterpart Consortium since its initiation in 1994 and has had a tremendous record of achievements for artisans in Central Asia since then. Their final report is attached, including an overview of their program's results.

The Tashkent office went through significant changes this quarter. The office completed its move and is fully operational at newly renovated quarters on 11-A Donskaya Street. Preparations were made this quarter for an open house in October. The new Uzbekistan Country Director, Jay Cooper, completed his move from Bishkek to Tashkent. Mr. Cooper will continue his duties as Deputy Regional Director, working from Tashkent.

With Mr. Cooper's move to Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyzstan office advanced to the next phase of localization. It is the first office with a local director. Erkin Kasybekov, Kyrgyzstan Country Director, has been with Counterpart since the NGO Support Initiative began and has extensive experience in NGO management. Counterpart has tremendous confidence that this office will continue to grow toward localization under his leadership. Counterpart is currently in the process of selecting a technical advisor in organizational

development to assist Mr. Kasybekov and support the growth of the Bishkek office as well as the network of support centers across Kyrgyzstan.

The Makhalla Program in Uzbekistan made substantial forward strides this quarter. A team of Counterpart program staff and consultant Jane Yudelman traveled to Bukhara, Nukus and Kokand to conduct a needs assessment and develop the final program design for the Makhalla Program. The team met with local NGOs working with makhallas, makhalla chairmen and Hokimiat officials. In order to facilitate the interviewing process, the team used a specially developed questionnaire for those three groups, which helped them to acquire comprehensive and objective information.

KAZAKHSTAN

During this quarter Counterpart focused on exploring the market for its training and on-going activities such as consulting on organizational development and other NGO related issues.

- Counterpart participated in the first Kazakhstan Women's Fair which was held in Almaty from August 26-29 (see impacts for more complete description). The attendees and participants had an opportunity to get acquainted with the services provided by the Counterpart's support centers (e.g. NGO database on CDs, technical assistance, NGO newsletter) and get consultations on the on-going activities of Counterpart as a temporary resource center was set up at Counterpart's booth.
- Counterpart, Almaty signed a contract with the popular academic publication *Al-Pary*, to place ads about Counterpart training in each issue starting September 1999. In return Counterpart will invite the magazine's staff to participate in the training.
- Jamila Asanova, a senior program coordinator, and Igor Savin, Counterpart contractor, participated in a meeting of NGOs in the city of Kzyl-Orda initiated by the local oblast government. Counterpart was encouraged by the local government's understanding of the importance of social partnership and will further develop activities in this previously under-served region

Energy in this quarter has also been focused on the development and improvement of the NGO Support Centers' network as well as building the centers' capacity:

- There was a transfer of equipment, furniture and information resources from the Zhalgas Center to the Almaty Support Center. These two centers plan to merge as soon as the government structure is worked out.
- There were continued discussions with ISAR on collaboration in Atyrau.
- Starting September 16, NGO *Dialogue* will function as a resource center for local NGOs in Shimkent, representing the interests of Counterpart. For more effective functioning *Dialogue* is temporarily using Counterpart's office and some equipment. Counterpart is exploring the possibility of cooperating with other strong local organizations such as SKAL and the Soros Foundation's Center in the future.

In early August, in order to ensure the program's extension in Central Asia, a morning presentation of Counterpart's activities was made for Mr. Cliff Kupchan who is the State Deputy Coordinator for Assistance to NIS. Representatives of several leading Kazakhstani NGOs were invited to the meeting.

Counterpart program staff assisted in conducting two NGO Round Tables in Shimkent and Almaty for Mr. Gregory Gleason, a consultant of ODT, USAID on strategic planning, to help him get information to advise USAID.

Training Highlights

- Some important changes were made in the system of training management in Kazakhstan. In early August Ms. Maya Tsyganenko , a senior program coordinator, took over responsibility for the training program as Mr. Tynybek Baitokov ended his activities with Counterpart. Later that month a meeting with the trainers' team was held during which new regulations of the training activities were discussed. It was agreed that each trainer could influence the process of planning the training activities by submitting training requests, as suggested by trainers-partners.
- In this quarter Counterpart training attracted the attention of the Peace Corps, which requested training in Project Design for its group of new volunteers. Most of them will work with non-governmental organizations in different regions of Kazakhstan, including several Counterpart target groups. The fact that a well-known international organization sees Counterpart as a training and consulting resource ensures our plans to continue actively providing this service in the future.
- During the first Women's Fair held in Almaty in late August a group of leading Kazakhstan trainers conducted a series of specially tailored two-hour seminars for the participants of this event. The purpose of the seminars was for promotional purposes as well as to strengthen the capacity of the BWA, which for the first time convened all of its members. It was the only educational program that covered all the aspects of organizational development and was available during all four days of the fair. The most popular seminars among the participants were Fundraising and Project Design.
- Seminars on Social Partnership and Constituency Development were conducted in Taraz for a coalition of social NGOs by Counterpart target organization – the Diabetes Society of Taraz. The main aim of this training was to develop the coalition's skills necessary for ensuring support of the coalition's candidates running for office in the elections to be held in October.
- To support the initiative of several target NGOs whose representatives are running for office in the up-coming elections Counterpart cooperated with the center for Democracy Education "Leader" to conduct training in Kostanai and Taraz. The training "Making Democracy Work" was developed by "Leader" in partnership with League of Women Voters, USA, and is specially aimed at providing organizations with practical tools for election campaigns.

NGO Support Centers

Astana Support Center

In July, the center staff facilitated a roundtable discussion on the development of mechanisms for public participation in decision-making through the development of a social partnership between NGOs and deputies of the local Maslikhat in Pavlodar. This roundtable is the first event in a series of round tables entitled "Legislator – NGO: Constituency Dialogue" sponsored by AED. The event, which was preceded by a Counterpart training on advocacy, showed the lack of understanding between not only government structures and the third sector, but between NGOs themselves.

Counterpart Astana Support Center assisted the INTRAC representative in Kazakhstan by providing technical support and organizing several meetings with local NGOs, many of which are Counterpart target groups, government agencies and business structures.

The center's staff distributed information and consulted on several projects submitted for the Women's Program administrated by the Counterpart Almaty office. The quality of these proposals proves that the center's staff is skilled and knowledgeable in providing consultations in project design.

Almaty Support Center

A transfer of the Zhalgas Center's equipment, furniture and information resources has been made to the Center. Officially both centers will be merged together as soon as the government structure is worked out. The first public presentation of the united center was made during the first Kazakhstan Women's Fair. The whole booth of Counterpart Consortium was design and equipped as a resource center at which the participants of the fair could receive almost the whole range of the services provided by the centers.

In response to the increasing attention and desire of its clients to serve as volunteers, the center has launched a program to organize volunteers' work, so that both sides could benefit from the cooperation. This quarter five volunteers worked on a continuous basis in the center, assisting in updating the database, arranging the libraries resources and materials, responding to visitors' queries by searching for the necessary contacts and information on the Internet, and arranging the equipment moved from Zhalgas Center.

Information Network

Starting with this quarter the Almaty database manager is responsible for keeping and updating the database on training activities. During this quarter 82 questionnaires have been processed. There are 711 NGOs in the Kazakhstan database at the moment.

KYRGYZSTAN

Training Highlights

Twelve training workshops (Appendix 1) and fifteen follow-up (Appendix 2) training seminars were conducted during the reporting period. 164 participants from 112 local NGOs attended training workshops and 104 NGO representatives took part in follow-up training seminars.

Information Network

Database: To date, the NGO Database contains information on 2,196 Central Asian NGOs, including 970 active Kyrgyzstani NGOs. Counterpart staff updated information on the international agencies working in Kyrgyzstan as well as all Counterpart funded projects in the region. A new form tracking USAID indicators for target NGOs was developed and TTAP information was integrated into the database.

CANGO.NET: 1,758 user sessions were registered in the log file of Cango.net since July 1. The average user session length was 14 minutes. 27 % of sessions were users from the USA, 33% of the sessions were other international users. Items available through the web site include: Counterpart Consortium NGO Database (NGODB); Kyrgyzstan NGO Homepages; relevant research links; and the NGO Electronic Library. This past quarter Counterpart nearly doubled the number of web sites it is hosting for Central Asian NGOs. In all, Counterpart is hosting 115 homepages in Russian and 34 homepages in English. The NGO information page is being maintained in order to provide visitors with an opportunity to access online data. Counterpart continues to record and distribute Cango.net on CD for the offices without web access.

Internet Center: 63 visitors from 42 NGOs (515 visits) used the Internet Center's facilities during the quarter, working with E-mail, Internet and document processing. 38 % of visitors used E-mail, 32 % used the Internet, 30 % of visitors worked with documents, 462 consultations for NGOs were provided. Two workshops entitled "Internet and E-mail" were conducted this quarter, twenty-six people from 18 target NGOs attended those workshops. Currently, 129 E-mail boxes are being maintained for NGOs, 23 new E-mail boxes for NGOs were created, and 18 new NGO clients were registered this quarter. Following negotiations with IREX, twenty NGOs, which used E-mail services provided by IREX, were switched to the Counterpart Server. The Internet Center Assistant indicated that as a result of access to Internet, two local NGOs were able to successfully leverage support from International Organizations.

Documentation/ Publications: The training manual "The Development of Constituencies" was finalized both in Russian and English and distributed to all Counterpart offices in Central Asia. Three sessions on elections in the "Advocacy" module were updated based on the comments made by Gulnara Iskakova, a consultant for the NGO "Development of Human Dimension". Counterpart Consortium brochures (overview, training program, NGO Support Centers) were updated for Kyrgyzstan both in Russian and in English. The Information Coordinator Lilia Kuchenova published 16 articles, covering NGO activities in the local newspapers. Fifty-one messages about Counterpart activities and local NGOs were disseminated through UN E-link, the electronic newsletter of UN agencies.

NGO Support Centers

The Support Centers took an active part in disseminating information about the Election Grant Program among potential grantees, which include not only local NGOs/CBOs but local governments, educational and scientific institutions, election committees, businesses and individuals.

Jalal-Abad Support Center

The Jalal-Abad Support Center (JASC) provided 121 consultations for NGOs, received 149 visitors and made 14 field trips to outlying areas. The JASC moved offices and is now operating at: #44, Toktogula Str., apt. #4, Jalalabad, tel./fax. (3522) 50218.

The JASC Manager discussed the tax issues of the Tash Bulak water project with the Deputy Governor Mr. Akanbaev and the Deputy of the Oblast Finance Department. They agreed that the Support Center should not pay tax for public projects and will receive a tax exemption letter.

Several villages in the Suzak Rayon have been destroyed from mudslides since 1994. Many people have been relocated to Kyzyl Tuu Ail-Okmotu where there is a potential threat of flooding every spring. Local communities have been mobilized to find a solution to the problem. Following the workshop on Social Partnership held in Osh on May 27, a project to build a canal to protect people was approved. The local community using IOM and government money will dig this canal, which will divert the flow of floodwater away from the village.

The JASC organized a roundtable discussion held on July 15 in Masy VI. to discuss social partnership issues. Twenty six participants took part in this discussion including: four international organizations, six local NGOs, the Deputy Akim of Nooken Rayon, representatives from nine Ayil Okmotus, and one newspaper journalist. The main outcome of this meeting was that the local governments are open to working with NGOs in addressing social problems. The NGO representatives stressed that they need more information to be more successful.

Kara-Balta Support Center

The Kara-Balta Support Center (KBSC) provided 161 consultations for NGOs and received 126 visitors.

The first installments to the refugee project, involving *Hireneso* and *Muk-Suu* NGOs, under the UNHCR NGO Trust Fund, were made. The main objectives of the project are to assist refugees in acquiring citizenship in Kyrgyzstan, develop community structures to strengthen refugee representation, develop partnerships between local governments and local NGOs, and provide consultation and information support to refugees of Jayl Rayon.

The members of the refugee NGO *Muk-Suu* conducted a roundtable on September 21 with participation of members of the Aksakal Councils, the Panfilov Rayon Passport Office, and the local militia. The representatives of the Passport Office informed participants that the Rayon militia got an order to check all refugee locations in line with their need to regulate staying non-residents of Kyrgyzstan after the conflict in Batken Rayon. The MFA developed questionnaires to be distributed among all refugees. The members of the Aksakal Councils will be assisting the militia in disseminating and collecting those questionnaires in 10 villages in Rayon.

In close cooperation with the Kara-Balta Center, the members of *Hireneso* are taking an active part in distributing information about procedures for obtaining citizenship and repatriation among refugees of Jayl Rayon. All members of the Aksakal Councils were informed about procedures for relinquishing Tajikistani citizenship at the meeting held in the *Hireneso* office on September 23. The members of Aksakal Councils decided to conduct a series of meetings in 12 villages in Jayl Rayon in order to mobilize refugee communities towards obtaining citizenship.

Naryn Support Center

The staff of the Naryn Support Center (NSC) provided 40 consultations for NGOs and received 125 visitors.

The Center staff facilitated a roundtable held in Naryn on August 12. Fifteen representatives of 10 local NGOs attended this meeting to discuss the upcoming elections. The NSC Manager presented information about the Election Grant Committee grant guidelines and distributed application forms. The Center staff proposed that participants discuss the main idea of the project – to mobilize village populations to participate in the upcoming elections and to train independent observers. Following the discussion a joint proposal was drafted.

In addition to the TTAP workshops conducted in 1998 and 1999 for *Tendesh*, *Bayastan Soopker*, *Nur Jol Ber*, *Tynchtyk* and the *Women Support Center*, the staff of the Naryn SC conducted TTAP workshops for the NGO *Sharshe-Ake*. The mission of these workshops was to provide support to the vulnerable population of Ak-Tala Rayon and advocate for the interests of local farmers.

NGO *Ak-Bayrak* is continuing to work under the project focused on forming a group for disabled children who do not have opportunities to attend kindergartens, and creating work places for their mothers who do not have job opportunities. The mothers are producing bed sheets, and the income is being used to cover the costs of food for their children. In addition, the NGO members have opened a small artisan shop in Tash-Rabat. Currently, the NGO is facing with problems of selling the product and increasing revenue. The Center staff provided assistance in developing a fundraising plan.

Security Situation

The political situation in Tajikistan seemed on the surface to improve during this Quarter. Negotiations between the Government and United Tajik Opposition (UTO) through the Commission on National Reconciliation (CNR) resumed and significant progress was made when the UTO's rejected candidate for the Minister of Defense position accepted the nomination to Minister of Emergency Services and Civil Defense, an agency recently created by the Government. This resolved several difficult issues and plans for the late September Constitutional Reform Referendum and subsequent Presidential and Parliamentary Elections were approved. Political parties were allowed to organize. However, as the days passed, it became clear that the Government was making no effort to inform the citizens as to what would be on the Referendum, what the rules for the Referendum vote would be and how to exercise voting rights. Access to the media by opposition interests was also severely limited during the entire period leading up to the Referendum on September 26th. The few international groups that assessed the fairness of the Referendum voting noted no incidents involving violent acts, but noted a high level of intimidation by Ministry of Security officials and improper registration, voting and counting procedures, especially in urban area polling places. The Referendum was announced by the Government as having passed by a large majority of votes and a high percentage (90+%) of voter turnout. By the end of the Quarter, parties were already beginning the process of registering and obtaining signatures so that their candidates could be certified and placed on the ballot for the Presidential Election, scheduled for November 6, 1999. However, already organizations (both NGOs and political parties) have run into difficulties in registering their organizations with the Ministry of Justice, and bureaucratic problems in obtaining the requisite Government certification stamps and approvals for documentation of signatures have been encountered.

This quarter has seen continuation of very high levels of activity in training of NGOs and outreach to communities in conflict-impacted areas, as well as cooperation and collaborative activities fostered by Counterpart among international organizations, local NGOs and the government. Counterpart has continued to be very active in involving local NGOs to assist international assistance organizations and Government to work together on critical problems related to the peace process, reconciliation and making the transition to social and economic development.

Several international organizations sought Counterpart assistance to foster development in their program areas, to make their programs more relevant to local needs, and to build local capacity through training and technical assistance. To respond to these needs, Counterpart selected key NGOs and referred them to the international organizations, providing appropriate technical assistance to the local NGO where needed and at times participating in support of a collaborative effort among Counterpart, the local NGOs and the international organizations.

In Tajikistan there is a growing number of NGOs very interested in dealing with conflict management issues. Most have started to work on issues in conflict management and prevention, as prevention of conflicts, particularly between ethnic and geo-political groups has become critical in Tajikistan. The NGOs dealing with conflict issues can be divided into two groups.

- Those working with people (adults and/or youth) mostly in conflict-affected rural areas. A major focus of many of these activities is the practical reintegration and reconciliation of returnees (refugees and IDPs).
- The second group consists of NGOs working on conflict resolution and prevention in the centers and big cities – which tend to focus more on research activities.

Because of the increasing number of NGOs interested in working in aspects of conflict resolution, the issue of coordination of activities and sharing of expertise and materials is very important. Also, the new NGOs working directly with people need good manuals to conduct workshops on conflict management and prevention relevant to Tajikistan. For this purpose Counterpart Consortium conducted several trainings of trainers for those NGOs, using expertise from NGOs from other Central Asian countries: the NGO *Harmony & Tolerance* from Kyrgyzstan and *Conflict Management Center* from Kazakhstan assisted in the trainings and shared their experiences and materials.

During the workshop on *Conflict Resolution and Prevention Tools*, conducted and facilitated by Counterpart Consortium and *Conflict Management Center*, many ideas and practices were shared regarding conflict management for Tajikistan. This training was attended by NGOs that conduct trainings on conflict management and resolution in community settings. There were several manuals applicable for different situations in Tajikistan that were developed in this workshop. Also, NGO participants decided to create a network of NGOs dealing with conflict issues in order to exchange experience and coordinate activities. It was decided to organize Conflict Resolution Network meetings at the Counterpart Consortium office. Subsequently, two meetings have been held which were facilitated by Counterpart Consortium, with 11 NGOs represented from both types of NGOs mentioned above. The main conclusion made in that meeting was that if the efforts of these types of NGOs i.e. practical NGOs and research-oriented NGOs were combined, significant progress would be achieved.

In the second meeting a representative from the Kettering Foundation, an initiator of the negotiations between the Government and United Tajik Opposition, attended. Members of the Network agreed to develop a strategy for the Network's further activity. It is expected that the number of Network members will increase.

The following conclusions were made by NGOs to improve the work within the Network of Conflict Management and Prevention:

- The importance of working on conflict management, especially now when Tajikistan has elections forthcoming.
- The importance of involving local community leaders and government authorities in trainings, workshops, roundtables and other activities on conflict resolution and prevention.
- It is necessary to conduct trainings on other aspects of civil society to improve citizen understanding of issues, simultaneously with conflict resolution and prevention trainings.
- It is essential to target women and women's groups.
- It is necessary to help create community-based organizations that are able to implement this type of work in local areas. It was recognized that NGOs cannot reach all of the population alone
- There is a need for detailed study and analysis of situation in Tajikistan to assist in the development of materials on conflict prevention. For this purpose there is a plan to conduct a conference of a national scale.

Training Highlights

Through the cooperation and collaboration with international organizations and local NGOs, 12 workshops were conducted for 233 local participants by trainers trained and referred by Counterpart and sponsored by international organizations. The workshops sponsored by OSCE on the topics *Women's & Family Rights & Women and Elections* were supported by OSCE and several other international organizations, including Counterpart. These were followed by Counterpart trainings for the same women participants in Kulyob and Shahrtuz, beginning in September. Other cooperative trainings were conducted with IFRC/NRC and SCF/UK. Overall, Counterpart's cadre of Contract Trainers and a growing number of local NGO contractors developed by Counterpart are being recognized and utilized as local experts in many aspects of training, technical assistance and advocacy.

Regular meetings with the group of Contract trainers in Dushanbe were held on a monthly basis due to high demand for training expertise. The meetings were helpful in the development of training plans for the following months and identifying trainers' and sponsors' needs and setting plans to improve and expand skills. Training of Trainers (TOTs) were scheduled and held on the topics *Conflict Resolution* and *Adult Learning Styles in Training*. The number of Contract Trainers in the Counterpart training cadre is now nearly 40.

Counterpart training activities during the Quarter included 56 training workshops for 881 participants from 537 NGOs conducted in all parts of the country. This number of trainings and participation in Counterpart Training activity was at a record level during this Quarter

A *Problem ID Workshop* was held in September in Sarband, a town east of Kurghan-teppa in Khatlon Oblast. Training Manager and Contract trainers observed the event in order to evaluate and update the training module on the topic. The workshop was developed in the last two years to address the high priority issues of reintegration and reconciliation in conflict-impacted communities. These problems still continue, but in addition priorities are also on education and assistance to help people address their needs and to organize themselves to solve their problems.

Needed improvements were identified and shared with the NGO *Murod*, Counterpart's contractor, and they will make the changes to the training manual. The revised manual is expected to be completed in October 1999, and will be validated over the next two months. Monitoring plans will be developed specifically for each community where a workshop is held, and will be carried out by the NGO contractor. The contractor's report will include specifics on the dynamics and outcomes of the workshop, the monitoring plan and the results shown by the monitoring and additional follow-ups.

Information Network

Database: The total number of NGOs registered in the database at the beginning of the Quarter was 597. This number has changed to 509 after a thorough update in the database to omit duplications. This list is now in harmony with that of the Ministry of Justice, the government agency responsible for NGO registration. Counterpart has developed and validated a list of active NGOs updated this Quarter at 123 from 118 in the previous Quarter. The number will be updated next Quarter using the new criteria and updated form.

NGO Support Centers

Khurog NGO Support Center

The Khurog NGO Support Center received visits from 125 individuals this past quarter.

After organizing the NGO Support Center in Gorno Badakhshan, Counterpart Consortium Contractor NGO *Kalam* has assisted in the formation of nearly 20 new NGOs. Several NGOs have also been assisted successfully by the NGO Support Center staff with the development of proposals to receive grants from outside donors, including the Soros Foundation, UNWID Bureau and Aga Khan Foundation.

The Manager of the NGO Center reports that *Kalam's* good relations with the media in the area have resulted in a significant increase in coverage of NGO activities and in advocating for the extension of the work of NGOs and the government through social partnerships and social enterprise.

Computers are scarce in the GBAO and the extra computer provided for NGO use at the NGO Support Center has helped several NGOs to become more literate and capable of developing better project documentation and workplans. Local NGOs use the NGO Support Center Training Hall for meetings and round tables and workshops as part of their diverse program, and for membership development needs.

There are several organizations in the area that are addressing gender issues, in particular, including the needs and rights of women and of women and children as especially vulnerable groups. NGOs in GBAO are struggling to form and increase their capabilities to effectively address local problems in this very under-served and remote area. Our contractor was launched well and is well-placed to help.

The training activities are going well there and are well attended. The NGO Support Center in Khorog will now extend its activities into all six districts of GBAO. Training Manager Kiomiddin Davlatov has assessed the need for additional training resources and has scheduled a TOT to expand the existing pool of contractor trainers available in GBAO. During his visit meetings were held with local NGOs and their needs and difficulties were explored.

NGO Support Center Coordinator Zaro Kurbonbekova visited Khojand, Kurghan-teppa and Khurog NGO Support Centers to review practices, identify needs and sharing useful practices. Lively discussions were held on how to improve the NGO Support Center services and expand outreach activities to better enhance capacity building, and encourage communication and coordination. All agreed that each should function as a central place for NGOs and CBOs to advertise events, and hold meetings to explore ways of working together with other NGOs, the government and business and develop networks. They also discussed ways to use volunteers more effectively. Needs for more information and Counterpart video resources were noted as well as Centers that needed additional or replacement equipment. During this Quarter, the Regional Finance Director visited all of the Centers but Khurog and supplied feedback regarding improved practices. The Country Director and Assistant Grants Manager visited the NGO Support Center in Khurog and delivered needed resources and equipment.

Kurghan-teppa NGO Support Center

Kurghan-teppa NGO Support Center was moved to a new and improved location in the town, where access is better and where more space is available for the Center, training and NGO meetings and also to accommodate the Tolerance Education Project Office and Teacher Resource Center (supported by USAID Tolerance Education Grant). The move was accomplished quickly and regular operations of the Center and the program in Khatlon Oblast were not interrupted. The Center received 94 visitors in the past Quarter. In late September the Kurghan-teppa Office Manager, submitted a letter of resignation effective in early October to take up a position with another international organization in Dushanbe. Plans for recruitment of a replacement were made for implementation in October.

Khojand NGO Support Center

The Center continued to maintain a high level of activities to assist NGOs. The Center received 124 visitors. A search was implemented to find a volunteer for the Center. In an evaluation conducted during this Quarter, the present facility was determined to be over-burdened and the building in which the Center is located has deteriorated public facilities. A search for a new office location was implemented

English is fast becoming the foreign language of choice in northern Tajikistan. NGO members are becoming recognized as more advanced among their peers and are eager to improve their knowledge and skills in English language. Khojand NGO Support Center has been requested on numerous occasions to provide assistance to NGOs by providing English courses for them. Taking into account their needs the NGO Support Center Manager appealed to a number of English-speaking foreigners to cooperate with us. Several people responded positively and took responsibility for teaching English to several NGO members free of charge. Counterpart is assisting in looking for TEFL resource materials.

Dushanbe NGO Support Center

Preliminary negotiations were conducted with Tajik Telecommunications Ltd. (TTL), the sole internet and email provider in Tajikistan, regarding their interest in partnering with Counterpart Consortium on development and operation of an NGO Internet Access and Training Center in Dushanbe. A proposal was drafted and is being vetted with Counterpart Regional Washington Offices. As the effort would provide additional facilities and service in the NGO Support Center not provided for under the present Project, additional funding will be necessary to set up and sustain operations. Additional materials on Conflict Resolution and Prevention in Russian and English were added to the Center's resources.

In our NGO Support Centers Counterpart seeks to involve volunteers in activities that are useful for NGO development and which are of interest and benefit to them as well. At the Khojand NGO Support Center, volunteer Jamshed Raupov assisted many NGOs and the support made many good contacts for employment. Like most volunteers, he also learned a lot about NGOs and how best to assist them. He acknowledged that working with Counterpart was an excellent opportunity for him to improve his skills and knowledge and assist him to find a career. After leaving Counterpart he is now employed by an Australian company working in Leninabad Oblast. Young people in increasing numbers contact us requesting challenging voluntary work. We also refer volunteer applicants to local NGOs for employment. In turn, NGOs find that trusting and using volunteers is an important component of their programming. At present we have volunteers working in our NGO Support Centers in Khojand, Dushanbe and Khurog.

TURKMENISTAN

Throughout the quarter, the Counterpart office in Turkmenistan conducted four roundtables – two with government and two with visiting experts. In our continued effort to build understanding inside government about what NGOs are and the role they play in a civil society, Counterpart staff held roundtables at the Hyakimliks of two cities near Ashgabad, Annau and Baharden. Government employees representing the offices social welfare, culture, public organizations, youth and women's issues attended. The topic of the roundtables was social partnership. Staff showed a Counterpart video on the subject and presented information on our work as well as the work of our grantees. A lively discussion followed. Both roundtables were held at the request of the Deputy Hyakims.

An impromptu roundtable was held at the Counterpart office following the *Public Education through the Media* TOT carried out by two Uzbek trainers. The examples given during the training generated so much interest among the participants that they asked one of the Uzbek trainers to lead a discussion about the general situation of NGOs in Uzbekistan and share his observations on the similarities and differences of civil society development of the two countries. Counterpart staff organized the gathering and invited additional local NGOs to attend. Such regionally focused exchange of information and experiences fosters a sense of cross-boarder NGO community in Central Asia which is an element oft missing from the outlook of local NGOs here in Turkmenistan.

Collaboration between USIS and Counterpart was the genesis of the fourth roundtable held this quarter. In an effort to maximize the benefit of a civic education expert who was in Ashgabad under a USIS program, the local USIS representative approached Counterpart about hosting a roundtable for the expert and local NGOs. The topic was public advocacy through civic education. The event proved to be a success and an appropriate complement to the introduction of Counterpart's *Advocacy* for staff and eighteen local NGO representatives who attended.

The Water Users' Association Project became fully operational following the obligation of funds in mid-June. Seven new staff were hired and trained; the Turkmenbashi etrap office was furnished. An Open House was held in mid-September; 110 people from participating villages, local Hyakimlik, health department, the water plant, Dashoguz-based NGOs, the local press and USAID attended. (see additional attachment of complete Water User's Association Project Quarterly Report)

Outreach to the Turkmen-speaking population took several forms this quarter. First, in consultation with Counterpart staff, the NGO Achyk Gapy (Open Door) took initial steps in designing a "pre-training" seminar to orient people new to the concepts of civil society to the purpose and types of NGOs. The group now conducts one-day seminars consisting of parts of the first two modules and modified PRA tools such as mapping and daily schedules. Further Turkmen focused outreach consisted of the WUA projects first newsletter in Turkmen and general expansion of the project to ten new villages.

Work over the past three months has been a little more challenging than usual due to the approaching national holidays (Independence Day in October) and the upcoming elections in December. New travel restrictions into, out of and within Turkmenistan have been imposed on locals and international visitors alike. These restrictions have put a damper on sending staff and NGO representatives to meetings and conferences outside of Turkmenistan. The expectation is that these limitations will be slacked following the elections.

Staff Development and Management

The most prominent characteristic of this quarter's activities was staff development through increased reliance on local staff, study tours abroad and training. With the country director taking maternity leave and the acting director splitting his time between the Water Users' Association Project in Dashouz and Ashgabad office, local staff in both locations had an opportunity to assume more responsibility and a greater role in decision-making for the day-to-day operations of the offices. The staff proved themselves very capable and the experience extremely valuable in light of the long-term intention of localizing the program in the coming years.

In terms of specific staff development activities, two staff members traveled to Canada to attend a conference on Participatory Development at which they were able to participate in discussions on the past, present and future of participatory development, a particularly relevant topic for NGOs in Turkmenistan context. An additional staff member attended a conference at Yale University for two weeks entitled "Designing Institutions to Meet the Challenges of Democratic Governance" which focused on democratic institution building in the FSU. Both trips ended with a stop in Washington to visit more than 15 different US NGOs working in the sectors of water, environment, volunteering, women, health, youth, legal assistance, social services, and homelessness.

Such face-to-face contact other organizations and practitioners in the NGO sector left these staff members with a deeper and broader understanding of their role in NGO capacity building and civil society development in Turkmenistan. They also returned with new ideas, strategies and future partnership — contacts for Counterpart's work here. Furthermore, one staff member is now a member of a participatory development listserv and has made contributions to their bulletin board requesting feedback on the future of participatory development in Turkmenistan.

In addition to building staff skills, an additional five staff members were added to the Ashgabad office roster: a Program Coordinator, an Assistant Grant Manager, an Accountant, and two half-time Receptionists.

Staff training took the form of TOT in Training Methodology for new and some old staff members in order to enhance their training and facilitation skills. Also, more hands-on training in how to plan, conduct and debrief meetings and roundtables was central to the quarter's activities.

With additional staff coming on board and more office space being required, this quarter was also a time for building, renovations and purchasing. The existing kitchen was converted into an office and a new kitchen/lunch room was built in the back of the office. Renovations and construction were completed in a record three and half week period. New office furniture was ordered to replace the used desks that had served the staff for the past year and half. An additional room in the back building is under renovations and will house the staff of the Water Users' Association project and other special projects as needed.

NGO Support Centers

The Counterpart Support Center in Dashoguz has become a focal point for international organizations working in that region of the country. In addition to planning and conducting training in the preliminary Counterpart modules, the SC Manager has also assisted other organizations such as UNICEF, MSF and Winrock International with the planning of meetings with local interest groups and local government. Weekly NGO focus group meetings also take place in the Center at the request of a group of initiative groups who attended training in recent months. Counterpart is in negotiations with UNHCR regarding co-funding two additional resource centers in Mary and Lebap regions. The final strategy for the UNHCR/NRC collaboration is to be concluded by December of 1999 and, pending the conclusion of an MOU, it is anticipated that the Centers will be opened in the first quarter of 2000.

Training Highlights

The greatest change to the training program this quarter was the introduction of "outside" training, that is, Counterpart training that is organized by contract trainers and held at a location outside of Ashgabad office. Since the Ashgabad office has been offering the full gambit of training modules only for the last eighteen months to a relatively young NGO community, there was a need to be creative in meeting the high demand for the basic two modules of *NGO and Community* and *NGO Management*. Offering the modules more than once a month allows representatives of new NGOs to participate sooner in more advanced modules. Therefore, the task of logistical organizing (i.e. invitations, identifying participants, providing lunches, finding training space) was extended to contract trainers. Counterpart staff reviews the participant lists and provides additional participants from waiting lists to ensure a good mixture of NGOs in each training, monitors the training through site visits and prints out the certificates on the last day. All other organizational requirements are met by the contract trainers conducting the training. During the quarter this new system allowed *NGO and Community* to be carried out an seven times which was four additional times than usual, and *NGO Management* an additional two times. The gradual shift to relying more on contract trainers for the administrative aspects of the training program again lends itself well to the eventual localization of the overall program in Turkmenistan.

Over the last three months through TOTs, two new modules came on-line in Turkmenistan, *Constituency Building* and *Public Education through the Media* bringing the total number of different Counterpart modules offered in Turkmenistan to 13. In general, twenty-six trainings were conducted for a total of 380 participants, 106 of whom were from outside the capital city.

After much internal discussion with staff and consultation with contract trainers, the staff decided to go ahead with holding an *Advocacy* training in August. Given the political circumstances in Turkmenistan there had been much concern that the participants of this potentially controversial topic might misunderstand the aim of the module and equate NGOs with political parties and overt political activism. Participants were selected from the more experienced NGOs. Contract trainers carefully selected appropriate examples to use during the training. In the end the training was very successful and has since been carried out a second time.

In early July, the Program Coordinators identified the need to increase the pool of contract trainers for Turkmenistan. Therefore a Counterpart staff member conducted a TOT in Methodology with two contract trainers as follow-up trainers. Particular to this methodology TOT was that the twenty participants consisted of three different groups: future contract trainers, new programming staff and five new community workers of the Water Users' Association Project in Dashoguz. This last group participated in the training primarily to learn adult education techniques and build facilitation skills which are essential for conducting community meetings to foster a community decision-making process in the villages where they work. Also, particular to this training was that two thirds of the participants are fluent in Turkmen increasing even more the capacity of the Counterpart program here to reach the majority non-Russian-speaking population.

This quarter Counterpart staff carried out three Training and Technical Assistant Plans TTAPs. Some twenty-four members of three target NGOs participated in the TTAP to develop a six-month plan for strengthening their organizations.

UZBEKISTAN

Training Highlights

This quarter Counterpart Uzbekistan continued laying the groundwork for community-based social partnership development with NGOs. By adapting the NGO & Community workshops to one-day, Counterpart successfully conducted trainings for 63 makhalla representatives and 5 government officials from Samarkand, Namangan and Tashkent. In each city a roundtable with NGOs was held after the training so participants could learn about the activities and achievements of NGOs, the potential of these NGOs and their perspectives on cooperation in community development.

A Counterpart program team of Deputy Director Lola Abdusalyamova, Makhalla Program Coordinator Akmal Roustamov, and a Counterpart Consultant Jane Yudelman traveled to Bukhara, Nukus and Kokand to conduct a needs-assessment and develop the final program design for the Counterpart Makhalla Program. The team met with local NGOs working with makhallas, makhalla chairmen and Hokimiats officials. In order to facilitate the interviewing process, the team used a specially developed questionnaire for those three groups, which helped them to acquire comprehensive and objective information.

One key activity that builds on the makhalla project is the successful completion of two Participatory Community Appraisal seminars conducted by contract trainers in Samarkand and Nukus for 5 makhalla and 27 NGO participants. The participants praised PCA tools as highly valuable and easily applicable to their everyday work.

In an effort to increase the level of understanding by mass media of the importance and capacity of the third sector in Uzbekistan, four specially designed NGO & Community workshops were held in Bukhara, Samarkand and Kokand for 40 journalists. The most experienced NGOs, working in different sectors, were invited to subsequent roundtables to help journalists develop a clearer understanding of the current stage of NGO development in Uzbekistan.

On September 29 an unprecedented training was held for students of the Journalism Department of Tashkent State University. Seventeen young journalists participated in an adapted training of the NGO & Community workshop and met with NGO leaders. Motivated by what they learned, the students committed to giving comprehensive coverage of NGO activities during their professional careers.

Another highlight of the past quarter has been the follow-up on training in Governance conducted in 11 branches of republic-wide membership of the *Tadbirkor Ayol* Association of Businesswomen. Follow-up telephone consultations and site visits, such as observation of Board meetings, took place. To date results have been very positive including: nomination of new Board members; regular Board meetings; membership increase; development of workplans; increased media coverage of organization activities; increased public awareness and respect for organization; and increased support of members.

On September 13 *Shukur Burkhanov* Makhalla invited Counterpart Program Coordinators to a meeting of makhalla chairmen from the Mirzo-Ulugbek District to discuss the development of a makhalla infrastructure for collaborating with NGOs. Dina Mukhamadieva gave a brief overview of Counterpart Consortium activity in Uzbekistan and Central Asia and NGO role in development of civic society.

A meeting of contract trainers took place on September 24. With facilitating assistance from Lola Abdusalyamova and Dina Mukhamadieva a team of 13 trainers discussed trainers' ethics, improvement of training performance, report writing, political awareness, and strategies for introducing training in Uzbek language. It is anticipated that regular meetings of the Counterpart Uzbekistan training team will be a valuable supplement to trainer development, as well as serve as a drive to a qualitative implementation of a demand-driven training program.

In July the Counterpart Uzbek Office moved to new premises. The new office is closer to the center of the city and has more space for NGOs and program staff. The open house for international partners, NGOs and trainers is scheduled for October.

Staff Development

Dina Mukhamadieva attended a one-month seminar at Yale University to discuss the overall development of Central Asia. Following that seminar, she visited Counterpart International's Washington office for two weeks of customized staff development. In all she visited 25 NGOs and amassed informational materials for the Tashkent office to use in program development and share with local NGOs. Following her return to Tashkent, Ms. Mukhamadieva briefed the Tashkent program staff on her trip.

Information Network

CANGO NET was upgraded with the homepages of 21 Uzbek NGOs in Russian and/or English languages. NGO database software was upgraded. Informational data on 42 international organizations based in Uzbekistan was entered. Informational data was revised and updated as listed below:

Karakalpak region – 26 NGOs were revised, data on 11 new NGOs entered;

Fergana region – 15 NGOs were revised, data on 5 new NGOs entered;

Bukhara region – 19 NGOs were revised, data on 7 new NGOs entered;

Andijan region – 5 NGOs were revised;

Samarkand region – 12 NGOs were revised, data on 5 new NGOs entered;

Tashkent – 53 NGOs were revised, 10 new NGOs entered.

Total – 130 NGOs were revised, information about 38 new NGOs was entered.

NGO Support Centers

Nukus Support Center

The Nukus Support Center organized a 1-day visit for Gregory Gleason and Sean Roberts, who arrived in Karakalpakstan to conduct a needs-assessment for USAID involvement in Uzbekistan. The visitors met with Janabay Sadikov, Head of Legislation Committee of the Parliament of Karakalpakstan, who is very supportive of non-profit organizations, top Hokimiat officials, and local NGOs.

The Nukus Support Center continues to provide consultations and technical assistance to Karakalpak NGOs. Activity reached a peak in August, with 84 visits logged.

Palmurza Hojabekov and Alexander Chuev, Coordinators of the support centers in Nukus and Kokand respectively, participated in an NGO meeting with Mr. Knut Vollebek, OSCE Chairman and the Foreign Minister of Norway. The meeting was convened with the express purpose of reflecting on the perspectives and efficiency of OSCE future programs in Uzbekistan. Palmurza Hojabekov, speaking on behalf of Karakalpak NGOs, proposed to expand OSCE influence in Karakalpakstan and encourage more seminars on topics such as human rights, advocacy, and conflict resolution.

Kokand Support Center

Bahodir Umar Khanov joined the Kokand Support Center in August as Program Coordinator. With his NGO background and skills in Uzbek language, it is anticipated that he will be a valuable resource for Counterpart's activities in Fergana Region.

In August, Alain Deletroz, Director of Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) in Uzbekistan, paid a visit to Kokand Support Center where he learned about the NGO situation in the Fergana Region. While there he met with Jay Cooper to discuss potential partnership activities to help develop NGO resource centers in Uzbekistan. Technical and consultation support was in its peak in July, reaching 125 visits.

Tashkent Information Resource Center

The Center received 174 visits in July, 165 in August and 154 in September. The *Initiative* mailing list was increased from 42 to 60 and now includes a large number of state institutions, and quasi-NGOs. Extending its services, the Resource Center has been distributing 100 copies of the Counterpart regional newsletter entitled "NGO: Theory and Practice" on a monthly basis.

The library has been supplemented with periodicals from international agencies, OSCE books on electoral campaigns, and annual reports by a number of international organizations, all of which are available to NGO visitors. The Resource Center continues to receive and process electronic international conferences' information and Russian NGOs newsletters on women issues, human rights, educational opportunities and environment. Unhindered access to a great variety of informational materials in the Resource Center has resulting in the following:

- The leaders of the Association of Parents of Disabled Children and KRIDI, participated in the 20th International Conference, entitled "Family", which took place in September in Moscow. There, they met with Children's Ecological Center, which has developed an innovative rehabilitation method for disabled people;
- Using information of the Resource Center, the Samarkand Rehabilitation Center *Umid* applied to CHAP and received humanitarian assistance; and
- Using Resource Center counseling and technical assistance, the Nukus NGO *Renaissance* established cooperative relations with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation. Renaissance conducted five seminars entitled "Participation of Community in Electoral Process."

CONSTITUENCY BUILDING COMPONENT

Media Totals

	July		August		September		Total	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Kazakhstan*	8	17	8	5	8	7	24	29
Kyrgyzstan	8	8	8	11	8	15	24	34
Tajikistan	8	13	8	12	8	18	24	43
Turkmenistan **	-	9	-	6	-	5	-	20
Uzbekistan	8	13	8	21	8	14	24	48
Total	32	60	32	55	32	59	96	174

The number of newspaper articles written by journalists and NGO leaders continues to grow on a quarterly basis. Over 90 % of the articles about NGOs appearing in the newspapers at the end of the quarter this year were written by people other than Counterpart Constituency Building Staff.

Over 100 more articles on NGO programs have appeared in local and national newspapers than in the same time period last year. There have been an average of 57 newspaper articles per month this year as compared with an average of 46 per month in the first nine months last year.

Television broadcasts on NGOs and their activities is also up slightly this year. Last year, the highest number of programs broadcast for one month was 32, this year it is 36. However, the monthly average is down slightly from 25 to 23 per month. Part of this may be due to absence of monitoring in Kazakhstan during the past quarter.

Radio broadcasts about NGO programs are up significantly this year. Last year the highest number in a month was 21, this year it was 43. The average number of radio broadcasts last year was 18.5, this year so far the average is 22.3

Work with Journalists Representing All Media

- Counterpart interacted with journalists in all five countries to engage their participation in helping to inform the public about the NGO movement in Central Asia. Discussions, meetings, workshops and conferences were also held to strengthen Journalist organizations in each of the countries and as follow-up to the regional meeting held in Bishkek last quarter.
- Journalists in Kazakhstan were encouraged to promote NGO, NGO and Elections, NGO Law, and Social Partnership stories through press conferences, fact sheets, and individual NGO events.
- Kyrgyzstan continues to develop more press releases and less full articles this quarter in an effort to get journalists to take the initiative to produce their own programs and newspaper articles.
- The CB Coordinator in Tajikistan worked with media representatives to establish a South Khatlon Association of Journalists for Social Partnership at the request of journalists in that region. Journalists in other areas were introduced to or further educated on the NGO concept through tea parties and participation in Counterpart trainings in NGO and Community, Problem identification, NGOs and Mass Media, Fundraising and Small Enterprise Development.
- University students are learning about the NGO model and activities as a result of a 20-hour optional course designed by Journalist association members in Tajikistan and a seminar conducted by CB staff members in Uzbekistan. These courses and seminars have resulted in very probing questions, great interest in writing about NGOs and an invitation to develop further seminars from the Dean of the Journalism department.

- Uzbekistan organized a special NGO and Community training for Kokand, Samarkand and Bukhara journalists to increase their understanding of NGOs. This training resulted in 5 to 10 media stories in each city as well as new contacts between journalists and NGOs
- The part-time CB coordinator for broadcast in Uzbekistan continues to feed story ideas to radio and TV journalists to inform them about the work of NGOs. NGO coverage in the Electronic media continues far above that of last year during the same time period.
- Members of the Turkmen Association of Journalists continue to cover NGO issues and activities in the print media and to stimulate journalists around the country to cover NGO activities through publication and distribution of their newsletter "NGO Social Partnership Activities".

Importance of Laws to Support Free Association and NGO Activities

- Limited media coverage of NGO law issues continued in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Commentary on legal issues was covered in the Regional NGO newsletter.
- The regionally developed video on NGO laws was distributed to local and regional TV stations throughout Central Asia.
- Copies of the regional video were distributed to local government and TV contacts in Kzylorda and UN Support Centers in Kazakhstan.
- The CB staff in Uzbekistan were able to make journalists more aware of the importance of the new legislation by sharing information about the event in Washington DC celebrating the new NGO law. As a result of their activities, national TV and national newspapers produced short reports about the law.
- Kazakhstan CB staff prepared comprehensive articles on the importance of the NGO Law, which ran in several newspapers throughout the country.
- The third issue of the Regional NGO Newsletter covered legal issues facing NGOs attempting to lobby government. The articles were presented in an effort to make NGO leaders and members more aware of the problems and opportunities spelled out in existing and new laws.

Citizen's Role and Work in Changing Public Policy

- Counterpart continued to develop a regional campaign to inform the public about NGOs role and how they are changing public policy. Key activities included:
 - finalizing the editing of the regional video featuring NGOs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
 - distributing the video to 33 national, regional and local TV stations and 21 NGO support centers; and
 - selecting journalists to conduct the campaign and working with them to develop a campaign strategy in each country where it is politically safe to do so.
- The development of the regional secondary campaign on NGOs role and involvement in election process continued in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (this campaign cannot be conducted in Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan for political reasons). Key results are as follows:
 - A candidate debate training video was distributed to UN Support Centers in Kazakhstan and partner organizations in Tajikistan.
 - National Private TV in Almaty conducted a nationally televised forum for nine political parties with candidates running for parliamentary seats. The program was patterned after the training and video that was developed two years ago through USAID/Counterpart and USIS cooperation.
 - Extensive coverage to NGO members running for office as well as the election training activities conducted through Counterpart Consortium funding.
 - Press releases developed by Counterpart Consortium in Kyrgyzstan resulted in coverage of NGO involvement in the elections throughout the country.

Social Partnership Development

- The CB staff, the Journalists' Association for Social Partnership in Turkmenistan, NGOs and journalists throughout the region continue to carry out the Social Partnership Campaign. This topic has become so popular in the local media that it has become a year-round and on-going campaign.
- Kazakhstan Women's NGOs, government officials and private sector representatives were made aware of partnership programs and possibilities through a Counterpart Consortium designed exhibit, videos, handouts and individual consultations at a nationwide fair for and about women that was conducted by the Business Women's association.
- The regional video on social partnership successes throughout the region was distributed to local TV stations, local government offices and UN Support Centers in Kazakhstan as well as TV stations and support centers in all four other countries.
- As a result of participation in workshops on social partnership, the Tajikistan Journalist Association *Social Partnership* developed a newspaper for NGOs to help fill the information void across Tajikistan.

Regional NGO Newsletter

- CB staff continued to guide the development, production and distribution of the Regional NGO Newsletter. The content of the newsletter is based on the topics determined in focus group meetings and advisory board input.
- Through assistance of the advisory board and contributors, the newsletter has developed into a communication tool that focuses on one main topic each issue. Each topic is addressed from three perspectives: commentary from an international source; theory from one or a group of contract trainers working in the topic area; and practical information on the experiences of one NGO from each country.
- Country CB Coordinators contribute to the newsletter by soliciting and writing articles, working with authors and advisory board members, and developing printing and distribution procedures.
- Two issues of the newsletter were developed this quarter by the contracting NGO and were distributed through the Country Offices and NGO Support Centers and through the CANGO net web site. Both issues were also translated into English and distributed to international donor groups and partners. Distribution included:
 - *Web Site:* 197 downloads of the Russian version; 220 downloads of the English version;
 - *Kazakhstan:* 550 copies of the Russian version were distributed to NGOs; 50 copies to international partners.
 - *Kyrgyzstan:* between 132 and 300 copies of the Russian version of each issue were distributed locally; 20 copies of the English version were sent to partner organizations.
 - *Turkmenistan:* 350 copies of the Russian version were distributed locally.
 - *Tajikistan:* 70 copies of the Russian version were distributed locally; 15 copies of the English version. They are working on a process to increase the printing run and distribution of the Russian version throughout the country.
 - *Uzbekistan:* 200 copies of the Russian version were distributed locally; 60 copies of the English version were sent to donors and partners.
- The Advisory Board and Staff of the newsletter have been discussing a sustainability plan that will be finalized during the next quarter.

Video Production

- This quarter a total of 162 CB produced programs were distributed to TV stations; 298 were distributed to NGO Support Centers and partner organizations throughout the region. Editing was completed and copies were distributed of the latest NGO production, *Steps to Democracy* – a program about how NGOs are changing public policy in Central Asia.
- Distribution of the two Social Partnership programs was completed at the local level in July with 28 copies going to NGO Support Centers and two programs going to the 27 local TV stations across Central Asia.
- The CB Unit is currently producing the second English language video in an effort to leverage funding to extend the CB program in each country through the end of March, 2000.
- The staff planned, budgeted, scripted and shot a 12-minute video for the Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program in Kazakhstan. The editing and translation to Russian and Kazakh will be completed during the last quarter this year.
- Earlier this quarter the CB division started to shift programming from regional to country specific. This effort is being supported in the following ways:
 - Country CB Coordinators worked with Country Directors to plan work until March 2000 to reach country program goals rather than regional CB goals
 - Country Directors in each country have assumed a greater supervisory role in the program workings of the media unit in their own country.
 - The Regional CB Coordinator channels all communication with Country Staff through the Country Director.
 - CB coordinators have reduced their role in regional video production and increased work with journalists at country and regional levels within their country.
 - At the end of this quarter, CB Coordinators were spending more than 75 % of their time on Country program efforts and less than 25 % on regional CB initiatives.

Difficulties Encountered in Achieving Goals

- Privatization of government media in Kazakhstan continues to make it difficult to get video programs on national TV without paying large sums of money for broadcast time. Efforts are being made to solicit corporate sponsorship. This is also beginning to be a problem in Kyrgyzstan, to a lesser degree.
- Management of the regional newsletter Advisory Board continues to be somewhat problematic. Relying totally on e-mail communication with a group that has not formally been together or worked in this capacity is challenging. Hopefully increased understanding of the role of this Board by CB staff members will improve the situation during the next quarter.
- Stretching project funds from an original shut down date of July 1999 to March 2000 has curtailed much of the travel that is necessary to develop a strong and well-informed journalist base at the local levels throughout all five countries. It is anticipated that Global funding for Press Conference Training during the next 4-6 months will help alleviate this problem.

D. NGO TARGET OVERVIEW

A complete list of target NGOs for each country can be found in attachment 3.

KAZAKHSTAN

In this quarter, no changes were made to the list of target NGOs in Kazakhstan.

TTAPs were conducted with the following target NGOs:

1. Association of Consumer Cooperatives of Apartment Owners, Pavlodar
2. Committee of Soldiers' Mothers, Astana
3. Dialogue, Shimkent
4. Help, Kostanai
5. Laboratory of Intellectual Property, Almaty
6. National Federation of Housing Associations, Astana
7. Sootechestvennik, Shimkent
8. Southern Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers, Shimkent

The results of the TTAPs were used to design a program of training and technical assistance for these NGOs.

Events and Activities

- *Feminist League* held a roundtable "Women's Rights – Human Rights" devoted to the presentation of their new book on international documents regulating women's rights – a project supported by TESIS. Counterpart provided technical assistance to this event, which included renting the Counterpart conference room.
- *Association of School Councils* held a press conference dedicated to the beginning of the academic year. During this event, which took place at the Counterpart Almaty office, media representatives got a chance to find out about activities, achievements and plans of this NGO.
- *Special Olympics of Kazakhstan* opened the first regional resource center in Central Asia. Their clients and constituency can now go to the Center to receive information on the services provided by this international organization.
- Six Counterpart target NGOs were selected by USAID to receive humanitarian assistance. Furniture, blankets, and water heaters were among the goods supplied.

KYRGYZSTAN

Target List Changes

The Forum of Women NGOs of Kyrgyzstan was deleted from the list "B," as it has satisfactorily increased its ability to provide technical assistance to its member NGOs.

TTAPs

The Program Coordinators (PCs) designed TTAPs for eleven NGOs during this quarter. Eighty-one NGO representatives took part in TTAP workshops.

Follow-up workshops

The PCs conducted fifteen follow-up workshops for target NGOs during the reporting period. One hundred and four representatives from thirteen NGOs attended those training workshops.

Events

In August 1999 NGO *Mekhri* (Uzbekistan) conducted a workshop for the leaders of women's organizations in Tashkent. Leaders from the Bishkek-based Women's Support Center and Crisis Center *Umut* attended this workshop.

The NGO *Alga* conducted a roundtable on refugee integration on August 5 in line with the project funded by UNHCR through Counterpart Consortium. Participants included: the Akim of Issyk-Ata Rayon; leaders from six ayil okmotus; representatives of the Rayon Militia; the Rayon Employment Department; the Rayon Social Protection Department; the head of the Rayon Passport Office; refugee leaders from Issyk-Ata Rayon; representatives of UNHCR, Counterpart Consortium, ADRA, and the Kara-Balta NGO Support Center; and leaders of refugee NGOs Hireneso and Mok-Suu. Participants discussed the main problems facing refugees (land issues, citizenship, registration, employment, etc.), and shared their vision on ways to address those needs. It was highlighted that the local authorities are providing support to the refugees, but their resources are limited and not sufficient to cover the primary needs. Participants agreed that refugee issues needed to be addressed in connection with the needs of the vulnerable local population, and in close cooperation with all interested parties. The refugee leaders expressed the need for the creation of an organizational structure through which they can lobby their interests. The members of *Alga* will summarize the results of the discussions and present them to all interested parties.

Six NGOs (Women Support Center, Lawyers' Association of Kyrgyzstan, Crisis Center "Umut", the Fund for Legal Problems, the Association for Business Women Support, and the Youth Employment Center) participated in a meeting aimed at establishing a Women's Coordination Center. The participants discussed goals, objectives and mechanisms for partnering within the network.

Program Coordinator Elena Dolgova represented Counterpart at a meeting in Issyk-Kul of the working group of the conference "Women and Elections 2000." The Soros Foundation, NGOs *Development of Human Dimension* and *Women's Support Center* organized this conference. The conference's main goal was to discuss ways to increase the role of women in election-related activities. Ms. Dolgova facilitated the small group discussion on Women Participation Strategy in the Election Process.

In September, the JASC staff distributed about 380 new winter coats and some new clothing provided by ADRA, to vulnerable populations in Jalal-Abad, Kok-Jangak and six villages in Suzak and Bazar-Korgon Rayons. Ayil Okmotys, the Aksakal Councils, and NGOs working with vulnerable groups gave the coats and clothing to the poorest people.

TAJIKISTAN

In the last several months, Counterpart Tajikistan has seen the need to begin to identify more advanced NGOs and to encourage these NGOs to work more closely together on the issues that they have in common, especially sector interests. This Quarter Counterpart's staff members revised the criteria for the tentative Target Group of NGOs, as follows:

1. NGO's mission and experience reflects focus on the peace process as defined by USAID Objectives for Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan;
2. Organization has legal status;
3. Clearly identified group of population that benefits from NGOs activities;
4. NGO addressees needs of significant part of the population that is in a certain part of the county;
5. All leaders of NGOs trained in CC's training, used technical assistance and demonstrated capacity in management skills;
6. NGOs provide social services to vulnerable groups of population;
7. NGOs missions focused on human, women, children and elderly persons' rights;
8. NGOs demonstrated capacity in relationships with governmental and business organizations and other NGOs;
9. NGOs demonstrated capacity in implementing projects involving volunteer resources very effectively;
10. NGO has experience in project implementation supported by international and local donors;
11. Qualification of staff members correspondence to the mission statement and projects of NGO;
12. NGO's significance is noticeable within a certain focus group;

There were previously fifteen NGOs on the tentative targeted list. We will evaluate how many will meet the above revised criteria. Counterpart Tajikistan is moving in the direction of having two levels of targeted NGOs in the list and criteria are being discussed.

TTAP Activity Chart

Reporting period: July 1-September 30, 1999

Date	Name of NGO	ACTIVITIES	Comments
7/8/99	<i>Navras</i>	Introduction	Problems of governance and management of NGO
9/16/99	Women's Initiative	Stage II	Problems of management and relationships of NGO with its clients and members
9/17/99	NANSMIT	Introduction and Stage I	Problems: of governance and relationships of its leadership with its members
9/20/99	Open Asia	Introduction and Stage I	Problems: governance and management

First Stage = meet with NGO, explain purpose and do initial diagnostics in collaboration with staff & membership of NGO

Second Stage = conduct training(s) for needs identified in diagnosis, review NGO work on other items identified, review with NGO progress they have made and set follow-up activities and dates

TURKMENISTAN

During the previous quarter, the Turkmenistan programming staff was compelled to identify a list of target NGOs in order to, as a team, improve its ability to coordinate schedules and plan activities to generate the greatest return on investment from the point of view of staff time, training, and additional resources dedicated to specific NGOs.

This quarter, the targeting process has evolved from mere identification to strategic planning. The staff re-evaluated the preliminary target list, and, as a result of monitoring visits, elected to modify it as some NGOs originally thought to show less potential for development, have actually surpassed our expectations. Those NGOs have, as a result, graduated to the A-list.

The addition of three new staff members with programming responsibilities allowed us to re-visit the concept of developing a "package of services" for NGOs. In the process of training new staff, it became clear that the theory behind the concept was clear but the nuts and bolts of how Counterpart's tools (training, TTAP, monitoring and evaluation, etc.) each reinforce each other and need to be woven together to truly be beneficial elements of an NGO targeting strategy.

Several staff meetings were held to reinforce the target NGO concept, resulting in a programming staff that is more confident in articulating a unified description of what the targeting process is and why it is so valuable. In addition, the team has devised a more realistic list of targets and has improved the planning process to include concrete steps and desired results in order to measure the effectiveness of planned target interventions.

UZBEKISTAN

In the period from June to July, as a follow-up of TTAP exercises, Counterpart Uzbekistan Program Coordinators interviewed target NGOs to track implementation of existing plans. The results of the poll determined the subsequent steps for focused support, as well as laid the groundwork for Counterpart strategic planning for the upcoming 9 months.

In this quarter a TTAP exercise and follow-up meeting was conducted for the *Association of Journalists of Uzbekistan*. These actions helped the members of Association formulate a mission, determine the organizational structure, outline programs, and set immediate objectives.

Bukhara Information and Culture Center – BICC polled 500 young people to assess their perspectives on the current and future opportunities in Bukhara. In response to the poll, BICC established a Youth Club, the first members of which became BICC volunteers. Beginning in September, the Club participants have attended two sessions each week to learn the basics of leadership and communication skills, as well as youth rights.

KRIDI Club - In line with the partnership project implementation plan KRIDI conducted two roundtables for state officials and international and donor organizations to introduce its program and draw participants' attention and resources to solving the problems of disabled children and youth. Also, jointly with its US partner the National Parent Network on Disability, KRIDI conducted a seminar entitled "Parent to Parent" for 25 parents from 5 regions of Uzbekistan.

Mehri, Women's Society - In accordance with their plan for the partnership project supported by Counterpart Uzbekistan and in collaboration with the Women's Center, Mehri conducted a training seminar on how to set up a "hotline" for 24 Uzbekistan and 3 Kyrgyzstan women. In addition to reaching seminar objectives, the Women's Center representatives became acquainted with a variety of women NGOs across Uzbekistan and established contacts with two Kyrgyz NGOs. Satisfied with the project implementation course, the Women's Center Executive Director announced her strong will to launch a fundraising campaign in USA to support future partnership projects.

Junior Achievement, Uzbekistan - In July JA leader Bahodir Samadov participated in international training in NGO Management for NGO leaders, which took place in Israel. In August Counterpart Uzbekistan organized his meeting with target NGOs, where he highlighted the most interesting and useful topics of Israel training.

E. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

KAZAKHSTAN

- Counterpart, Almaty cooperated with the Peace Corps, providing training on Project Design for 74 new Peace Corps' volunteers and their counterparts. This cooperation is likely to become very productive as most of the volunteers will work within various NGOs around Kazakhstan.
- The INTRAC representative in Kazakhstan, was assisted by Counterpart Astana Support Center in organizing meetings with local NGOs, most of which are Counterpart target groups, government agencies and business structures. The main aim of this meeting was to introduce INTRAC's activities to the local audience. During this meetings organizations received some consulting on institutional development issues, a primary activity of INTRAC.

KYRGYZSTAN

- The Country Director took part in a meeting of international and local NGO support organizations (INTRAC, UNDP, UNHCR, InterBilim, Forum of Women NGOs of Kyrgyzstan) designed to increase the coordination of efforts to provide support to local NGOs.
- The Country Director and the Election Grant Program Assistant took part in the OSCE conference held in Bishkek on September 6.
- The Country Director and Coordinator, conducted a series of meetings with IOM and experts on migration issues in order to ensure the development of the joint project to design the Strategy of Social Partnership in Emergency Situations. The project was extended for September 1999, and a draft of the Strategy is to be submitted to IOM by October 7, 1999.
- Counterpart contributed to the development of the Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism in Kyrgyzstan, which were designed by the NGO Environmental Consortium in consultation with 10 governmental bodies, 10 business companies, 6 local NGOs, 6 scientific institutions, and with the support of Flora and Fauna International.
- The Refugee Coordinator of the Kara-Balta Center took part in a meeting of NGOs working with refugees. The main goal of the meeting was to ensure coordination between NGOs providing support to refugees seeking to obtain Kyrgyz citizenship. Following the meeting, the coordinator, together with coordinators of the Young Lawyers Association (YLA) and the UNHCR Legal Assistant, visited the Tajikistan Embassy in Almaty to get information about the procedures for relinquishing Tajikistan citizenship. This information package is being distributed to refugees through Aksakal Councils and the refugee NGOs *Hireneso* and *Mok-Suu*.

TAJIKISTAN

- Counterpart continued its cooperation with international organizations and supplied high levels of collaboratively developed training-related assistance during this Quarter. First and foremost, Counterpart has continued its advocacy on the part of local NGO capabilities to conduct trainings and to manage projects for international organizations and, eventually, the government, in an accountable and transparent manner. This quarter there continued to be a demand from international organizations to have Counterpart identify local NGOs to carrying out training and other project.
- UNDP, with Counterpart assistance, created several local NGOs from their Community Development Centers (CDCs) in Khatlon Oblast.
- Counterpart has continued to assist OSCE since April to develop and implement training plans for an ambitious program of outreach to women in rural areas, to train them to understand and appreciate their rights and those of their families and their potential roles in the electoral process. Thus far over seventy workshops have been held in 28 districts for the benefit of over 600 participants. Counterpart also has provided follow-up training to participants of these workshops to assist them in forming local organizations on the issues of rights and elections.

- Save the Children/US, with assistance from Counterpart Consortium, localized its Micro-lending for Women Project in Kurghan-teppa. The new NGO has received training and technical assistance from Counterpart.
- This quarter Counterpart continued to facilitate a quarterly meeting of donor organizations at the NGO Support Center in Dushanbe.
- Eurasia Foundation Regional Director Lisa Coll met with Counterpart Tajikistan staff and discussed the strengths and needs of the NGO sector in Tajikistan. As a result, Counterpart has referred several NGOs to this donor as excellent leaders in their sectors.
- In September representatives of Eurasia Foundation, Mercy Corps International, Soros Foundation and AED/GTD participated took part in the quarterly meeting of Donor Organizations in Tajikistan at the Counterpart office. Participants shared information about new grantees since the last meeting and news about their grant programs. The following issues were raised and discussed:
 - Not enough donors for NGOs in Gorno Badakhshan.
 - Some NGO leaders run several grants (and sometimes collect multiple salaries).
 - Domination of some NGO leaders implementing grants can result in poor management and poor accountability.
 - Importance of conducting special trainings like TTAPs to strengthen NGOs capacity.
 - Other Donor organizations would like to see reports on TTAPs conducted by NGOs with Counterpart assistance, in order to know more about the NGOs and their capacities.
 - There is still not enough coordination among Donor Agencies.
 - Donors should inform each other about grants given between meetings as well, especially by email.
- Training Requests via the AED/Global Training for Development Project for the next several months were developed and finalized. These include a TA Workshop on *Voter Education* assisted by the Colorado League of Women Voters, an advanced Workshop on *Leadership & Team Building* and a *Disaster Management* training in the USA for government officials from the new Ministry of Emergency Preparedness & Civil Defence and NGOs active in disaster preparedness and intervention. The latter TR was developed in collaboration with FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance, a US-based NGO.
- The Kurghan-teppa NGO Support Center Manager conducted monthly inter-agency meetings with international organizations active in Khatlon Oblast, to share information about their activities and programs. Regular attendees include representatives from SCF/US, OSCE, WFP, GOD, AAH, UNDP, UNHCR, ACTED, SNI, SCF/UK and Counterpart Consortium. They also share information about security and incidents of civil unrest in the area.
- Meetings with the Ministry of Education and contractor NGO *Fidokor* were held regarding the planning and implementation of the Tolerance Education Project. Funding for this project was made available by USAID/OST, and the project was opened by Counterpart through a contract with *Fidokor* in late July.
- The Counterpart NGO Support Center in Khojand continues to host regular meetings of the Coordination Center on Social Partnerships that included representatives of Government of Leninabad Oblast, local business, media and NGOs.

TURKMENISTAN

- The British embassy and the Know-How Fund approached Counterpart on three separate occasions to consult on the capacity and integrity of three local NGOs before they would move ahead with plans of funding the organizations. These instances were just a continuance of the close cooperation that has existed between Counterpart and the British embassy for the last 14 months.

- In addition to the collaborative efforts on the civic education roundtable, USIS and Counterpart forged further cooperative relations this quarter. The local USIS representative sought Counterpart's input in the selection of participants for several activities including two study tours. The participants of both study tours also visited the Counterpart International offices in Washington. This collaboration was the direct result of a recommendation of the Turkmenistan USIS representative who asked that all USIS-funded study tour participants from Turkmenistan include a visit to Counterpart International. The recommendation was adopted by the embassy here. The local USIS representative made the suggestion as the result of the close working relationship with the Counterpart Turkmenistan office over the past two years. The inclusion of Counterpart in the itinerary of such study tours also raises the image of international NGOs with the government as most of the participants are from various ministries.
- As part of our on-going efforts to provide greater access for NGOs to information, Counterpart staff met several times with staff of the British Embassy to lay the groundwork for a joint project to set up internet access in the Ashgabad Support Center. Under the project submitted by Counterpart to the embassy, NGO representatives would be able to surf the net from either the Counterpart office in Ashgabad or the regional Support Centers. The in-house information systems specialist plans to design and conduct training on how to build a homepage so that local NGOs are able to post their information on the web. The British embassy will make their decision on funding of the project in late October.
- Initial meetings took place with two UN agencies to explore joint programming possibilities. The first was with UNDP to discuss cooperation on housing association development under its Municipal Services project through which the UN will provide capital input for apartment buildings and Counterpart would facilitate community organizing to manage those inputs. By the beginning of December, the joint programming should begin in Dashoguz where the Support Center staff would provide expertise in community development. The second agency was UNICEF which asked Counterpart to conduct an evaluation of its water and sanitation program in Dashoguz. Then based the results Counterpart would modify and implement the remaining program in two regions of the province. The evaluation is slated to begin in October.

UZBEKISTAN

- At the request of Abt Associates, Lola Abdousalyamova- Deputy Director, Bahodir Umarchanov - Kokand NGOSC Coordinator, and Mikhail Vishniakov – contract trainer designed and conducted a regional conference on Reproductive Health of Rural Population. The Conference, held in Fergana, convened makhalla chairmen, NGOs, doctors, Hokimiat officials, and international health organizations (50 participants). The aim of the Conference was to discuss reproductive health issues and to boost the consolidation of makhallas, SVPs (rural medical aid posts) and NGOs.
- In July contract trainer Rahima Nazarova traveled to the Fergana Region to conduct, jointly with a consultant of Abt Associates, a PRA-based research in reproductive health in three "kolhozes". This was the third request this year by Abt Associates for Counterpart PRA expertise, demonstrating Counterpart Uzbekistan's position as a regional leader in PRA techniques.
- Anika Airapetyants, Program Coordinator, briefed 15 Peace Corps business volunteers, who will work for NGOs in different parts of the country, on the non-profit sector in Uzbekistan.. Topics covered included NGO registration, NGO Law, government's role in development of the Third Sector, and Uzbek NGOs' characteristic features. The Peace Corps was very satisfied with the interest raised by the session and indicated interest in having joint projects with Counterpart Uzbekistan in future.

- In September United States Information Service cooperated with Counterpart to organize a 2-day seminar on Domestic Violence held in Tashkent and Samarkand. NGOs from Tashkent, Kokand, Nukus, Samarkand, Fergana and Bukhara attended the seminars. American trainers made presentations and Anika Airapetyants and contract trainer Olga Avanesova facilitated the small group sessions.
- The long-awaited seminar entitled "Non-Governmental Organizations, State, Civil Society: Ways of Collaboration" took place on September 24 in Tashkent. The event was organized in collaboration with Kamolot National Youth Fund and GTD Project. The seminar was preceded by two workshops in Presentation Skills, provided by Counterpart Consortium to 25 NGOs. As a result of the training, the NGOs and GONGOs confidently represented their organizations and successfully presented information about their organizations in both displays and public speeches. International organizations, NGOs and high government officials from all over the country attended this very important event. Counterpart Deputy Director and Program Coordinators took part in planning for the conference, organizing space and counseling with NGO-participants. This is the first event of this scale to include both NGOs and GONGOs presented potential of the Third Sector to the State.

F. LEVERAGING

KAZAKHSTAN

- \$10,000 from the Academy for Educational Development for conducting 4 Round Tables and seminars entitled “Legislator – NGO: Constituency Dialogue” in major cities of Kazakstan. The first seminar was conducted in Pavlodar in July (see *Activity Overview*, section “NGO Support Centers”)

KYRGYZSTAN

- USAID provided Counterpart Consortium with funds (\$175,000) to promote open and fair elections. The Election Grant Committee (EGC) consisting of representatives from ABA, US Embassy, Global, ICMA, IFES, InterNews, Eurasia Foundation, NDI, USAID and Counterpart Consortium was established to support open, nonpartisan election related activities. The funds provided through EGC are aimed at educating citizens to increase their participation in elections, contributing to strengthening the principles of transparency of elections, and encouraging citizen’s oversight of the elections. Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan administers this program.
- The agreement between Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan and the Office of International Programs of Indiana University was signed on July 15, 1999. In order to conduct the USIA grant, Indiana University contracted Counterpart to perform certain services within the scope of this grant. The total amount of this agreement is \$10,000 per year.

TURKMENISTAN

- \$11,600 was donated to the Special Olympics Committee of Turkmenistan and “Umyt” NGO, both Counterpart grantees, by the companies “Emarol”, “Oriflame” and “Vekil Soyn”. After consultations with Counterpart staff, the money was received through fundraising activities aimed at sending four participants to the International Special Olympics in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- \$4,280 in travel expenses, conference fees and accommodation charges was provided by Yale University to send a Counterpart staff member to a conference on “Designing Institutions to meet the Challenges of Democratic Governance” in Hartford, Connecticut.
- \$21,350 was the total for inputs from villagers, local and regional water authorities, and Winrock international to build an irrigation dam in one of the villages most active in the Water Users’ Association Project in Dashoguz.
- \$8,490 in grant money was awarded by UNHCR to a Counterpart grantee “Preventative Health and Healthy Lifestyle” to carry out an additional project.
- \$1,371,370 worth of humanitarian assistance was channeled by Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program through a coalition of seven NGOs which initially met through Counterpart training.
- \$13,333 was provided by the Global Project to send two staff of the WUA project and the Dashouz Support Center to Ottawa, Canada, to attend a Participatory Deveopment conference.
- \$310 was given by the company “Parhat” to a Counterpart grantee, Keyik Okara, to attend the Central Asian Artisan Exhibition in Almaty.
- \$1700 was donated by the state corporation “Turkmengeologia” to the Counterpart grantee Young Geologists to fund two one-week field trips for 21 students in the mountains near Ashgabad.
- \$776 was the amount received by the Miraz, the Center for cultural Heritage Studies and Development, in donations, exhibition space and publicity from the Ak Altyn Plaza Hotel and the Turkmensuayhat Corporation to hold an artisans craft fair.
- \$250 was received by the local chapter of Junior Achievement of the Center of Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs, a Counterpart grantee, to attend a regional conference of Junior Achievement.
- \$350 in training space was received by the Water Users’ Association project from local schools to hold 35 water and hygiene mini-trainings.

- \$100 in free labor was donated by 16 volunteers during the two days of preparation for the first Open House held at the new Water Users' Association Project office.
- \$315 in training space was contributed by institutes and government agencies to contract trainers who held training outside the Counterpart office.

UZBEKISTAN

- UNHCR allocated \$25,650 and 1,684,977.00 Uzbek Sums for NGO Support Centers in Bukhara, Kokand and Nukus, and for the Tashkent Resource Center.
- In September USIS provided \$4,126 for two seminars on Domestic Violence to cover seminar costs and Counterpart's administration fee.

III. 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

Kazakhstan Eliminates Repressive NGO Restriction from Law

The Administrative Violations Code severely limited the ability for NGOs to hold meetings. The provision also made it illegal for organizations to be unregistered. This restriction (provision 188-2) was applied in the previous year to persons engaged in NGO activity and resulted in several convictions. ICNL openly criticized this provision in its work with the Ministry of Justice, parliamentarians, US Embassy and consultants to the President. ICNL emphasized to the government that this provision ran contrary to international norms and potentially led to abuses. At last, this needless and arbitrary provision of the Administrative Violations Code was repealed this Summer. The removal of this provision brings Kazakhstan's NGO legislation one step closer to international standards.

Clarification to Kazakhstan Tax Code Is Closer to Adoption

Through various seminars, discussions with governmental partners and presentations in Parliamentary conferences, ICNL has pointed out several ambiguities in the current Tax Code. One of these ambiguities is the definition of a "grant". This definition is subject to various interpretations and in some cases, grants can be considered income. ICNL proposed a clarification to this definition that would place grants in a category distinct from income (non-profit revenue). That same clarification is now one step closer to adoption as it has been placed on an official list of potential amendments to the Tax Code. Parliamentary consideration is expected in November.

ICNL Participates in Public Hearing on NGO Draft Law

The initial NGO draft law (drafted by the Senate working group) was released early June for public dissemination and discussion. This draft serves as a solid base for an NGO law. The senators (with ABA and ICNL) held a public hearing whereby NGOs were invited to Astana to give testimony to the Senate Legislative Committee on the current draft. Although the NGOs were critical of the draft, the drafters were open to their comments. These comments were reduced to written form and submitted to the drafters for further review.

TAJKISTAN

Tajikistan Working Group Finishes First Draft of New NGO Law On Non-commercial Organizations

The government of Tajikistan and NGO community are actively pursuing NGO law reform. However, the needed expertise on such a subject is hard to find. The government formed a quasi-governmental working group to address this issue. In addition to its local partner, ICNL also sent consultants to Tajikistan to work directly on this draft and with the quasi-governmental working group. The group finished the first version of a new draft law, "On Non-commercial Organizations." This law meets international standards of NGO legislation and creates a progressive regime of NGO registration and regulation. It is anticipated the new draft law will be submitted after October 10th in the Parliament of Tajikistan. Adoption is anticipated in January 2000.

ICNL and OSI Hold Large-Scale Conference on the New NGO Draft Law

As all laws, the new NGO draft law was drafted by a working group in isolation. At some point, it was necessary to introduce the new draft to the NGO community and government. To accomplish this task, ICNL and OSI held a joint conference on the new bill. There, over 60 participants from government, NGOs and international organizations took part in making comments to the new draft law. These comments have been incorporated into the latest version of the draft law.

UZBEKISTAN

ICNL Receives Matching Funds to Create Legislative Manual on New NGO Law

In April 1999, Uzbekistan adopted the new law regulating non-governmental, non-commercial organizations. The new law, "*On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations*", offers an enabling environment for NGOs by easing registration and reporting requirements. However, the law must be implemented properly. In fact, there are current efforts by governmental forces to limit the application of the new law. ICNL, along with the drafters of the law, has planned to draft a manual on the new law outlining its various provisions and stressing the desired effect of these provisions. The manual will be a legislative reference guide used by both government officials and NGO representatives.

During this period, ICNL and its governmental partners began drafting the manual, but unfortunately, funding was a problem. Neither ICNL nor the partners could afford the publication costs. ICNL applied to OSI for assistance and OSI has agreed to fund this publication (due to be completed in November).

ICNL Also Receives Funding for Proposed Seminar Series on New NGO Law

ICNL has also secured funding from USAID's Global Training and Development to carry out a seminar series utilizing the above-mentioned manual. The seminars will introduce NGOs and government officials to the new law and aide in the law's implementation.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

KAZAKHSTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

As mentioned in the previous section, ICNL is continuing its work with the Senate Legislative Committee of Kazakhstan in drafting this new NGO law--to be adopted in 1999. This draft will elaborate on the current law, *On Public Associations* and regulate foundations, institutions, and associations.

As is highlighted in the previous section, ICNL and ANNOK contributed to a public hearing sponsored by the Senate of Kazakhstan and the ABA. At this event, ICNL gave an introductory presentation on internationally accepted principles of NGO legislation and raised primary issues for the event. ICNL and its NGO partner, ANNOK, also gave testimony and highlighted other issues. In all, more than 8 large-scale NGOs were able to give official testimony on the draft law. ICNL moderated work between ANNOK and a coalition of NGOs and the Senate Legislative Committee on revising the draft for submission this Fall. ICNL will continue assistance to both parties NGOs and the drafters. Based on what we have seen to date, the draft creates contemporary forms of non-commercial organizations and eliminates many of the current restrictions in registration and regulation.

Although the Kazakhstan Tax Code creates some tax benefits for charitable organizations, no legislation exists that can identify such organizations. 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.

Encouraging Dialogue on NGO Laws

ICNL NGO partner, ANNOK concluded a series of "public meetings" around the country to discuss draft legislation. ANNOK and ICNL collected and analyzed the various comments made by NGOs and attempt to incorporate these issues into the draft law. ICNL has gathered these summations in the form of official suggestions, which ICNL and ANNOK forwarded directly to the Senate working group.

As mentioned in the Impacts section, ICNL invited more than a dozen NGOs to actively participate in a public hearing held under the auspices of the Senate Committee on Legislation. The public hearing gave NGOs the ability to interact directly with the senators responsible for drafting the new law. ICNL continues working with the working group to insure that NGO's comments are considered and implemented.

Tax Reform

ICNL and ANNOK have been discussing tax law reform for over a year at various events and in their talks with government officials (Ministry of Justice, Deputies and Senators). This quarter, tax amendments were proposed that would clarify the definition of grant solidly placing this type of donation in the non-profit category. The proposal remains undecided until after the fall elections in Parliament. But if adopted, this change will demonstrate the success of the ICNL/ANNOK partnership.

KYRGYZSTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

As detailed in previous reports, ICNL facilitated the creation of a NGO/governmental working group that has drafted a comprehensive and progressive NGO draft law in Kyrgyzstan. In June, the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan passed the NGO draft law and it was sent to the President for signature in July. The President vetoed the draft law for both minor technical and seemingly political reasons. ICNL quickly addressed this situation by meeting with governmental and NGO partners in Kyrgyzstan. At the request of local partners ICNL drafted response to the president's veto. This response was submitted to Parliament for use in their response to the President. If adopted and implemented properly, this NGO law will be one of the most progressive laws in the entire CIS. It is expected that this law will be adopted by December 1999.

Last Spring, the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Justice issued a decree that extended the Ministry's power to investigate NGO activities. In short, the Ministry severely tightened the current restrictions on NGO activity and threatened to use these self-created powers to combat political opposition. This extension of power clearly violates the Constitution and acceptable international norms of NGO regulation. The OSCE was requested by the President and the Ministry to comment on this new decree. The OSCE, in turn, called upon ICNL. ICNL drafted a critical analysis of the decree that was submitted directly to the Ministry of Justice. ICNL expects a response to the analysis in late October.

Publishing

ICNL has published various articles regarding the proposed NGO draft law. Most recently, ICNL published an article in the *Times of Central Asia* on the benefits of the new law. ICNL will continue to draft such articles for public dissemination.

TAJIKISTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

As was stated previously (*in the Project Impacts section*), ICNL is currently working on two pieces of legislation: a general NGO law and a charity law. ICNL has already been successful in drafting and adopting of a revised law "*On Public Associations*", new Civil Code and Tax Code. The first version of the "Law on Non-Commercial Organizations" was completed in August.

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 law on charities. This new law would ideally identify NGOs for preferential tax status and identify what types of NGO activity is "charitable" (for use in determining charitable contribution deductions for private funders). The desire for such a law has culminated into the creation of a quasi-governmental working group, which will include ICNL as its official consultant. This working group has begun drafting a new charity law that is expected to be completed by November 1st.

As was mentioned in the Impacts section, ICNL and OSI teamed up to hold a seminar on the new NGO draft law of Tajikistan (over 60 participants). The NGOs made comments and suggestions to the draft law that will be submitted to Parliament on November 1st, 1999. Adoption expected in January 2000.

TURKMENISTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

A new draft law has appeared in Turkmenistan. The draft law was developed by the State Committee on Foreign Investment and is entitled, "On the Registration (of Legal Entities)". This law may have negative consequences to those registering NGOs. In fact, the initial government version complicates the registration procedure for NGOs in Turkmenistan. ICNL has been requested by Booz-Allen to assist with this draft law and to address the sections which effect NGO registration. ICNL will propose drastic changes to this draft law and discuss these proposals with international consultants and governmental partners in hopes of improving this piece of legislation (scheduled for adoption in January 2000).

Based on meetings with government officials and Tacis, ICNL is currently drafting tax benefits for NGOs. These benefits will potentially be adopted with the new Tax Code this Fall.

The Civil Code came into force starting on March 1, 1999. Last year ICNL provided technical assistance with drafting the new Code's provisions affecting NGO. During the conference "*The Legal and Regulatory Environment for Non-Governmental Organizations*" conducted by ICNL last March, it became clear that NGOs are unaware of their new rights. At the request of NGOs, ICNL prepared a Matrix to compare the outdated provisions of the Law On Public Associations and the new provisions of the Civil Code regulating the same issues. The Civil Code provisions are very progressive and replace adequate provisions of the Law on Public Associations. The Matrix will help NGOs to know and protect their rights. Counterpart and OSCE are taking active part in distributing this Matrix to a broad range of NGOs.

ICNL has also disseminated this Matrix to those working directly on Civil Code implementation including Tacis, Booz-Allen, GTZ and various governmental partners. ICNL plans to raise the new Civil Code provisions regarding NGOs in various seminars planned through October and November 1999.

UZBEKISTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

In April 1999, Uzbekistan adopted the new law regulating non-governmental, non-commercial organizations. The new law, "*On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations*", will improve the enabling environment for NGOs by easing registration and reporting requirements.

As mentioned in the previous section, ICNL is working on a new publication and coinciding seminar series for governmental officials and more importantly, for NGOs. ICNL and its partners began actively writing this manual during this period.

Publishing

ICNL published the new law "*On Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations of Uzbekistan*" in Russian and in English, which are available to all interested parties. ICNL has also completed a summary of the changes (mostly positive) which has been distributed among international and local organizations. Counterpart and other NGO resource centers provided assistance with distributing the mentioned materials. Lastly, ICNL was able to publish several articles in various newspapers and bulletins (English and Russian) analyzing and summarizing the law including an ISAR publication.

Training of Government Officials

ICNL held meetings with their governmental partners/NGO law drafters in Uzbekistan: A. Saidov of the National Center for Human Rights and M. Gasanov from the Institute of Monitoring Legislation. The end result was a plan for implementation activity. To assist in implementation, ICNL and the drafters will author a short manual of selected texts from the law. The manual will highlight some text of the new law and explain these texts to help with their implementation. This publication will be used in a series of trainings to be held in the fall. These trainings would also assist in the implementation of the new law by indoctrinating government representatives and NGOs to the new law.

Monitoring

In Uzbekistan, follow-up regulations consist of various letters and instructions. With the adoption of a new law, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) must draft implementation instructions. The MoJ finished its version of these instructions and submitted them to the Cabinet of Ministers. As it turns out, they did not accept ICNL's advice and simply turned in the same instructions used for the Public Associations Law. The Cabinet of Ministers seems ready to reject these stale comments out of hand. If they do accept them, the Institute of Monitoring Legislation plans to file to the Constitutional Court to challenge the use of the provisions. ICNL will continue to monitor the situation and work on these instructions to insure that the law is properly implemented.

D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION

REGIONAL

US and International Organizations

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

In addition, ICNL Regional Director, Richard Remias established cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TASIC, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP.

Richard Remias, met with the regional representatives of Central Asia Eurasia to discuss the various legislative initiatives and potential cooperation between ICNL and Eurasia.

KAZAKHSTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL continues to cooperate with Soros, UNDP, UNHCR, ABA, and USAID's OMT. ICNL also works with the ARD Checchi and USAID representatives concerning the Kazakhstan MoJ.

ICNL has periodically provided information and updates to Kazakhstan donor meetings. ICNL briefs the donors on the legislative initiatives. Present at such meetings are the UNDP, USAID, Mercy Corps, Peace Corps, World Bank, the Dutch Embassy, the Japanese Embassy, UNHCR, Tacis, EU representatives, OSCE, the Soros Foundation, and Counterpart.

ICNL has established contact with the OSCE representation in Kazakhstan. OSCE will rely on ICNL assistance in their assessments of NGO legislation.

Lastly, ICNL has provided critical information to the US Embassy, Department of State and US Ambassador concerning legal norms regulating the freedom of association and the problems faced by NGOs in Kazakhstan. This information was used for ambassadorial meetings with Ministers.

NGOs

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 of Kazakhstan); the Association of the Invalids Organizations "Zhan"; Women and Law; the NGO "Legal Initiative: CASDIN"; The NGO "Formation of a Tax Culture"; Legal Development of Kazakhstan; Pensioners NGO "Pokoleniye"; Roman Podoprigora, Higher School of Law "Adilet".

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

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

US and International Organizations

ICNL maintains a close working relationship with the officers of the OSCE and has done several analyses for OSCE use in their diplomatic dialogue with government. ICNL also has provided the US Embassy with insight regarding government policies and actions. ICNL is also developing new relations with the UK-based INTRAC.

NGOs

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

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

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

US and International Organizations

ICNL works closely the Soros Foundation (OSI) to identify initiatives and effective assistance programs. Further cooperation and co-funding has been received from UNHCR. ICNL also maintains a cooperative relationship with the Aga Khan Foundation, the Red Cross and ARD Checchi (in their relations with the MoJ).

NGOs

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, Tajikistan.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

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

TURKMENISTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL has already established working relations with USAID/Booz-Allen legislative experts and TACIS (on drafting new Law on Registration and new Tax Code). ICNL has also worked closely with USAID's office in Turkmenistan. Other international contacts were established with OSCE, UNDP, and UNHCR.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

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. In addition, various deputies and representatives from the Tax Inspectorate were contacted.

UZBEKISTAN —

US and International Organizations

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, Eurasia, UNDP, and OSCE. The UNHCR and OSI also held international conferences in cooperation with ICNL.

NGOs

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 in Bukhara, Uzbekistan; "AYOL" Center for Women and Family, located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan; Samarkand Business School, located in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

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). ICNL has also established a relationship with Golnara Yoldasheva Deputy from the Olyi Majilis and Director, of the "Healthy Generation" NGO in Uzbekistan. The is a high profile NGO that may actively participate in the working group.

E. 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.

GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

KAZAKHSTAN

This quarter Counterpart Almaty administrated the first round of the Women's Grant Program funded by USAID. Many efforts were made to work out the guidelines and selection criteria, to collect proposals, and to make the necessary preparations for the first Women's Grant Program's Committee. 56 proposals have been received. It is important to note that 50% of them were from outside of Almaty, which demonstrates the efforts of Counterpart to reach NGOs outside of the former capital. The screening committee, which consisted of the local Counterpart staff, selected 20 proposals for the Women's Grant Program's Committee in accordance with the main criteria of the program. The first Grant Committee consisting of representatives of USAID, USIS, international organizations and leading donors' organizations will be held in the beginning of October.

Monitoring remains a high priority for the programming staff and 20 NGOs were monitored and evaluated over the last three months. The staff of NGO Support Centers in Astana and Shymkent assisted in reaching the NGOs situated far from Almaty which helped to reduce the monitoring expenses. The following organizations were visited by our monitoring team during this quarter:

Almaty

- Public Association "Equal to Equal"
- The League "Ak Bota"
- Pokolenie
- Business Women's Association
- Kazakhstan Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Miners
- ANNOK
- Children's Time

Aralsk

- Urpak, Public Association

Astana

- National Federation of Housing Associations
- Association of Victims of Unlawful Repression

Kostanai

- Kostanai branch of Business Women's Association
- Help, Public Foundation

Pavlodar

- Consultative Information Center

Shimkent

- SKAL, Southern Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers
- Dialogue
- Sootechestvennik

Stepnogorsk

- Pokolenie

Taldykorgan

- Alpamys, Public Society
- Town Association of Consumer Rights' Protection, "Contact"

Tekely

- Tekely Business advisory Center

KYRGYZSTAN

The Grant Manager Kuban Assanov monitored 14 Counterpart grantees and received 14 monthly project reports from grantees (Appendix 3). Four projects were successfully completed. In addition, six organizations of Bishkek and Chuy Oblast that received election grants were monitored during the last week of September in accordance with the monitoring plan. In general, the projects are being implemented according to planned goals and objectives. Because of budget savings, the following NGOs made repayments: Aikyn (\$367), Rural Children Rights Protection Bureau (\$378), Fund of Legal Problem (\$920).

The second meeting of the local grant committee was held in Jalal-Abad at the Support Center office on July 14. Four grant applications, submitted by Jalal-Abad Oblast NGOs and refugee communities, were

reviewed, one proposal was approved with conditions, three proposals were recommended for revision to fit small grant program criteria.

The two Election Grant Committee (EGC) meetings conducted in the Counterpart office, resulted in twenty seven proposals from local entities (NGOs, mass media, government bodies, businesses, and individuals) being approved, totaling \$50,000. Counterpart Kyrgyzstan, together with the Support Centers, started to monitor the activities of grantees during the last week of September. A countrywide monitoring plan was compiled in order to cover all election-related activities funded through EGC.

The following NGOs were monitored by the Grant Manager:

1. Ilim Educational Complex, Bishkek
2. Ecoinfocenter, Bishkek
3. Tree of Life, Bishkek
4. Junior Achievement, Bishkek
5. Tax Consultants Chamber, Bishkek
6. Fund of Legal Problems, Bishkek
7. Employment Promotion Society
ChuyPromStroy, Bishkek
8. Rural Children Rights Protection Bureau,
Jalal-Abad Oblast
9. Jalal-Abad Support Center, Jalal-Abad
10. Aibek, Jalal-Abad Oblast
11. Chernobyl Union of Nookat, Osh Oblast
12. Afghan Union, Osh
13. Mekhri Shavkat, Osh Oblast
14. Fund for Support of Legal and Economic
Reform (FSLER), Osh

The list of completed projects:

1. Fund for Support of Legal and Economic Reform (FSLER), Osh
2. Retraining Center for Disabled Children, Bishkek
3. Fund of Legal Problems, Bishkek
4. Dialog, Bishkek

TAJIKISTAN

Newly Approved Grants

NGO *Volunteer* (\$6,395) This NGO is based in Khurog, capital of the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast in the Pamir Mountains, adjoining Afghanistan to the south, Kyrgyzstan to the north and China to the east. This area is rapidly becoming a major transit area for illicit drugs (opium). Drug abuse and addiction has rapidly increased dramatically in the last few years, especially among the approximately 7000 youth (teenage) population, but also across the population of GBAO. This NGO has been working successfully in youth programming in the area for the last 1 ½ years and has created their project “**NO! to Drugs in GBAO.**” to address the issues of drug abuse and addiction through education, media campaigns, youth activities (sports/recreation) and appropriate law enforcement. They will work with Government, local NGOs and informal youth groups and schools to implement these activities. *Volunteer* has received training and technical assistance from Counterpart Consortium NGO Support Center in Khojand.

NGO *Nidoi Asr* (\$7,275) This NGO’s mission is to focus on needs of women in makhallas and other areas in and around Dushanbe. They have worked together as a group over the last year and have become a registered NGO during this Quarter. Their project “**Protect Yourself**” will seek to build a coalition of NGOs on the issue of women as the victims of violence, develop and publish a bimonthly newsletter for inner-city (Central District, Dushanbe) women, conduct seminars for Government officials and NGO members regarding the seriousness and impacts of the problem of violence against women, establish a Women’s Center in the Central District and conduct trainings in women’s rights and self-defense for women. The goal is to train at least 200 inner-city women as change agents and to raise the consciousness of Government and NGOs as to the seriousness of the problems and the need for positive action. Members of this NGO and many of those in the potential NGO coalition have received training and technical assistance from Counterpart Consortium.

NGO *Information & Education Center "Manizha"* (\$5,090) This NGO will publish and distribute a full-size newspaper that carries the messages, activities and effectiveness of NGOs to the public across Tajikistan. This group of highly trained, educated and experience people has carried out several projects under contract with international assistance organizations on various aspects of assessment, training and education that have addressed the issues of peace building, especially in conflict-impacted areas of Tajikistan. To provide the coverage for adequate reporting on NGO activities, they will set up a network of correspondents and a collection system that will provide the news and background information for articles on local NGOs and the problems they are targeting. Circulation may prove to be the biggest problem to the success of the newspaper, as the Tajik Postal Service leaves much to be desired. However, the NGO plans to use its information collection network to facilitate distribution. The leader of *Manizha* is a Counterpart Contract Trainer and has participated in the development of many of the Counterpart Training Modules.

NGO *Zan wa Zamin (Women and Earth)* (\$5,500) This newly-registered NGO comprises a group of concerned citizens and professionals who have been active in health, sanitation and environmental issues in and around Dushanbe for several years. This project addresses current problems of dwellers of high-rise apartments buildings (10+ stories) who are often without utilities (water, electricity and gas) and garbage service on a chronic basis since the civil war in 1992. An additional problem is that these under-served buildings house inhabitants who mostly have rural backgrounds and have only recently come to the Dushanbe area; as a consequence they have no tradition of the "Dom-Com" – housing associations that were present under Soviet regime. Their objective under this project include the establishment of an Information Center, trainings on sanitation issues and association development, and a media campaign in order help their targeted groups to form housing associations to address the issues of sanitation and to better advocate for improved water and other utility services and garbage collection by the City of Dushanbe and Makhalla(s) to these under-served people. They will also seek to establish contacts and technical exchange with NGOs doing similar activities in Kazakstan or Kyrgyzstan. Counterpart Consortium has also supplied members of this NGO with training and technical assistance services.

TURKMENISTAN

Three new grants were awarded this quarter – two partnership grants and one support grant:

- A \$7009 grant was awarded to the NGO "Green Team" of Turkmen State University under the project entitled "A New Mindset for the New Millenium." The aim of the project is to develop and introduce through a social partnership approach standards for ecology education for the national school curriculum. Green Team, Institute of Education at the university and the Ministries of Education and Environment constitute the four main corners of this partnership grant. This grant allows the NGO to take the lead in the steady but measured movement of eco-NGOs in Turkmenistan to advocate for environmental protection, first, by engaging government structures in dialogue though a national conference on ecology enducation standards and second, by educating the general population on the importance careful management of the environment.
- A grant of \$5,569 was awarded to the Ecoclub "Chesme" of the Turkmen Polytechnic Institute for a project entitled "Knowledge is Power." This project complements well the Green Team project because it aims to introduce innovative and relevant teaching methods for including ecology education in the classroom on a daily basis. The project also provides funding for purchasing reagents in order to carry out monitoring of water and air quality of specific sites in and around Ashgabad. The findings of the monitoring activities will be used as a basis to approach government about ways to improve environmental conditions of those sites.
- A grant of \$5,504 was awarded to the Union of Pensioners "Arma" to sent up a resource center of pensioners and persons on social security. The primary function of the center is to serve as a clearinghouse for job opportunities for pensioners. The center staff and volunteer professionals will also provide moral support, consultations in contracting, legal counsel, educational materials on pensioners rights and a variety of current reading materials.

Monitoring

During the quarter, the grant manager made 20 monitoring visits to Counterpart grantees. The grant for Preventative Health and Healthy Lifestyle was temporarily suspended due to lack of performance on important components of the project. Following a strong warning with a probationary period, an extensive consultation and a follow-up visit, the NGO and its implementation of the project were back on track and received the next disbursement. With such a fledgling and small community of NGOs in Turkmenistan monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in Turkmenistan has come to fulfill two functions. First, it provides a means of determining the extent the terms of the project are completed. Second, such visits provide an ideal opportunity for the grant manager give in-depth consultation to help NGOs work their way through shortcomings and difficulties. Such a hands-on approach to monitoring coupled with results-oriented consultations has proven effective for building rapport between the programming staff and grantees.

UZBEKISTAN

Monitoring exercises were carried out with a number of NGO grantees in this quarter. Monitoring Officer visited the following groups in July - September:

Tashkent

- KRIDI, Club
- Junior Achievement, Uzbekistan
- Open Library for Legal Information
- Center for Study of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- Mehri, Women's Society.
- Zakovat, Public Foundation for Information Support
- Barkamollik, center for development of family culture
- Children and Adults, center for development of creative abilities

Samarkand

- IROSAM, Samarkand International Communication Center
- Meros, Samarkand's craftsmen Association
- Oilam, Club

Bukhara

- Bukhara Center for Information and Culture
- BWA, Bukhara
- Association of private tourist companies and small businesses

TRAINING MATRIX

KAZAKHSTAN				
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	1	23	26
2.	Project Design	5	140	173
3.	Strategic Planning	1	12	19
4.	Fundraising	3	47	64
5.	Advocacy	2	16	36
6.	Financial Management	1	18	22
7.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	11	17
8.	Social Partnership	4	50	73
9.	Constituency Building	1	13	16
10.	Elections/Making Democracy Work	2	11	52
	Total	21	341	498
KYRGYZSTAN				
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	1	9	10
2.	Strategic Planning	2	23	38
3.	NGO Management	2	22	26
4.	Advocacy	1	10	14
5.	Social Partnership	3	30	46
6.	Using Internet and E-mail.	2	18	30
	Total	11	112	164
TAJKISTAN				
#	Type of workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	15	145	234
2.	NGO Management	9	50	113
3.	Project Design	7	79	113
4.	Social Partnership	3	43	56
5.	Strategic Planning	7	60	111
6.	Financial Management	2	11	36
7.	Public Education Through the Media	1	18	23
8.	Association Development	1	11	14
9.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	2	18	26
10.	Newsletter Publication	1	11	14
11.	Human Resource Development	2	18	28
12.	Conflict Resolution (TOT)	1	13	13
13.	Adult Learning Styles (TOT)	1	13	13
14.	Problem Identification	4	47	85
	Total	56	537	879

TURKMENISTAN				
#	Type of Workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	7	91	118
2.	NGO Management	3	28	45
3.	Project Design	1	15	15
4.	Strategic Planning	1	10	13
5.	Public Education through the Media	1	11	12
6.	Fundraising	1	18	18
7.	Association Development	1	7	12
8.	Advocacy	1	14	14
9.	Social Partnership	1	15	17
10.	Governance	1	17	17
11.	Constituency Development	1	17	18
12.	Newsletter Development	1	8	12
13.	Small Business Development	1	15	16
14.	Training Methodology	1	11	20
15.	TOT in Public Education through the Media	1	8	9
16.	TTAPs	3	3	24
	Total	26	288	380
UZBEKISTAN				
#	Type of workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO&Community	2	55	18
2.	Advocacy	1	3	17
3.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	13	20
4.	Social Partnership	1	5	11
5.	Governance	1	1	1
6.	Constituency Development	1	11	17
7.	Special seminar PRA	2	17	34
8.	Small Business Development	1	10	18
9.	Presentation Skills	1	6	15
	Total:	11	121	151

LIST OF TARGET GROUPS

KAZAKHSTAN

A-List of Target NGOs

1. Association of Non-Commercial Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK), Almaty
2. Association of School Unions, Almaty
3. Center of Democracy Education "Leader", Almaty

B-List of Target NGOs

1. Association of Pension Funds, Almaty
2. Pavlodar Housing Association, Pavlodar
3. Society 'Diabetes', Taraz

Affiliated Resource Centers

1. Consulting Center "Zubr", Ust-Kamenogorsk
2. Eco-Center, Karaganda
3. Help, Kostanai
4. International Club "Kiwanis," Taraz

C-List of Target NGOs

1. 'Ainalayin', Taraz
2. Almaty Helsinki Committee, Almaty
3. Almaty Women' Information Center, Almaty
4. Antinar, Almaty
5. Association "Bridge", Almaty
6. Association of Initiative Schools, Almaty
7. Astana Oblast Association of Victims of Illegal Repression, Astana
8. Baspana, Almaty
9. Business Women Association of Kazakhstan, Almaty
10. Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI), Almaty
11. Center for Conflict Management, Almaty
12. Center for Ecological Education and Informing of Population "Kausar", Astana
13. Center of Decorative Applied Arts "Bahyt", Almaty
14. Central Asia Journalists' Association, Almaty
15. Children's Time, Almaty
16. Consumer's Advocate, Astana
17. Consumer's Rights Protection Society "Shield", Stepnogorsk
18. Copyright Association, Almaty
19. Cultural Legal Youth Center (CLYC), Almaty
20. Ecological Center "Priishimie", Petropavlovsk
21. Ecological Tourism Center "Belovodie", Leninogorsk
22. Ecological Union for Information and Coordination on Ecological Education "Ecos", Kokshetau
23. Ekoproyekt, Almaty
24. Equal-to-Equal, Almaty
25. Feminist League, Almaty
26. Green Party, Ust-Kamenogorsk
27. Information and Research Center for Civic Education, Almaty
28. Junior Achievement, Almaty
29. Karaganda Bureau on Human Rights, Karaganda
30. Kaspj –Tabigat, Atyrau
31. Kazakhstan Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Miners (KCFTUM), Almaty
32. Kazakhstan Association of Food Enterprises, Almaty
33. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Shimkent
34. Kostanai Business Women Association, Kostanai
35. League of Young Voters, Almaty
36. National Consumers' Rights Protection Association, Almaty
37. National Federation of Housing Associations, Astana
38. National Housing Association (RAKSP), Almaty
39. Parents' Association 'Defending Disabled Children with Mental & Physical Disorders', Taldy-Korgan
40. Pavlodar Business Women Association, Pavlodar

41. Pensioners' Social & Legal Protection Movement "Pokolenie", Stepnogorsk
42. Pensioners' Social & Legal Protection Movement "Pokolenie," Almaty
43. Pensioners' Social & Legal Protection Movement "Pokolenie," Astana
44. Service of Ethnological Monitoring and Early Prevention of Conflicts, Shimkent
45. Sheber Aul, Almaty
46. Shimkent Business Women Association, Shimkent
47. Social Adaptation & Labor Rehabilitation for Mentally and Physically Disabled Children SATR, Almaty
48. Social Project Center "YPPY", Almaty
49. Soldiers' Mothers Committee, Almaty

50. Soldiers' Mothers Committee, Astana
51. Sootechestvennik, Shimkent
52. Southern Kazakhstan Bars Association, Shimkent
53. Special Olympics Kazakhstan (SOK), Almaty
54. Taraz Business Women Association, Taraz
55. Tax Standards Formation Fund, Almaty
56. Union of Handicapped, Almaty
57. Union of Lawyers "Legal Initiative", Almaty
58. Women' Association for Development and Adaptation "Zharia", Astana
59. Women' Voters Coalition, Almaty
60. XXI Century, Almaty

KYRGYZSTAN

A-List of Target NGOs

1. InterBilim, Bishkek
2. Aikyn, Bishkek
3. Polis, Bishkek
4. Public Fund of harmony and Tolerance, Bishkek
5. Women Support Center, Bishkek
6. Aibek, Jalal-Abad
7. NGO Support Center, Jalal-Abad
8. NGO Support Center, Kara-Balta
9. NGO Support Center, Naryn

B-List of Target NGOs

1. Development of Human Dimension, Bishkek
2. BIOM, Bishkek
3. Legal Initiative Fund, Bishkek
4. Association of Social workers, Bishkek
5. Training Center for Disabled Children, Bishkek
6. Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
7. Alga, Chui oblast
8. Publec Center "Leader"

C-List of Target NGOs

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kyrgyz Association of Brokers and Leaders, Bishkek 2. Tree of life, Bishkek 3. Club "Smoke Free-Kyrgyzstan", Bishkek 4. EJIAD, Bishkek 5. Organizations in Chui valley "Our Home", Bishkek 6. Crisis Center "Umut", Bishkek 7. Crisis Center "Sezim", Bishkek 8. Charitable Fund "Sanitas" 9. Talent Support Fund, Bishkek | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Educational Complex "Ilim", Bishkek 11. Association on Supporting business women, Bishkek 12. Center of Young Scientists and Aspirants, Bishkek 13. National Society of Red Crescent, Bishkek] 14. Youth Advocacy Organization, Bishkek 15. Juridical NGO "Civil Dignity", Bishkek 16. NGO "Ai-Danek", Bishkek 17. Association of Specialists of an Interactive methods, Bishkek |
|---|---|

18. Women Congress of KR, Bishkek
19. Chamber of consultants on taxation, Bishkek
20. Association of Central Asian Journalists, Bishkek
21. TV "Cross road", Bishkek
22. Semetei, Bishkek
23. Junior Achievement, Bishkek
24. Fund of legal problems, Bishkek
25. Bureau of Children's project, Bishkek
26. Public Center of Ecological Information, Bishkek
27. Bishkek Center of Social Initiatives, Bishkek
28. Bishkek Educational Fund, Bishkek
29. Association of Assistance to employment, Bishkek
30. Coalition of NGOs "For Democracy and Civil Society", Bishkek
31. "Baichechekey", Kara-Balta
32. Tosh-Bulak Rural Youth organization, Tosh-Bulak Village
33. NGO "Jez-Oimok", Panfilov region
34. Fund of assisting and supporting Law and economical reforms in Jyrgyzstan, Osh
35. Youth Association "Gulfstream", Osh
36. Nookat Association "Chernobyl", Osh
37. Ata-Jurt, Osh
38. Ecological Movement "Abshyr", Osh
39. Union of Afghan veterans, Osh
40. Kindness to women, Aravan
41. Batken PFA, Osh oblast
42. NGO "Ulgu", Jalal-Abad oblast
43. NGO "Aksana", Jalal-Abad
44. Justice, Jalal-Abad
45. Bureau of Children's rights protection, Jalal-Abad oblast
46. Tendesh, Naryn
47. Bayastan, Naryn
48. Soopker, Naryn
49. NGO "Shoola", Talas
50. Medical Center "Tsirina", Talas
51. Center of women initiatives, Talals
52. Talas PFA, Talas
53. Kut-Bilim, Issyk-Kul oblast
54. Union of rural women, Karakol
55. Association of family physicians, Karakol
56. Youth ecological Movement "Green House", Karakol
57. NGO "Shoola", Issyk-Kul oblast
58. NGO "Umut", Balykchi

TURKMENISTAN

A-List of Target NGOs

1. Keik Okara
2. Center of Education and young Entrepreneurs
3. Association of Family Physicians
4. Central Asian Association of Journalists

C-List of Target NGOs

1. Special Olympics of Turkmenbashy city
2. "Umyt"
3. Yashyl
4. Center of cultural heritage and development
5. "Civil Dignity"
6. "My Right"

C-List of Target NGOs

1. Preventive health and healthy lifestyle
2. Young Geologists
3. *Achyk Gapy*
4. *Formatsiya*
5. *Cheshme*
6. Disabled Union
7. *Dostluk*
8. Ecoforest
9. *Arma*

UZBEKISTAN

A-List of Target NGOs

1. Association of Journalists
2. Center for Studies of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
3. Tashkent Public Education Center
4. "Mekhri" Women's Society
5. "Women and Society"
6. Information and Culture Center, Bukhara
7. Association of Physicians of Uzbekistan
8. Bukhara Artisans's Center
9. Association of Private Tourist Business, Bukhara

B-List of Target NGOs

1. Kokand Branch of the "Tadbirkor Ayol"
2. Farmer Center, Nukus
3. "KRIDI" Club, Tashkent
4. "Ayol" Center for Women and Children, Samarkand
5. "Umidvorlik", Center for Supporting Children with Limited Abilities and their Families
6. Crisis Center "SABR", Samarkand
7. Russian Cultural Center, Chirchik

C-List of Target NGOs

1. Center for Women-Leaders, Tashkent
2. Association for Ecologically Clean Fergana
3. Samarkand International Communication Center "IROSAM"
4. "Matonat" Society for Disabled
5. Union for Defense of the Aral Sea and Amudarya, Nukus
6. "Junior Achievement", Tashkent
7. "Targibot" Center for Copyrights
8. "Perzent" Nukus
9. Nukus Branch of the "Tadbirkor Ayol"
10. Meros Artisans' Association (ATA), Samarkand
11. Kokand Center for Folk Handicrafts (ATA)
12. "Avitsenna" Association of Pediatricians of Bukhara
13. Tashkent Open Law Library
14. Center for Family Development "Barkamollik"
15. Farmer Association "Zamindor"
16. Wild Nature of the Aral Region

WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- **Water User's Association Quarterly Update**
- **Annex 1: Handout on 12 Steps**
- **Annex 2: Six Factors for a Successful Community Serdop: Handout and Flipchart**
- **Annex 3: Handout on Community Decision Making**
- **Annex 4: Criteria for Mini-Grants**

Quarterly Report July to Sept 99
Water Users' Association Project, Dashoguz, Turkmenistan

Project Activities

The primary activity of the Water Users' Association (WUA) Project of this quarter was expansion in all directions: staffing, office renovations and purchases, staff development, community outreach and grants.

Staffing

After the WUA project funds were obligated in mid-June, six new staff members were hired during the quarter bringing the total number of staff members to 12 under the project. The new positions consist of four community workers, an office assistant and a project assistant/translator. Previously the staff consisted only of a local project coordinator, a community outreach coordinator, an Ashgabad-based project coordinator, a logistics coordinator, a guard and a cleaning woman. The increase in staffing now makes it possible to have two teams of community workers conducting meetings in participating villages while the office operations and reporting are adequately covered by the two office-based staff.

Office Improvements

Concomitant to new staff coming on board were improvements to the office. Desks, chairs, and cabinets were purchased in Ashgabad and Dashoguz city and transported by truck to Turkmenbashi etrap (9 hour and 2.5 hour trips respectively.) A jeep and a van arrived in mid July to facilitate transportation to community meetings within the project area. A second local telephone line was installed. Since the new office serves as work and living space, improvements were made to the kitchen and bathroom facilities.

One problem the project faces is the inability to install an inter-city telephone line. Such a line would allow the WUA office to call directly to Ashgabad and internationally. As it stands the local telephone company refuses to recognize Counterpart and the project as a non-commercial entity. Therefore, as a commercial entity hook up charges alone would be over \$1500. Negotiations are continuing with the telephone company and regional authorities to clarify Counterpart's NGO status.

Staff Development and Training

With the new staff came also the need to build appropriate skills. The concepts of NGOs and associations are still very new in Turkmenistan – especially in rural areas – and methods of community development are essentially unheard of. Therefore, new staff attended *NGO and Community and Association Development* trainings. Hands-on training in how to conduct community meetings and how to facilitate the community decision-making process followed these trainings. Fortunately three of the new community workers are members of three different communities which have successfully gone through a community decision-making process to build community serdops (water cisterns) in their villages. All three of them had also volunteered at the office for several weeks before being hired. Such prior experience with the WUA project provided a solid foundation on which to build more specialized staff skills.

The new staff then participated in a TOT for *Training Methodology* in Ashgabad. Although they will have the opportunity to become actual trainers of Counterpart modules in the future, the primary goal for taking *Methodology* training was to build their facilitation skills and learn about adult education techniques, both of which constitute the basic approach for conducting community meetings. Following participation in the *Methodology* training, the new staff has demonstrated marked improvement in how they handle meetings and interact with community members. This critical skill development, however, is still heavily reliant on learning through observation. In the coming quarter there is a real need to systematize how to build community meeting facilitation skills.

One very simple but useful practice that has developed in the WUA office is to use the 'learning cycle' approach to conduct meetings. The steps are straightforward. A team of community workers plans a meeting noting the purpose, agenda items, materials needed and responsible persons. They hold the meeting. They then debrief by examining what worked well, what didn't and what to change.

An important administrative procedure was developed in a staff training to accompany this 'learning cycle' approach to conducting meetings. The community workers write up each community meeting briefly on one page noting again the purpose, who attended, main points of discussion, conclusions/agreements and next meeting date. First, the write-up is filed according to the date of the meeting and then a copy goes to the specific community file. The community decision-making process is thus documented for each of the participating villages. This addition to the office procedure provides greater flexibility for the staff allowing them to step in and handle any meeting that arises as the complete history of a village is documented. Such flexibility will be critical as the number of participating communities and consequently the number of meetings should double over the next six months.

One staff member along with the NGO Support Center manager in Dashoguz city attended a three-day Participatory Development conference in Canada. The trip was funded through the Global project (AED). Interaction with practitioners and theorists from other parts of the world provided new ideas and methods for participatory development. The staff member was also surprised to see that the activities under the WUA project were comparable to or more advanced than what many of the other participants presented at the conference. Following the conference, both staff traveled to Washington to visit the Counterpart International offices, community-focused NGOs in Washington and a water users' association in Pennsylvania.

A second Global-funded study tour to travel to Armenia for training in water users' association development had to be postponed until November, due to difficulties in obtaining exit visas for the ten participants. Although the second attempt to process the documents started more than six weeks in advance, it is never guaranteed that the government will issue exit visas by the expected departure dates in mid-November.

WUA Open House

In September the WUA project held its first Open House. More than 115 people attended including the local Mejalis representative, *etrap* (county) authorities, USAID representative, local NGOs, water plant management, health department personnel and members of communities participating in the project. After an hour of congratulatory speeches emphasizing the benefits social partnership, the community-decision-making process and participation, the guests enjoyed a generous table of local specialties. The day concluded with a presentation by a children's theater which carried out creative skits demonstrating good hygiene practices. The theater was followed by a performance by a local shaman who walked on glass, lay on beds of nails and threw 75 pound weights with his teeth. The 15 community volunteers who helped set up for the event stayed on into the evening to clean up and relax with the staff.

Relations with Other Stakeholders

Relations with other stakeholders continue to be positive. Local authorities support our activities as long as we keep them abreast of our activities.

There were **4 meetings** with the water plant management and local deputy farm heads to try to work out the problems of water delivery by the plant water trucks. **One roundtable** was attended by community members, truck drivers from the water plant, the manager of distribution system, a deputy farm head and the WUA staff. It was the first time that this set of stakeholders convened to discuss delivery issues. Additionally it was the first time that drivers were included in any sort of public meeting.

The greatest problem is the diversion of water intended for public water cisterns to private serdops. Under the current system, a water truck leaves the water plant with a full truck and stops at the farm heads' office to sign for the delivery. After that, there is no record of where the water actually ends up once inside a collective farm. Communities participating in the WUA project want the drivers to be directly accountable to them and not to the local farm head. Negotiations are continuing to resolve this point of conflict.

Also, the water plant faces a shortage of trucks to meet the delivery needs. Plant management has approached the WUA project staff about collaborating to find and purchase additional trucks and spare parts for the existing plant trucks. Discussions are ongoing on these subjects.

"Golden Drop" - first WUA Newsletter Issued

In September the first WUA newsletter was issued and distributed to participating communities, p local authorities and training participants. Following participation in *Newsletter Development* training, WUA staff designed the layout of the four-page issue in Turkmen language. Community members and WUA staff alike contributed articles and even a poem written in honor of the work Counterpart is doing in Turkmenbashi etrap.

Community Development Programming

The programming of WUA project focuses primarily on fostering community development through meetings, roundtables, training and information sharing.

Community Meetings

During the quarter, the WUA project staff carried out **56 full community meetings** and approximately **160 consultations** in participating villages and at the office. A "full community meeting" is when at least 20 people attend and significant decisions are made, e.g. whether to participate as a community in the project, election of a water committee, plans and costs for building a serdop or awarding of a mini-grant. "Consultations" are smaller meetings held with committee members, the water plant management, local authorities or community members.

New Water Committees

13 new communities invited the WUA staff to present our activities; community members formed **10 new water committees** through open election. As new communities join the project they start on the path to getting "American" water, as it is called locally, delivered on a regular basis to their community. The specific steps along this path are explained in the handout "12 Steps of Getting American Water" in Annex 1. Each community's progress is tracked based on these steps in order to identify problematic steps in the community decision-making process so that staff may intervene more effectively if the community wants to continue participating in the project activities.

At the first full community meeting, the WUA staff goes through the *Six Factors for a Successful Community Serdop* using interactive adult education methods. (See Annex 2 for the flipchart design and accompanying handout for *Six Factors*.) Development issues such as appropriate materials, location, resolving delivery issues, serdop maintenance, and community participation are raised. The staff walks through these development issues before a committee is elected and concrete details of costs are discussed. Although installing a serdop is not a difficult thing to do, going through a community decision-making process to create a sense of ownership and membership by participating families is very involved. The *Six Factors* then serve as a clearly understood and quickly identifiable reference point in future meetings and consultations. The community keeps all flipcharts for future reference and to share with other communities.

Social Partnership Meetings

There were **5 social partnership meetings** this quarter. A social partnership meeting is when a water committee presents its plan to install and manage a community serdop to community members, local authorities, water plant management and health department representatives. It is a critical event in the *12 Steps* because it is at this meeting that all of these different stakeholders have the opportunity to make recommendations, raise important issues and publicly state whether and how they will support the committee's efforts.

Mini-grants

There were **5 mini-grants** awarded to the participating communities. Throughout staff development efforts, emphasis is put on decision-making (See Annex 3) both within the staff and in communities and the need to be able to document how decisions are reached. In awarding a mini-grant the staff walks through the *Criteria for Giving a Mini-grant* handout (Annex 4) to determine if a particular community is a good "investment" of WUA resources. This discussion usually takes place after a social partnership meeting. Mini-grants typically cover 49% of the costs of installing a community serdop. Communities that cannot immediately collect money equaling 51% of total costs may opt to borrow the balance from the project agreeing to pay it back over several months once water delivery begins and is maintained.

Inter-community resource transfer and decision-making

A significant development this quarter was the participation of water committee members from other villages in the mini-grant giving process. When a community is ready to pay back some of the money they have borrowed from the project to cover 51% of the costs of the serdop, they are *entitled* to participate in the decision of how and where the money they pay back will be used. Twice this quarter, representatives of other committees participated in social partnership meetings of other villages to give advice and decide whether that community was a worthy recipient of their money. The transfer of these resources takes place in an open meeting by handing the money to a WUA staff member who then hands it directly to the committee receiving the mini-grant. This deliberate procedure for handing over the money is an important demonstration that the communities are linked through the association and receive benefits from neighboring communities by participating in the association.

Water and Hygiene Mini-Training

This quarter saw the introduction of a water and hygiene mini-training that was developed and implemented by WUA staff and members of a local NGO "Uchgun", a Counterpart grantee. Women and children are the primary focus of these trainings although men are welcome to participate. **Nearly 390 community members participated in the 35 mini-trainings and health related meetings.** The purpose of the mini-trainings is to inform local populations about water borne diseases, safe handling of the "American" water and basic hygiene practices. The approach consists of using interactive methods, preparing volunteer participants to talk to family and neighbors about what they learned in the mini-training. Participants have a follow-up meeting to discuss what worked well and what additional information would be useful. In two of the villages, volunteers organized a little community theater with school children to perform skits about good hygiene practices. The theaters were carried out several times for other children and parents as well as at the WUA Open House in September.

12 Steps of Getting American Water

1. **Community Holds First Meeting with Counterpart** – **How does this happen?** There are several ways. For example, a person may come to our office to ask if we would come and talk to their community about building a serdop. Or a local leader, informal or formal, may request that we visit their community to talk about getting American water. We go and present our organization, explain what the water users' association project is, talk about the six factors of a community serdop and then ask the community members what they think. If they have interest in exploring the possibility of building a community serdop, then we set the next meeting.

Participation is voluntary. Only the families who want to participate take part in the further work to build a community serdop. Other families may join at any point and any family may quit when they feel that it is not beneficial for them to cooperate.

2. **Community Elects Water Committee** – **How does this happen?** After the first, second or third meeting and once enough community members understand the basic idea behind the six factors of community serdop, they may commit themselves to the process of *community decision-making* whether or not to invest in building a community serdop. The community members then nominate five people to serve on a committee. If each of the persons agrees to fulfill the responsibilities of being a committee member, the community then votes each individual to the committee. The *five-person committee* works closely with the WUA project staff as they go through the process of *community decision-making*.
3. **Community Holds Social Partnership Meeting** – **How does this happen?** After the committee members have talked to their neighbors and looked into the different possibilities of community serdops, decided on a design, budget and strategies to meet all the conditions of the six factors, they hold a "*social partnership*" meeting. *Social partnership* is when initiative groups (NGOs), government and business work together to overcome a problem facing society. Here in Turkmenbashi etrap, local government, the water plant, water committees and the WUA project staff are taking a *social partnership* approach in resolving the challenge of getting American water to local communities. At the *social partnership* meeting, committee members present their design for a community serdop how they plan maintain it and distribute the water fairly. SES representatives, the water plant management, WUA project staff and their own community members give recommendations and ask questions. If they all reach a basic agreement on how to meet the six factors of their community serdop, the committee moves ahead with the work.
4. **Community Collects Money** – **How does this happen?** From the budget, the committee can then talk to the community members to determine how much and who should collect money from participating families. The committee members or responsible persons collect the money that the community has agreed to contribute.
5. **Counterpart Gives First Tranche** – **How does this happen?** Once the money is collected and shown to the WUA project staff at a community meeting, Counterpart staff will make an assessment of how the *community decision-making* process is working. If there is wide *voluntary participation, openness, unity, commitment and honesty* in the community and the committee's work, Counterpart gives the first installment of the grant to get the building started.
6. **Community Begins Serdop Construction or Orders Prefabricated Serdop** – **How does this happen?** The committee and community purchase materials and begin building the serdop. Or if they decide to buy a prefabricated serdop, they order it from the factory in Dashoguz.

7. **Counterpart Gives Second Tranche – How does this happen?** If the work and cooperation progress successfully, Counterpart gives the final installment of money. Some communities decide at this time to pay back some of the money Counterpart has given so that they own 51% of the serdop.
8. **Construction Ends or Serdop Delivered – How does this happen?** The serdop is completed, that is, it has a faucet, a locking cover, clean and safe location, protection against the cold and heat and a responsible person to care for it. Now it is ready for water.
9. **Community and/or SES Chlorinates the Serdop – How does this happen?** Before the community can take water from the serdop, the committee makes arrangements for chlorinating the serdop. It requires filling the serdop 1 time with chlorinate water and leaving for 24 hours before draining. Then filling it with American water one more time to rinse it out. The serdop is filled a third time.
10. **SES Approves the Serdop for Storage of American Water – How does this happen?** When the serdop is filled the third time, SES tests the quality of the water for bacteria content. If the water passes the test and the serdop caretaker has a health certificate for handling the water, SES approves the serdop for use by the community.
11. **Water Delivery Begins – How does this happen?** Now that the serdop is ready for use, the community talks to the water plant and the archinlyk to have their serdop added to the delivery schedule of the plant trucks. The plant trucks deliver for free. The community may also decide to pay for delivery if plant trucks are not available or if they prefer to have more control over the delivery of the water.
12. **Community Begins to Repay Money for Serdop and/or Pay for Delivery – How does this happen?** Once the water starts to come, the community then begins to repay the money they have borrowed for Counterpart. Also, they may collect money on a weekly or monthly basis for paying for the delivery and ensure a steady, safe supply of American water in their community.

Six Factors for a Successful Community Serdop: Handout and Flipchart

1. ***Delivery***
 - Schedule
 - Regular
 - Available truck
 - Fee for delivery

2. ***Materials and cost***
 - Appropriate and available materials
 - Affordable for community members
 - Keeps water clean

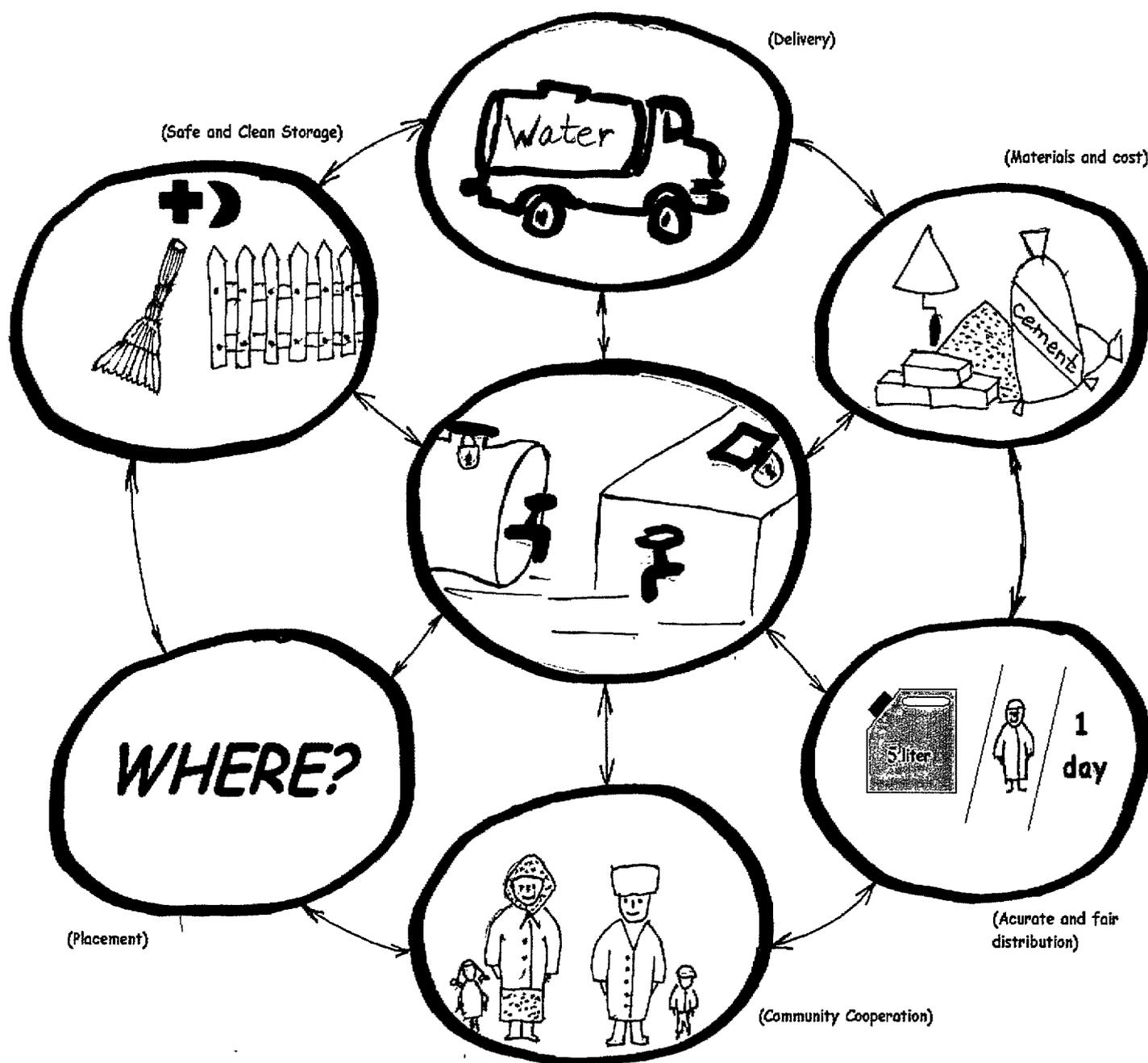
3. ***Placement***
 - Easy and fair access for community members
 - Safe for keeping water and serdop clean
 - Easy access for filling by truck

4. ***Accurate and fair distribution***
 - Who gets how much and when
 - How is the American water used

5. ***Community Cooperation***
 - Clear responsibilities
 - Common goals; shared objectives
 - Shared benefit
 - Contribution – How much and when and what type of community contributions

6. ***Safe Clean Storage***
 - Ability to clean
 - Easy to maintain
 - Does not freeze in winter and keeps cool enough in summer
 - SES will approve it
 - Plant will fill with American water
 - Is only for American water
 - Easy to draw water out

Six Factors for a Successful Community Serdop



**What is community decision-making?
What is the community decision-making process?**

Terms:

Community – a group of people (families) who live in close proximity to each other and/or share a common ethnic, religious or cultural heritage, and/or share a social/political/economic/professional outlook or interest

Decision-making – the act of drawing a conclusion; determination of an outcome of a thought process and/or discussion

Process – systematic steps taken to achieve a certain aim or result

What is the goal of community decision-making?

The goal of community decision-making is to come to broad-based consensus on how to make changes in a community. That is, what steps to take, what resources to use and how much, who will contribute what and how much, who will do what and when will the steps be taken to improve the living situation in their village. These questions are important so that there is

Community decision-making process has the following characteristics:

- ✓ a group of people not an individual;
- ✓ open discussion and meetings;
- ✓ constructive criticisms and comments;
- ✓ shared interests;
- ✓ shared benefit;
- ✓ willingness;
- ✓ trust;
- ✓ risk;
- ✓ listening;
- ✓ compromise;
- ✓ consensus;
- ✓ honesty;
- ✓ responsibility;
- ✓ commitment;
- ✓ volunteering of time, energy and resources;
- ✓ it is series of steps that community members can control, track and redirect as they see fit;
- ✓ it is a series of steps that community members themselves help determine so that all involved understand and feel comfortable participating in.

Examples from local communities of Community Decision-making Process :

1. *Meat groups*
2. *Electricity maintenance group*
3. *Canal maintenance*
4. *Serdop groups and water committees*

What is not community decision-making?

The following characteristics tell our staff and the residents of a community that the process of community decision-making they are going through is not going well:

- ✓ Dominance by one or two people
- ✓ Decisions made by a small clique of residents behind closed doors
- ✓ Meetings consist only of telling others what has already been decided
- ✓ Meetings consist of telling others what they should or must do
- ✓ There are no meetings
- ✓ People do not attend meetings or must be pressured to come
- ✓ Residents of meetings are passive
- ✓ Community members do not take on responsibilities and do not share responsibilities
- ✓ Nobody has time, money or willingness to volunteer
- ✓ There is a lack of trust
- ✓ There is no compromise or willingness to form a consensus
- ✓ Residents do not feel or believe they control the process; no ownership
- ✓ Residents have little or no benefit from the process

Criteria for Giving Mini-Grants

The Water Users' Association has funds to assist communities in resolving the problem of delivery, storage and distribution of American water in the villages of Turkmenbashi etrap. Therefore, the Water Users' Association staff has the *responsibility* to make *fair*, "*transparent*" and *wise* decisions in awarding mini-grants to a community. Likewise, participating communities have the *right* to know how the Water Users' Association staff makes the decision of *when to give a mini-grant and when not to give a mini-grant*.

The following are the criteria that the staff uses to decide, "*Is this community ready for a mini-grant?*", "*Will the money be used properly?*", and "*Should we give the mini-grant or not?*"

Before giving a mini-grant, the staff asks themselves:

- ✓ Do the residents of the village speak openly and freely with us and between each other? Do they treat each other and us as equals and allow everyone to share his or her opinion? Are women active in the discussion and decision making process? (*Participation; Community Decision-making Process*)
- ✓ Have local residents been given an option to participate or not to participate in the community serdop? Are there agreed rules on how to join a serdop group and how to leave a serdop? (*Membership*)
- ✓ Have the participating families agreed on the process for selecting and changing committee members? (*Rotation of Representation and Leadership*)
- ✓ Do the residents correctly understand that the **community serdop** is shared property and owned equally by all participating families? Do the participating residents have a real sense of ownership of the serdop and the process of acquiring it? Do residents and committee members understand the "51/49 Option?" (*Ownership*)
- ✓ Does the committee enjoy the support and confidence of the participating families? Do the participating families believe that the committee members will use the financial and materials resources of the community properly and honestly? (*Accountability; Ownership; Participation; Selection of Representation*)
- ✓ Do the participating families properly and completely understand the "6 Factors"? Can the committee members (at least three) accurately explain the "6 Factors" to other community members? For example:
 - Have the participating families of each serdop defined by themselves the site and installation of their serdop? (*Ownership; Participation*)
 - Do all the committee members understand the necessary costs and materials for building or installing a serdop that meets the standards of the water plant and SES? Do the participating residents agree on the design (prefabricated or locally built), materials and costs? (*Community Decision-making; Ownership*)
 - Have the community members made sure that there will be regular and reliable delivery of water? This means getting SES approval for the serdop, having a "sanitation book" for each serdop keeper, negotiating the water delivery schedule with the water plant or paying for delivery, and having participating families select their "serdop keeper." (*Participation; Broad-based, Balanced Decision-making*)
- ✓ Do the residents understand the role of the water plant and SES in resolving the problems related to drinking water? Do they understand the role of participating families, the water committee and the Water Users' Association staff as related to resolving the drinking water problems? (*Conflict Resolution and Team Building; Clearly Defined Roles and Responsibilities*)
- ✓ Will the committee members and participating families return the money that the Water Users' Association project and Counterpart lends them? (*Commitment; Accountability; Ownership*)

**CONSTITUENCY BUILDING
ATTACHMENTS**

**Central Asian
Constituency Building Program
Media Coverage Totals for 1999**

Year --to-Date Totals

	Newspapers	Television	Radio	Total
Kazakhstan	102	41	16	159
Kyrgyzstan	111	63	118	292
Tajikistan	109	71	38	218
Turkmenistan	54	4	3	61
Uzbekistan	141	33	26	200
Total	517	212	201	930

**Published Newspaper Articles by Journalists and NGOs
First Quarter 1999**

	January		February		March		Total	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Kazakhstan	5	9	6	10	7	13	18	32
Kyrgyzstan	5	7	6	7	7	14	18	28
Tajikistan	5	8	6	10	7	6	18	24
Turkmenistan *	-	5	-	7	-	5	-	17
Uzbekistan	5	26	6	5	7	5	18	36
Total	20	57	24	39	28	43	72	137

Second Quarter 1999

	April		May		June		Total	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Kazakhstan	8	13	8	8	8	16	24	37
Kyrgyzstan	8	11	8	10	8	9	24	30
Tajikistan	8	14	8	10	8	12	24	36
Turkmenistan *	-	9	-	5	-	4	-	18
Uzbekistan	8	24	8	12	8	11	24	47
Total	32	71	32	45	32	52	96	168

Third Quarter 1999

	July		August		September		Total	
	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual	Goal	Actual
Kazakhstan*	8	17	8	5	8	7	24	29
Kyrgyzstan	8	8	8	11	8	15	24	34
Tajikistan	8	13	8	12	8	18	24	43
Turkmenistan **	-	9	-	6	-	5	-	20
Uzbekistan	8	13	8	21	8	14	24	48
Total	32	60	32	55	32	59	96	174

* Due to budget restrictions in Kazakhstan, extensive monitoring could no longer be done after original closure date of project.

** No goals could be set for Turkmenistan, as we don't have CB staff working with journalists there.

1999 Media Coverage Totals

Newspaper Articles

	Kazakhstan*	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Total
Jan.	10	17	8	5	35	75
Feb.	10	10	9	7	5	41
March	16	16	6	5	6	49
April	13	12	14	9	24	72
May	8	13	10	4	12	47
June	16	9	12	4	11	52
July	17	8	20	9	13	67
August	5	11	12	6	21	55
Sept.	7	15	18	5	14	59
Total	102	111	109	54	141	517

TV Programs

	Kazakhstan*	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Total
Jan.	5	8	4	-	3	20
Feb.	11	2	12	-	-	25
March	2	4	6	3	2	17
April	1	15	10	-	2	28
May	5	6	6	-	5	22
June	9	9	8	-	10	36
July	8	10	13	1	4	36
August	-	4	5	-	2	11
Sept	1	5	7	-	5	18
Total	42	63	71	4	33	213

Radio Programs

	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	Total
Jan.	4	16	3	-	4	27
Feb.	3	4	4	-	-	11
March	2	6	4	3	2	17
April	-	22	5	-	2	29
May	2	18	6	-	2	28
June	4	20	7	-	12	43
July	1	18	3	-	1	23
August	-	6	3	-	1	10
Sept.	-	8	3	-	2	13
Total	16	118	38	3	26	201

* Due to budget restrictions in Kazakhstan, extensive monitoring could no longer be done after original closure date of CB project (June 30, 1999).

**LEGAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY
ICNL**

The following legal materials (in English and Russian) were provided to all interested parties in Central Asia:

General Articles and Information

- The Checklist for NPO laws
- *The World Bank's Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-commercial Organizations*
- Book *Non-Commercial Organizations in Central Asia*, written by ICNL local partner-Kazakhstan, Vadim Nee
- *The OSI Guidelines for Civic Organizations*, written by ICNL
- *Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector: Reasons for a Comprehensive Law*, prepared by the ICNL (general fact sheet)
- *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
- *Bases of regulating Activities of the Non-Commercial Sector*, Karla Simon, Executive Vice President ICNL
- *The Role and Purpose of the NGO Sector*, Leon Irish, President ICNL
- *International Laws and Principles of NGO Regulation*, Natalia Bourjaily, ICNL Program Director for NIS

Taxation Issues

- Article, *The Tax Treatment of Not-for-profit Organizations. A Survey of Best Practices from Around the World*
- *Economic Activities of Non-Commercial Organizations*, prepared by the ICNL, for the Regulating Civil Society Conference in Hungary (May, 1996)

Charity Laws

- ICNL Compilation of Charitable Activities Laws and ICNL Comments to these Laws
- Kazakhstan Draft Law on Charity (ICNL assisted)
- Charity Commission – purpose and principles argument sheet
- Moscow Law on Charity, 1995
- Resolution of Mayor on establishment of the Charity Commission in Moscow
- Hungarian Law CLVI on Public Benefit Organizations, 1997
- Selected Provisions of Hungarian Law IV, 1959
- Georgian Draft Law on Charitable Activity and Charitable Organizations

NGO Laws

- Article, *New Legislation on Non-commercial Organizations in Russia*
- Azerbaijan Draft NGO Law (ICNL assisted project)
- Yemen Draft Law on NGOs (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Memoranda: The Organizational Legal Forms of NGOs

Foundations

- Estonian Law on Non-Commercial Organizations (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Translation of the *Comparative Review of Laws on Foundations*, article by Tymen J. van der Ploeg, Voluntas, International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations, 6/3
- Slovenian Law on Foundations, 1985
- Slovakian Law on Foundations, 1996
- Finnish Law on Foundations, 1930

- Polish Law on Foundations, 1984
- Russian Draft Law on Foundation

Project Specific Analyses

- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan NGO Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Tax Code
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Analysis of Cultural Associations Law
- ICNL List--Problems with Kazakhstan Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Draft Charity Law
- ICNL Commentary and Proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code
- ICNL Analysis and Recommendations to Kyrgyzstan Law on NGOs (ongoing with more than 8 different versions)
- ICNL Analysis of Kyrgyzstan Charity Draft Law
- ICNL Suggested Provisions to Kyrgyzstan NGO Draft Law
- ICNL Recommendations to Uzbekistan Draft NGO Law (on-going with more than 8 different versions)
- ICNL Analysis of Uzbekistan Tax Code
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Draft Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Civil Code
- ICNL Commentary to Turkmenistan Civil Code

AID TO ARTISANS FINAL PROGRAMMATIC REPORT
NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia
October 1994 – August 1999

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Attachments

- A. Performance Plan
- B. Property Disposition Request
- C. Bukhara Artisan Center petition
- D. Meros Handicraft Center sample newsletter
- E. Photographs
- F. ATA / Central Asia product appearances:
 - Uzbek Christmas stocking, *Lark Books Catalog*, Fall 1997
 - Kyrgyz felt pillow, *Conde Nast House & Garden*, December 1997
 - Uzbek Christmas stocking, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 1998
 - Kyrgyz felt pillows, *Cuddledown Catalog*, January 1999
 - Kyrgyz felt ottoman, *Real Goods Catalog*, Fall 1999

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the Aid to Artisans (ATA) project was:

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

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ATA PARTNER NGOS

In order to strengthen and build upon the work carried out by ATA in the region, ATA has the following recommendations for Counterpart's continuing work with NGOs in the craft sector:

Kazakhstan

Women's League of Creative Initiative: By mid-1998, the Women's League of Creative Initiative (WLCI) had developed sufficiently to no longer need ATA's technical or financial assistance. WLCI has successfully obtained financial assistance from Mobil Oil, the Embassy of the Netherlands, Soros, and other sources on a repeated basis. It successfully organizes its own events and has been awarded numerous overseas training opportunities. Recommendations for future assistance: If Counterpart develops new specialized training workshops, they might be of interest and use to WLCI. In general, however, the members of this NGO are very well educated and very sophisticated in their NGO management.

Sheber Aul: Sheber Aul was founded as an artisan colony in a semi-rural village 12 kilometers outside Almaty, in 1987. In 1997, it reregistered as an NGO. Sheber Aul has been one of ATA's major partner NGOs throughout the project. Peace Corps Volunteer Bruce Grover will continue to work with Sheber Aul through July 2000. In particular, Mr. Grover will focus on strengthening the Board of Directors and membership participation and training NGO members in the management and operation of the new artisan center. Director Rimma Nurtaeva remains the major driving force behind the NGO. She has been very active in all ATA local and regional activities, and is in fact a driving force among artisans within the region. Counterpart conducted a TTAPs evaluation in April 1999. Recommendations for future assistance: Sheber Aul needs additional training and ongoing encouragement and oversight in general NGO management. Although some members (primarily Ms. Nurtaeva) have taken part in Counterpart workshops, many more members who are finally becoming more involved in the NGO need to be trained in the basic NGO & Community and NGO Management workshops. Due to its somewhat removed location, on-site trainings at the village might be appropriate for some of the basic workshops.

Center Bahyt: Center Bahyt NGO was created in June 1998 and registered almost immediately. It was founded by faculty, students, and graduates of the Almaty College of Decorative and Applied Arts following assistance to the College by ATA partner NGO Women's League of Creative Initiative. ATA has worked most closely with Center Bahyt in organizing the regional craft fairs held in Almaty, and ATA assisted Center Bahyt in opening a retail craft shop that serves artisans throughout the region. Center Bahyt does regularly conduct charitable activities, most often for children in a local hospital. Director Bahyt Abdulkarim is the main figure in the NGO. Recommendations for future assistance: In addition to a formal TTAPs evaluation, Center Bahyt needs assistance in creating a real NGO management structure and in building greater membership participation in decision-making. Additionally, the NGO leaders need substantial training in financial management.

Coordination Center Women's Initiative: This Semipalatinsk-based organization was founded in 1996 by Maya Aminova, Director of an NGO by the same name in Tajikistan. The Kazakh NGO was registered in May 1997. The two NGOs are very close, and Ms. Aminova has regularly provided training to the Kazakh NGO. The two groups collaborate on fulfilling export craft orders and other activities. Recommendations for future assistance: Because ATA was unable to travel to Semipalatinsk to work closely with this group, it is recommended that Counterpart conduct a formal TTAPs evaluation, and provide regular Counterpart training workshops for them as indicated by TTAPs results.

Kyrgyzstan

Talent Support Fund: TSF is a well-respected NGO, founded in 1992, with a visionary Co-Director, Ms. Dinara Chochunbaeva. The NGO is very active, both locally in Bishkek, and in helping create and develop other NGOs throughout Kyrgyzstan. TSF regularly provides sound technical assistance and training to artisans in order to develop further the quality of crafts in Kyrgyzstan as a means of building income-generating opportunities for rural women. TSF has been the most successful of ATA's partners in establishing and developing craft export as a serious revenue-generating activity. TSF has organized three regional craft fairs with financial assistance from ATA, and has opened and managed a regional craft shop, also with assistance from ATA. Recommendations for future assistance: TSF has specifically requested additional assistance in conducting democratic elections in accordance with their charter and by-laws. While this NGO is quite strong, it could benefit from some well-focused fine-tuning in order to become a truly exceptional NGO. The return on a well-focused assessment and training effort would be very large, making it a very efficient and effective use of Counterpart resources.

Golden Thimble: This rural NGO is relatively strong, but hampered in many of its efforts by the general lack of a functioning infrastructure in Bokonbaeva. Most of ATA's more recent assistance has been through partner Talent Support Fund. The two NGOs have a very good working relationship. Recommendations for future assistance: A formal TTAPs assessment would be advised to best determine the most important areas for future training.

Tajikistan

Coordination Center Women's Initiative: CCWI has been a solid, competent partner. Director Maya Aminova is a highly motivated woman who has built a team of several regional leaders. ATA has strengthened Ms. Aminova's ability to train fellow artisans by bringing her out of Tajikistan to other countries for training. CCWI leaders have participated in all basic Counterpart trainings. CCWI has a strong social conscience, and has been a leader in working with women in conflict zones both to help provide them with a means of generating critically-needed family income through crafts, but also to help them build self-confidence and respect within their communities, and to teach rural women more about their human rights. This group's motivation is due in part to the courage and conviction of its leader, Ms. Aminova, but also is due to the NGO's other strong regional leaders. Recommendations for future assistance: CCWI has specifically requested training additional NGO members through Counterpart's basic workshops. Ms. Aminova has also specifically requested training in financial management. While CCWI's management is impressive, CCWI's requests for training more members and also for providing financial management training is a necessary second step.

Turkmenistan

Turkmen Craft Center: According to USAID mandates and funding, ATA started its program in Turkmenistan in June 1998. Due to the difficulties in finding a solid craft-based group without strong government ties, ATA worked with a group of craftswomen who wanted to form a new group. Highly motivated, and with assistance from Peace Corps Volunteer Leanne Ovalles, these artisans formed the Turkmen Craft Center. They would eventually like to register as an NGO; however, it is a very difficult and drawn out procedure. The Turkmen Craft Center has made impressive progress in a short time, both in its group organization and membership involvement, and in efforts to provide meaningful benefits

(particularly income-related) to its members and other artisans. The Turkmen Craft Center also has a good social conscience and has used some proceeds each month to assist artisans in need.

Recommendations for future assistance: The Turkmen Craft Center needs help in two key areas: 1) general management training, and 2) technical assistance in production management and pricing, which could be provided from Armenian Consultant Aram Sharambayen (similar to that which he provided to Kyrgyz partner Talent Support Fund under a Counterpart partnership grant with ATA).

Uzbekistan

Bukhara Artisan Center: Bukhara Artisan Center Director Matluba Bazarova periodically has personal conflicts with NGO members and or rival NGOs, however, these have occurred much less frequently during the past two years, and BAC members have increasing respect for her as Director. ATA has also seen a marked improvement in her leadership skills during the past two years. BAC has organized several events, including hosting a two day AED-funded technical exchange workshop for ATA's Ashgabad partner, the Turkmen Craft Center. BAC played an integral part in the formation of ATA's Turkmen partner. Recommendations for future assistance: Because BAC leaders have participated in many basic Counterpart trainings, the base membership now needs to begin receiving training to ensure active participation in the NGO's decision-making. Although it appears that BAC did conduct their second round of officer elections according to their charter, Counterpart should reinforce the need for future elections.

Khiva Artisan Center: The Khiva Artisan Center was founded and registered in 1997. Headed by a very conscientious leader, Rustam Kuriyazov, this NGO's greatest weakness has come from its remote location in Khiva, and the extremely poor communications. As a result, despite ATA's best efforts, it was often impossible to include this partner in training activities, and individual technical assistance was also limited due to the tremendous travel time involved in reaching Khiva. Recommendations for future assistance: A TTAPs evaluation is advised. Members should be involved in all basic Counterpart trainings initially, and perhaps some specialty trainings depending upon TTAPs results.

Kokand Artisan Center: This NGO is the weakest of ATA's partners in Uzbekistan. The Director, Mukhtar Burkhanov, lacks the drive and dynamism of other NGO leaders in the region, resulting in the NGO's relatively passive, inactive state, as compared to other NGOs. Also because of their location, ATA's assistance to them was fairly limited. Recommendations for future assistance: A formal TTAPs evaluation is advised, as well as frank discussions with the full membership on what they want from being part of an NGO, and how the NGO can improve to meet those needs. The NGO should be encouraged to conduct its next elections on time according to its charter and by-laws, as a means of getting more dynamic leadership in place. Training in how to conduct elections might be appropriate as a means of encouraging other potential leaders to step forward and get involved.

Meros Handicraft Center: Meros is perhaps ATA's strongest partner NGO in Uzbekistan. Like the Bukhara Artisan Center, Meros is a very active NGO with a large membership, a good reputation, good relationships with local officials, and a strong social conscience. Meros is currently implementing a hand-made paper project with assistance in part from a Counterpart partnership grant with ATA. The Meros Center has completed various activities on behalf of its artisan members, including advocating for better treatment by tax and other government officials. Perhaps Meros' most notable weakness is that its Director, Zarif Muhtarov, is so dynamic, no clear candidate for successor exists, and members may hesitate to vote for someone else when the time comes for elections, eventually reducing its democratic flavor by default rather than by design. Recommendations for future assistance: Although leaders have participated in most Counterpart training workshops, many other members have not. In order that Meros retain its democratic flavor, the broader membership should participate actively in all Counterpart trainings. Like Kokand, Counterpart can also work with Meros on conducting elections so that more

members become interested in taking leadership roles in the organization, and feel knowledgeable about how to go about seeking such positions.

Regional Artisan Association

Partner NGOs from all republics are members in the newly created regional association. In the early stages of formation, and at ATA's special request, Counterpart provided a team-building workshop and two association development workshops. These workshops were instrumental in the rapid formation of the association. Recommendations for future assistance: Member NGOs have been discussing such issues as fundraising for sustainability, maintenance of communications between member NGOs across the region, and provision of meaningful member benefits. The association will also need to address the issue of expansion, as its current organizational structure as a public fund limits its membership base. Counterpart can assist with training in each of these areas, but this training should be tailored to the needs and constraints of a regional association which spans five republics, rather than a single NGO whose members are within close geographic proximity of each other. At the same time, ATA has taken great care to ensure that ownership of the association (and hence commitment to making it succeed in the future) remains firmly in the hands of the artisans. This issue is the single most critical factor with regard to the future survival and success of the association. Therefore, Counterpart is encouraged to make training available to the association, while making sure that the ownership of the association and its future stay in the hands of the NGOs.

II. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The goals of ATA's project were to: 1) promote democratically-governed, financially-sustainable, market-driven, service-oriented craft NGOs, 2) build local NGO sustainability and capacity in product design, development, and marketing of crafts, 3) generate supplemental income for NGO members belonging to vulnerable groups such as women, unemployed, and pensioners, 4) facilitate networking among crafts-producing NGOs throughout Central Asia through regional crafts fairs and training workshops, and 5) strengthen the participation of craft NGOs in civil society. ATA carried out the following program activities in order to achieve these goals:

Building NGO Capacity

Over the life of the project, ATA assisted in the creation and/or development of eleven partner NGOs throughout Central Asia, as well as one craft group not yet registered as an NGO because of difficulty in doing so under Turkmen law. In addition, ATA fostered the creation of one regional artisan association, which is currently processing an application in Kyrgyzstan for official registration. Throughout the project, ATA provided training and technical assistance to the craft NGOs with a focus on how to strengthen their institutional framework and provide meaningful services to their members and to the public. ATA advised groups on democratic governance and appropriate organizational structures.

In 1996 when Management Systems International (MSI) conducted an independent participatory evaluation of the Counterpart Consortium cooperative agreement, MSI found that all of ATA's NGO partners had "redefined their assistance strategies and organizational structures to better meet their members' needs. They have emerged as service-oriented NGOs with tangible assistance to offer their members." Throughout the project extension, ATA worked to solidify the successes achieved during the first phase of the project while using the successful craft NGOs as a model to further develop the sector and expand into Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

In addition to training and guidance on democratic governance, ATA strengthened the business development services local craft NGOs offer their members, including product design and development, marketing, and sales opportunities. These skills are of vital importance for the success of craft NGOs, which must understand the business constraints their members face and have the requisite knowledge to creatively overcome those constraints. As one form of technical assistance, ATA sent commercial

designers to help artisans translate existing skills into marketable products. These designers provided training in areas such as costing and pricing products and production management. They also identified potential environmental and safety concerns; for example, in Kyrgyzstan, ATA consultants Lynda Grose and Michele Wipplinger addressed the hazardous use of chemical dyes after witnessing Kyrgyz NGO members emptying spent chemical dye baths into their vegetable gardens. In addition, ATA cultivated local training talent by using selected artisans from one country to assist international consultants and/or to train fellow artisans in other countries. This practice built craftspeople's professional respect for artisans in other countries, while assuring the long-lasting availability of capable designers and trainers in the region.

ATA also worked with craft NGOs on developing services for and marketing themselves to tourists. For example, artisan centers in Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand, Almaty, Bishkek, Ashgabat, and Dushanbe all created promotional materials in English. These materials included product hangtags, business cards, brochures, and catalogs. In addition, when the Meros Center in Samarkand opened, it offered a product showroom for visitors as well as the first public restroom facilities in the city.

ATA's partner NGOs were integrated into Counterpart's regular training offerings and regularly benefited from participation in such seminars as NGO & Community, NGO Management, Fundraising, Association Development, Project Design, Financial Management, Public Education through the Media, Newsletters, and Social Partnership.

Partnership, Coalition-Building, and Association Development

ATA laid the foundation for the creation of a regional association by bringing artisans from across the region together repeatedly, and for a variety of activities including training workshops, roundtable discussions, craft fairs, and field trips to craft NGO centers. ATA increasingly used artisans to train each other across national boundaries, which led to a natural launch of a regional craft association by the artisans themselves. Because the new-found association was actually conceived of and created by the artisans, it has a much better likelihood of long-term sustainability and success.

Media/Outreach

ATA closely coordinated with Counterpart's Constituency Building Department on publicity for a number of events including the groundbreaking and grand opening of the Texaco-funded Sheber Aul artisan center as well as regional craft fairs. ATA also launched a regional newsletter in English and Russian for its partner NGOs, which will be taken over by the regional artisan association. In addition, ATA worked on an individual basis with each of the NGOs on developing positive relations with their local media, resulting in substantial local press coverage for the NGOs.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

ATA assisted its partner NGOs in all five republics to develop plans to achieve financial sustainability. Craft NGOs are in the advantageous position of having a clear opportunity to earn income by taking a commission on members' local and export sales. In addition, in a survey of NGO members conducted by ATA, sales opportunities were cited as one of the most valuable benefits craft NGOs could provide to their members. Therefore, ATA worked closely with the NGOs to help them create sales opportunities, both as a service to their members and as a method to achieve financial sustainability. As a result, sixteen craft fairs were organized in Central Asia and one in Russia. In addition, Central Asian products were shown in nine US and European trade shows. In countries where export was not feasible, craft NGOs focused on earning income through tourism development.

Legal Environment

ATA worked with its local partners and Counterpart Consortium partners on legal reform specifically related to issues of taxation. In 1997, ATA collaborated with the Mussavir organization to obtain tax-free status on Uzbek crafts intended for export. In addition, in 1999 founding members of the regional craft association learned substantial detail about the legal environments of their own and their neighboring countries in Central Asia as they worked with a lawyer to determine the best country within which to register their association, and the best legal form under which to register the association. The careful research and assessment the artisans carried out, and the discussions they held with each other to reach a decision, were important building blocks in their understanding of and participation in a civil society and an emerging democracy.

Public Policy/Advocacy

ATA facilitated regular advocacy roundtables with its partner NGOs. Consortium partner the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) was a frequent and active participant in these sessions. During these meetings artisan NGOs prioritized their needs and developed strategies for addressing their biggest problems. In addition, artisans shared success stories in their dealings with public officials (for examples, see Section IV. Impact Summary) to inspire their colleagues to achieve similar successes. The issues addressed during these sessions included taxation, NGO registration, pressures to merge with governmental craft organizations, currency convertibility, and the availability of government subsidies for providing technical training to the unemployed.

Government Relations

ATA worked with its partner NGOs on developing positive relations with government officials. In Kazakhstan, ATA cultivated a working relationship between a Deputy Parliamentarian and Kazakh artisan NGOs. The Parliamentarian attended advocacy roundtables and hosted artisan events in Astana to increase awareness of national crafts. In Uzbekistan, ATA held joint meetings between local government officials and NGO leaders regarding tax issues and land donations. Throughout the project, ATA's NGO partners became increasingly independent in developing relationships with government officials.

Social Partnership

ATA engineered a social partnership between Texaco, US Peace Corps, Counterpart International, Tore Construction and USAID to assist in the revitalization of Sheber Aul artisan village and in Kazakstan. Through the initiative of ATA's Regional Field Director, this artisan NGO was able to receive a substantial grant from Texaco for the construction of workshops, teahouse, and craft retail shop. In a collaborative effort between the Peace Corps and Counterpart International, additional technical assistance in the form of business and management training and guidance in democratic governance was provided to the NGO. The new artisan facility opened in May 1999.

Community Outreach

All of ATA's partner NGOs maintained a strong social focus including donating to local charities, providing financial assistance to needy families, creating employment opportunities for rural women, and teaching traditional craft skills to children.

III. LESSONS LEARNED

- ATA achieved synergies from its regional approach to working with artisans that would not have been achieved under a one-country project. Despite cultural, economic, and geopolitical differences between the five Central Asian countries where this program was implemented, ATA fostered friendships, professional respect, and mutually beneficial working relationships between craftspeople in the different countries. As a result: 1) Craft NGO leaders in four republics encouraged and assisted artisans in Turkmenistan in creating an organization whose leaders plan to register as an NGO. 2) Knowledge and skills throughout the region were strengthened by inviting artisans from more than one country to participate in training workshops that for budgetary or other reasons could not be held in all five republics. 3) Increasing use of local artisans to train others within the region built self-esteem and respect of/by fellow artisans, NGO leaders, and officials.
- Some craft NGOs in the region still have a relatively weak understanding of the concept and management of an NGO, tending instead, to remain organizations dependent upon and directed by one highly motivated individual. Substantially more training for most NGOs is needed on the basic structure of an NGO and democratic governance of an NGO, and more follow-up guidance is needed than ATA was able to provide under its work-plans and than Counterpart provided to ATA partner NGOs. Training a couple of key individuals within an organization does not ensure understanding by the general membership of an NGO, and in fact may actually encourage the “NGI” (non-governmental individual) tendency by concentrating knowledge and understanding in a few individuals within each organization.
- Even within those strong NGOs with good accountants and financial record-keeping systems, a great need still exists for basic business management training and guidance. Increased business management training would help NGOs, especially craft or agricultural NGOs that have goods to sell, achieve the delicate balance between helping those in need and running themselves out of existence financially. Business management training would also help those NGOs running retail shops, attempting product export, or simply involved in pricing and selling products.
- ATA’s project indicators did not fully measure the successes it achieved in the region. With USAID approval, ATA took the initiative to revise its indicators mid-project so that they more accurately captured data related to civil society building, advocacy, and government and media relations.
- One year in a given country (e.g. Turkmenistan) is sufficient to make important progress, especially if a project infrastructure is already in place, but is insufficient to build sustainability of a craft organization.

IV. IMPACT SUMMARY & ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM SUCCESS

ATA met, and in many cases exceeded, its indicators for this project (see Performance Plan attachment for detailed information on all project indicators). Most notable are the increases in craft NGO membership and NGO revenues. The project had a target of increasing membership by 50%; the actual increase was 100%. The target for increasing NGO revenue was 75%, while the actual increase was 448%. These figures demonstrate that the targeted craft NGOs are successfully growing, both in terms of their membership base and their operating budgets.

Building NGO Capacity

By the end of the project, ATA’s partner NGOs were regularly offering sales opportunities, trainings, product development advice and informational newsletters to their members. As craft NGOs became more skilled at providing meaningful services to their members, dues paying membership increased. By the end of the project, total membership in these organizations had increased by 100% over a two-year time period. This dramatic increase in membership and the members’ willingness to pay dues clearly demonstrates that craftspeople derive benefits from belonging to the NGOs.

With guidance from ATA, craft NGOs improved and strengthened their organizational structures. For example, in Kazakstan, Sheber Aul decided to add a Board of Directors to its management structure. This decision reflected increased involvement of Sheber Aul's general membership in the organizations' activities and decisions, and a greater feeling of cohesion within the group. In Kyrgyzstan, the directors of TSF asked ATA to assist them in organizing and conducting elections, citing a need to re-establish democratic governance. In Uzbekistan, with minimal advising from ATA, the Khiva Artisan Center created a diverse Board of Directors, which included a cross-section of artisans representing different crafts, including one woman.

As a result of cultivating local trainers, regional linkages were strengthened and artisans from different republics began to draw on each other as resources. For example, Ms. Dinara Chochunbaeva, Co-Director of Talent Support Fund in Kyrgyzstan, traveled to Ashgabat in January 1999 to conduct training and consultations for the Turkmen Craft Center. Ms. Chochunbaeva shared her knowledge and experience in starting several successful NGOs in Kyrgyzstan with the leaders and members of the Turkmen Craft Center. As a result of her training and consultations, members of the Center wrote their group charter with a clearer understanding of craft NGOs, their function and structure, and considerations in registering an NGO. In addition, after mentoring with an ATA designer, TSF member Ms. Kalipa Assanakunova was hired by members of the Businesswomen's Association of Uzbekistan through the LEAD project to conduct product design training; the BWA has plans to hire her again this winter.

In addition, six new artisan NGOs, such as Center Bahyt, were formed and registered during the project extension as a result of ATA's work. Center Bahyt was formed from faculty and students of the Almaty College of Applied and Decorative Arts after College faculty observed ATA's work with Sheber Aul and the Women's League of Creative Initiative and the consequent successes that these two organizations have experienced. Faculty and students from the College decided that coming together as an NGO would allow them to work more freely and independently.

Partnership, Coalition-Building, and Association Development

Following ATA and Counterpart Consortium training on associations, and ATA's long-standing efforts at building professional relationships between its partner NGOs in the region, representatives of the partner NGOs in the five Central Asia republics held a meeting in Samarkand in mid-January to create a regional association of craft NGOs. The NGOs themselves had the idea for the Samarkand meeting, and all planning and organization was done by the artisans without assistance from ATA. At the meeting, the representatives wrote a charter and by-laws, decided to base the regional association in Kyrgyzstan, charged Ms. Dinara Chochunbaeva (Talent Support Fund) and Ms. Matluba Bazarova (Bukhara Artisans Center) to develop a code of ethics, and selected Ms. Chochunbaeva to spearhead the association registration process.

At a subsequent meeting, the association chose officers, engaged an attorney to assist with developing the legal structure and completing formalities, and selected an appropriate legal form after careful and deliberate evaluation of the options. They chose to register as a Public Fund because it allowed membership for the Turkmen craft groups, which are not yet officially registered as NGOs in Turkmenistan, and the artisans felt strongly that they wanted this association to represent their colleagues in all five republics. They selected the Public Fund structure with the understanding by the members that the association would change its juridical status once the representative groups from Turkmenistan attain official registration in their republic. The association has now laid out plans for its activities over the coming year; their written plan includes an advocacy initiative to lobby local and national governments to promote artisans' interests, training and professional development opportunities, organization of sales opportunities, and newsletter publication.

Media/Outreach

In Uzbekistan, the Bukhara Artisan Center and Meros Handicraft Center of Samarkand developed and distributed monthly newsletters to their members after participating in Counterpart's newsletter training in December 1999 (see attachment). In addition, the Meros Handicraft Center added a press liaison position to their staff, which led to increased local coverage of the Center's activities. In July 1998, Ms. Matluba Bazarova, Director of the Bukhara Artisan Center, took part in a national radio interview in which she highlighted the progress and successes of the BAC. She used the opportunity to garner support for the Center by discussing the regional mayor's directive to disband the Center. Talent Support Fund also actively used the press to publicize NGO events.

In Kazakhstan, representatives of more than 20 media agencies attended both the groundbreaking and grand opening ceremonies for the Texaco-funded Sheber Aul artisan center. The event received wide press coverage in Kazak, English, and Russian. Center Bahyt displayed improved media relations skills when it wrote a press release and invited representatives of four television companies and a newspaper to attend the opening celebration of the Center's Almaty retail outlet. 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.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

MSI's 1996 evaluation found that "as a result of ATA business training and local and international regional marketing efforts, NGO leaders and artisan members have a much stronger understanding of basic market principles and incomes have increased noticeably." By the end of the extension, targeted craft NGOs enjoyed a 448% increase in revenues over the last two years through membership dues, exhibition fees, retail outlets, export facilitation, and exhibition facilitation. The regional fairs organized with assistance from ATA became a sustainable earned income activity, regularly generated more than \$25,000 per show for the NGOs and their members, with the hosting NGO earning additional revenue through booth and equipment rentals. As one example of the benefits these fairs have brought to local NGOs, the Meros Center in Samarkand reported earning more than \$31,000 for the NGO and its members by participating in eight ATA-organized craft sales.

Using market links made through ATA, several NGOs, most notably Talent Support Fund, began earning regular income by serving as an export agent for their members. Orders written at US and European trade shows were regularly distributed by Talent Support Fund, Coordination Center Women's Initiative, and the Turkmen Craft Center to rural women in Kyrgyzstan, women living in the conflict zones in Tajikistan, and women in Turkmenistan, providing them with a much-needed source of income.

Artisan NGOs also learned how to capitalize on tourist visits and are now a regular feature on itineraries for tour groups such as the Textile Museum and Craft World Tours. In addition, ATA independently organized a tour group to Uzbekistan in the fall of 1998, resulting in \$8000 in craft sales over a ten-day period. Textile Museum tourists spent \$10,000 on crafts during their last tour.

These domestic and export marketing efforts helped the artisans of Central Asia to generate more than \$150,000 during the first two years of the project and \$350,000 during the project extension for more than half a million US dollars in sales over the life of the project.

In addition, Central Asian craft NGOs became increasingly sophisticated in leveraging funds in support of their organizational missions. For example, the Women's League of Creative Initiative requested and received several sizeable contributions from Mobil Oil in Kazakstan. The Meros Handicraft Center of Samarkand requested and received \$5000 from Philip Morris in Uzbekistan for the purchase of computer equipment for their office. In 1998, Coordination Center Women's Initiative in Tajikistan requested and received a combination grant and loan from Save the Children-UK for \$1700 to purchase sewing

machines and provide stipends for six women. With funding from UNESCO, TSF published a full-color product catalog, which allowed TSF to more effectively market the craft products of their members. These successes demonstrate the NGOs' increased ability to sustain themselves through leveraged funds and grants.

Furthermore, ATA assisted TSF and Center Bahyt with opening and operating NGO-managed craft retail shops in Bishkek and Almaty respectively. The outlets proved to be a vital part of the strategy to build financial sustainability for all craft NGOs in the region, as well as important to maintaining strong relationships between the NGOs throughout Central Asia. These shops will provide direct market links for other partner NGOs throughout the region beyond the life of the project.

Legal Environment

In 1997, ATA reviewed a proposal from the Uzbek Cabinet of Ministers regarding development of the craft sector. The proposal did not refer to issues of taxation but simply called for the establishment of craft programs in local schools, creation of galleries, establishment of market research programs, and improvement in the availability of art supplies. ATA worked with USAID to influence the legislative process by following up with a letter recommending more specific policy changes, including some tax exemptions. The artisan organization Mussavir also independently lobbied for the same changes. USAID, ATA and Mussavir then coordinated recommendations from the US Ambassador, the American Bar Association (ABA) and the United Nations, and the ABA took the recommendations directly to the Cabinet of Ministers. The Cabinet of Ministers translated the recommendations into a law stating that crafts intended for export are tax exempt and all other handcraft production businesses are exempt from general taxation for a period of five years.

Public Policy/Advocacy

By working together through ATA's project, artisans became accustomed to collective action and to joining forces for a cause. MSI's evaluation found that "A new confidence in NGOs and collective action has arisen with increased participation in ATA/NGO training workshops, increased membership and volunteerism within the NGOs." Artisans were actively encouraged to learn their rights and to learn the government structures so they knew who and how to ask for their rights. For example, in the fall of 1997 after securing the five-year tax exemption on craft products, ATA partner Meros Handicraft Center in Samarkand, Uzbekistan requested and received a blanket tax exemption qualifier for all of its members from the local government in Samarkand, effectively by-passing the government organization established to review and approve all tax exemption requests.

As another strong example of artisan advocacy, in May 1998, after the Bukhara Artisan Center received a letter from the Bukhara Regional Governor urging the members of BAC to disband and join the government-sponsored Khunarmond artisan association, members of BAC wrote a petition voicing their disagreement with the proposed disbanding. Thirty-five artisan members of BAC signed the petition, and they delivered it to government officials (see attachment). Although ATA offered to assist BAC in addressing this matter, the members of BAC decided to take action themselves and succeeded in putting a halt to the disbanding.

Furthermore, in October 1998, a member of the Bukhara Artisan Center of 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 five-year tax exemption decree. After reading the decree, the tax inspector acknowledged his error and left without collecting money. Craft NGO members are now familiar with their legal rights, and are no longer afraid to challenge local authorities when these rights are violated.

Government Relations

Craft NGO leaders now demonstrate improved skills in working with government officials. Among the 19 examples documented by ATA of attempts by craft-based NGOs to seek to influence the government or get government support or attention are the following:

In Kyrgyzstan in December 1997, Ms. Chochunbaeva took part in a meeting between Kyrgyz women NGO leaders and Kyrgyz President Askar Akaev. Ms. Chochunbaeva gave a speech in which she challenged President Akaev to do more for the artisans of Kyrgyzstan, in particular, to eliminate the production tax on artisan products. Ms. Chochunbaeva's positive challenge to President Akaev is a direct result of ATA's efforts in conducting advocacy work on behalf of the artisans of Central Asia, and more lastingly, in building the confidence and knowledge of the artisans in leading advocacy work themselves.

Ms. Chochunbaeva also met with an advisor to the Kyrgyz Minister of Labor in the fall of 1998 concerning changes TSF felt were 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 national consultant.

In Kazakhstan, Sheber Aul leaders worked with local and regional government officials to secure necessary permits for construction of a new artisan center. Local and regional government officials were invited to and participated in the groundbreaking and grand opening ceremonies for the artisan center. At the grand opening, the regional Governor of the greater Almaty region pledged his support to repair the road that leads to the new facility. His contribution to the project is a direct result of the collaborative relationship Sheber Aul leaders have forged with the local government in Almaty.

Social Partnership

As previously mentioned, ATA orchestrated a social partnership involving Texaco International, ATA, Counterpart Consortium, USAID, US Peace Corps, Tore Construction Company, Sheber Aul NGO, and the Government of Kazakhstan to revitalize the Sheber Aul artisan village and NGO. Of note in this social partnership is Tore Construction Company, a local firm which not only won the competitive bid to construct the artisan center housing workshops, a teahouse, and a retail shop, but then contributed windows, doors, substantial labor and overhead to the project in the spirit of assisting a local community and following Texaco's lead of good corporate citizenship.

Community Outreach

In addition to assisting their artisan members, the craft NGOs targeted through this project have made an impressive impact on their larger community. For example, Center Bahyt in Kazakstan formed a partnership with the Republican Children's Hospital, regularly providing donations of clothing, books, and toys for the patients. The Meros Handicraft Center in Uzbekistan developed a program called Meroscha (meaning "little Meros") to teach arts to schoolchildren. They also assisted a local kindergarten with classroom renovations. In Tajikistan, ATA's partner the Coordination Center for Women's Initiative provided on-going community outreach to village women in conflict zones such as the Kofarnihon, Varzob, and Tursun-Zade districts. In Turkmenistan, the Turkmen Craft Center regularly provided financial assistance to needy families, including a widow with three children. In addition, groups like the Afghan Refugee Women's Association and KIRDI, an Uzbek NGO helping disabled families, were invited to participate in regional craft fairs by selling crafts and/or collecting donations from fair visitors.

V. FINAL INVENTORY OF RESIDUAL NON-EXPENDABLE PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER SUB-AGREEMENT

Nothing to report. Per Mr. Marcus Johnson, Agreement Officer, USAID/CAR mission, the attached Property Disposition Request was approved on May 24, 1999.

VI. FINAL INVENTORY OF UNUSED SUPPLIES EXCEEDING \$5000 IN TOTAL AGGREGATE VALUE

Nothing to report. Per Mr. Marcus Johnson, Agreement Officer, USAID/CAR mission, the attached Property Disposition Request was approved on May 24, 1999.

VII. LEVERAGING

ATA leveraged its USAID funds to obtain more than \$240,000 in cash and \$259,000 in-kind in order to provide broader technical assistance to craft NGOs in the region. Leveraged funds were received from the following:

- The Rueben and Elisabeth Rausing Trust Fund of the United Kingdom to provide European marketing assistance for partner NGO Talent Support Fund (Kyrgyzstan). (1997: \$50,000)
- UNESCO to fund participation of partner NGO members in Foire de Paris and ATA European marketing mission. (1998: \$1000)
- Academy for Educational Development's (AED) Global Project to fund an Ashgabat NGO seminar and a technical exchange between Turkmen Handicraft Center and Bukhara Artisan Center. (1998: \$6000)
- Texaco International and TORE Construction to construct a new facility at the Sheber Aul artisan village (Kazakstan) with additional private donations to finance a heating/hot water system and utilities building for Sheber Aul. (1998: \$123,000)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to conduct an export market study of the crafts of Uzbekistan. (1998: \$8000)
- Levi Strauss, ATA Founders' Society, World Paper Inc., and the Counterpart partnership grant program to work with partner NGO Meros Handcraft Center (Uzbekistan) on a handmade paper project. (1999: \$38,200)
- AED's Global Project to cover the participation expenses of Kyrgyz artisans in the regional craft association meeting held in Bishkek. (1999: \$1200)
- PEOPLink/Eurasia Foundation to conduct an exploratory study of the potential for Internet commerce for artisans in Kazakstan and Kyrgyzstan. (1999: \$4000)
- US Information Agency (USIA) to train Talent Support Fund Co-Director Dinara Chochunbaeva (Kyrgyzstan) in the US as part of the July 1999 ATA Craft Organization Leaders Exchange (COLE) program. (1999: \$10,000)
- ATA's independently funded small grants program gave more than \$6500 in grants to artisan groups throughout Central Asia. Additionally, several other ATA partner NGOs benefited from Counterpart partnership grants and corporate challenge grants.

VIII. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

- ATA coordinated with the US Peace Corps to assign a Peace Corps Volunteer full-time to partner NGO Talent Support Fund in Kyrgyzstan (Ms. Alison Howard) and Sheber Aul NGO in Kazakstan (Mr. Bruce Grover). In Turkmenistan PC Volunteer Ms. Leanne Ovalles informally assists partner craft group Turkmen Handicraft Center. All three relationships have been very worthwhile for ATA's partners.
- ATA regularly met with colleagues in Uzbekistan working on craft projects for the British Council and UNDP to ensure that projects were well coordinated.

Aid to Artisans' Performance Plan / NGO Support Initiative

July 1997 - August 1999

Results Indicators by Quarter	Quarter 1 July-Sept 97		Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 97		Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 98		Quarter 4 Apr-June 98		Quarter 5 July-Sept 98		Quarter 6 Oct-Dec 98		Quarter 7 Jan-Mar 99		Quarter 8 Apr-Aug 99	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Planned (P) vs. Actual (A)																
1) 4 recently formed NGOs registered. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)																
NGOs registered. (cumulative)						Uzbek 1	1	Kazak 2	2	Kyrgyz 3	3	Uzbek, Kazak 5	4	5	4	Kazak 6
2) 10 NGOs in 5 C.Asian Republics increase membership by 50% over two years. (USAID IR 2.1.1.2)																
Percentage by which NGOs raise membership.							10%	13%	20%	54%	30%	71%	40%	81%	50%	100%
3) 1,000 NGO members trained in product design, development, and business management. (USAID IR 1.3.2)																
Number of NGO members trained (cumulative).	25	39	165	91	305	187	445	694	585	953	725	1119	865	1285	1000	1351

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Aid to Artisans' Performance Plan / NGO Support Initiative
July 1997 - August 1999

Results Indicators by Quarter	Quarter 1 July-Sept 97		Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 97		Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 98		Quarter 4 Apr-June 98		Quarter 5 July-Sept 98		Quarter 6 Oct-Dec 98		Quarter 7 Jan-Mar 99		Quarter 8 Apr-Aug 99	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Planned (P) vs. Actual (A)																
4) 75% increase in revenues to targeted craft NGOs through membership dues, exhibition fees, retail outlets, export facilitation, and exhibition facilitation.																
Percentage increase in revenues (cumulative).							10%	281%	20%	416%	30%	380%	50%	665%	75%	448%
5) 30 documented examples of NGOs assisting members of vulnerable groups (6 Kazak, 6 Kyrgyz, 6 Tajik, 6 Turkmen, 6 Uzbek)																
a) Kazakstan (cumulative)							1	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	7
b) Kyrgyzstan							1	4	2	6	4	6	5	7	6	10
c) Tajikistan							1	2	2	4	4	5	5	6	6	7
d) Turkmenistan											2	1	4	4	6	7
e) Uzbekistan							1	0	2	1	4	3	5	5	6	6

Aid to Artisans' Performance Plan / NGO Support Initiative
July 1997 - August 1999

Results Indicators by Quarter	Quarter 1 July-Sept 97		Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 97		Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 98		Quarter 4 Apr-June 98		Quarter 5 July-Sept 98		Quarter 6 Oct-Dec 98		Quarter 7 Jan-Mar 99		Quarter 8 Apr-Aug 99	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Planned (P) vs. Actual (A)																
6) Increase new local, regional, and international export sales for partner NGOs and their members by \$350,000 in two years as follows: Year 1: \$150,000; Year 2: \$200,000																
Sales increase to:																
a) \$25,000	X	X (\$28,524)														
b) \$50,000			X	X (\$80,524)												
c) \$100,000					X	X (\$85,480)										
d) \$150,000							X	X (\$144,594)								
e) \$200,000									X	X (\$182,923)						
f) \$250,000											X	X (\$257,274)				
g) \$300,000													X	X (\$292,614)		
h) \$350,000															X	X (\$353,490)
7) Linkages made among at least 14 NGOs at regional craft fairs in Almaty and Tashkent. Craft NGOs from all five Republics establish a regional consortium.																
Linkages made among NGOs (cumulative).	2	1	4	5	6	11	8	18	10	24	12	27	14	31	14	34

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Aid to Artisans' Performance Plan / NGO Support Initiative
July 1997 - August 1999

Results Indicators by Quarter	Quarter 1 July-Sept 97		Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 97		Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 98		Quarter 4 Apr-June 98		Quarter 5 July-Sept 98		Quarter 6 Oct-Dec 98		Quarter 7 Jan-Mar 99		Quarter 8 Apr-Aug 99	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Planned (P) vs. Actual (A)																
8) A regional crafts association will be formalized by the EOP.																
a) NGOs meet to discuss regional association in conjunction with regional craft fairs.							X	X								
b) NGOs talk locally about regional branches.									X	X						
c) Working groups formed to draft association policies and procedures.											X	X				
d) Groups meet to agree upon policies.													X	X		
e) Association formalized and officers elected. Meeting schedule and agenda for first meeting established.														X	X	Fourth assoc mtg held 5/99 X
9) 12 documented attempts by craft-based NGOs to seek to influence the gov't or get gov't support or attention (3 Kazak, 3 Kyrgyz, 6 Uzbek).																
a) Kazakstan (cumulative)							1	1	2	4	3	7	3	9	3	10

of

Aid to Artisans' Performance Plan / NGO Support Initiative

July 1997 - August 1999

Results Indicators by Quarter	Quarter 1 July-Sept 97		Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 97		Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 98		Quarter 4 Apr-June 98		Quarter 5 July-Sept 98		Quarter 6 Oct-Dec 98		Quarter 7 Jan-Mar 99		Quarter 8 Apr-Aug 99	
	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A
Planned (P) vs. Actual (A)																
b) Kyrgyzstan							1	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3
c) Uzbekistan							2	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	6	6
10) 42 documented examples of craft-based NGOs applying new skills in advocacy, community organizing, government relations, and public outreach / education (10 Kazak, 10 Kyrgyz, 5 Tajik, 5 Turkmen, 12 Uzbek).																
a) Kazakstan (cumulative)							2	3	4	5	6	8	8	10	10	11
b) Kyrgyzstan							2	1	4	2	6	3	8	5	10	10
c) Tajikistan							1	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	5	5
d) Turkmenistan									1	2	3	2	4	5	5	5
e) Uzbekistan							1	1	4	5	7	7	10	10	12	12

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Margaret Bishop

From: Margaret Bishop [ata@cpart.alma-ata.su]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 1999 6:16 PM
To: 'beth_gottschling@hartnet.org'; 'mary_orcutt@hartnet.org'; 'mary_cockram@hartnet.org'
Cc: Margaret Bishop (E-mail); Bob Abma "@cpart.alma-ata.su (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Property Disposition Request under #1110-A-00-94-00020

24 May 99

Good news!

Margaret

-----Original Message-----

From: Marcus Johnson [SMTP:marcus@usaid.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 1999 2:44 PM
To: ata@cpart.alma-ata.su
Cc: dsmith@cpart.alma-ata.su
Subject: Property Disposition Request under #1110-A-00-94-00020

Margaret Bishop
Regional Director for Central Asia
Aid to Artisans
Counterpart International
Almaty, Kazakhstan

Ref.: Letter dated May 19, 1999 concerning property disposition by Aid to Artisans

Dear Ms. Bishop,
The list of Recipients in the spreadsheet entitled "Equipment Procured by Aid to Artisans in Central Asia under USAID funding 1997-1998" attached to the referenced letter are hereby approved for donation of the listed property inventory.

Sincerely,
Marcus A. Johnson, Jr.
Agreement Officer

=====
Office of the Director
USAID/CAR Regional Mission
Email: marcus@usaid.gov
Tel: 7(3272)50-76-33, ext. 319
Fax: 7(3272)69-64-90 or 50-76-36



COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

NGO Support Initiative for Central Asia

Almaty, Kazakstan
100 Shevchenko St., 6th Floor
Tel/fax: 7-3272-62-50-90/69-29-97
E-mail: root@cpart.alma-ata.su

Almaty, Kazakstan
19 May 99

Mr. Marcus Johnson,
Contracting Officer
USAID - CAR
Almaty, Kazakstan

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Aid to Artisans, a member of the Counterpart Consortium in Central Asia, is completing its project under the Office of Democratic Transition-funded NGO Support Initiative. We will conclude programmatic activities this month, and administrative reporting in early June. Aid to Artisans has worked with several partner organizations in Central Asia during this project, and in order to help ensure their sustainability, ATA would like to transfer certain physical assets purchased under the USAID funding, to selected partner organizations.

With this letter, I request USAID permission to transfer the assets listed on the attached table, to the partner organizations noted in the table. (Although they are included in the attached table, I understand assets purchased for less than \$500US do not require permission for transfer). With one exception, each proposed recipient organization is a registered NGO within its country. The one exception, is the Turkmen Handicraft Center, an organization founded in June, 1998, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Though the group has worked in a together in a serious manner from the start, and has the stated goal of seeking official registration within Turkmenistan, the political / administrative environment in Turkmenistan at present precludes their being able to register. The group's efforts and success to date in developing an impressive and important export business as part of a financial sustainability strategy and job creation effort depend critically upon their continued ability to communicate with importers and commercial buyers via e-mail, and to transmit digital images of products using a digital camera and computer. As a result, the equipment ATA would like to transfer to this group will enable the group to maintain its links with buyers. Without transfer of this equipment, maintenance of such links will become impossible. (During ATA's work in Turkmenistan, they have been using this equipment in the ATA office to communicate).

Please advise me at your earliest convenience, whether permission to transfer the listed assets to the organizations noted is granted. I will look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the Counterpart office in Almaty, 62-16-44.

Thank you very much.

My best regards,

Margaret L. Bishop
Regional Director for Central Asia
Aid to Artisans

Cc: Bob Abma, Counterpart Consortium
Beth Gottschling, Aid to Artisans - Farmington, CT
Rachel Neville, USAID
David Smith, Counterpart Consortium

Attachments



Aid to Artisans



Equipment Procured by Aid to Artisans in Central Asia under USAID funding 1997 - 1999

Item (Note: duplicate listings indicate more than one of the same item)	Suggested Recipient	Purchase Price (US Dollar equivalent)	5/99 Market Value (estimate; US Dollar equivalent)
Kazakstan			
Desktop computer hard drive, monitor, keyboard, UPS	Creativity Development Center, Almaty, KZ	\$1035.00	\$900.00
Desktop computer hard drive, monitor, keyboard	Coordination Center of Women's Initiative, Semepalatynsk, KZ	\$1,370.00	\$850.00
SONY digital camera and case	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	\$749.96	\$500.00
At Center Bahyt partner NGO			
Desktop computer hard drive, monitor, keyboard, UPS	Center Bahyt, Almaty, KZ	\$1,220.00	\$1,000.00
Kyrgyzstan			
Desktop computer hard drive, keyboard, UPS	Talent Support Fund, Bishkek, KG	\$1,097.40	\$670.00
SONY digital camera and case	Talent Support Fund, Bishkek, KG	\$749.96	\$500.00
Turkmenistan			
Desktop computer hard drive, monitor, keyboard	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	\$1,055.00	\$600.00
Uzbekistan			
Computer hard drive, keyboard, UPS	Kokand Artisan Center, Kokand, UZ	\$1,097.00	\$670.00
Computer printer	Kokand Artisan Center, Kokand, UZ	\$500.00	\$340.00
Telephone / fax	Kokand Artisan Center, Kokand, UZ	N/A	N/A

Assets Purchased for less than \$500.00US each

Item (Note: duplicate listings indicate more than one of the same item)	Suggested Recipient	Purchase Price (US Dollar equivalent)	5/99 Market Value (estimate; US Dollar equivalent)
Kazakstan			
UPS	Coordination Center of Women's Initiative, Semepalatynsk, KZ	\$180.00	\$100.00
SONY telephone / fax	Creativity Development Center, Almaty, KZ	\$364.24	\$60.00
Standing floor fan	Sheber Aul NGO, Sheber Aul, KZ	\$78.84	\$30.00
Standing floor fan	Golden Thimble, Bokonbaeva, KG	\$81.56	\$30.00
Electric space heater	Sheber Aul NGO, Sheber Aul, KZ	\$145.70	\$50.00
Double bed frame & mattress	Counterpart Consortium	\$469.77	\$250.00
Book case	Creativity Development Center, Almaty, KZ	\$486.00	\$250.00
Metal display racks (10)	Center Bahyt, Almaty, KZ	\$266.67	\$75.00
At Center Bahyt partner NGO			
Computer printer	Center Bahyt, Almaty, KZ	\$410.00	\$350.00
Cash register	Center Bahyt, Almaty, KZ	\$386.00	\$300.00
Safe	Center Bahyt, Almaty, KZ	\$422.00	\$300.00
Telephone / fax	Center Bahyt, Almaty, KZ	\$406.00	\$320.00
Kyrgyzstan			
Computer monitor	Talent Support Fund, Bishkek, KG	\$397.40	\$250.00
Telephone	Golden Thimble, Bokonbaeva, KG	\$63.94	\$20.00
Table / desk (2)	Talent Support Fund, Bishkek, KG	\$125.00	\$50.00
Desk chairs (3)	Talent Support Fund, Bishkek, KG	\$75.00	\$25.00
Turkmenistan			
UPS	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	\$245.00	\$120.00
Standing floor fan	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	\$45.71	\$20.00
Desk	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	N/A	N/A
Locking cabinet	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	\$283.11	\$100.00
Desk chairs (2)	Turkmen Handicraft Center, Ashgabat, TM	N/A	N/A
Uzbekistan			
Computer monitor	Kokand Artisan Center, Kokand, UZ	\$397.40	\$250.00
Desk chairs (5)	Counterpart Consortium	\$66.67	\$15.00

Members of the Bukhara Artisan Center (Uzbekistan) applied new skills in advocacy when they sent a petition to local officials in May 1998 requesting that the Center be kept open after the regional Governor suggested that they disband and join a government-sponsored organization.

1. Members of the Bukhara Artisan Center (Uzbekistan) applied new skills in advocacy when they sent a petition to local officials in May 1998 requesting that the Center be kept open after the regional Governor suggested that they disband and join a government-sponsored organization.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. М. Бозорова - раис. М. Бунёд | Усманова Мотрибо Улу |
| 2. Э. Бобоева | Султанова Мухомед С. Султан |
| 3. Хасимов Хусейн Х. Султан | Хасимов Шахрор Х. Султан |
| 4. Хасимов Хасан Х. Султан | Мухомед Усман |
| 5. Амиров Озгул Султан | Хасанов Саид Султан |
| 6. Амиров Александр Х. Султан | Усманов Султан |
| 7. Диеваева Зедо (камер) | Хусенов С. Султан |
| 8. Рабидова Малика Х. Султан | Табоева Л. Султан |
| 9. Хасимов У. (камер) | Диеваева М. Султан |
| 10. Каирова Акуну-кор Султан | Диеваева С. Султан |
| 11. Каирова Муноир Султан | |
| 12. Сафаров Абдулла Султан | |
| 13. Султанов Фарук Султан | |
| 14. Момево Сураббай Султан | |
| 15. Озгул Рахмонов Султан | |
| 16. Рахмонова М. Султан | |
| 17. Саидова С. Султан | |
| 18. Мухомедов С. (камер) | |
| 19. Мухомедов Мирфатон Султан | |
| 20. Момево Саидов Султан | |
| 21. Султанов Султан | |
| 22. Рахмонова Т. Султан | |
| 23. Агузова Азиза Султан | |
| 24. Агузов Мансур Султан | |
| 25. Рахмонова Мирфатон Султан | |

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Several craft NGOs, including the Meros Handicraft Center (Uzbekistan), began publishing monthly newsletters as a service to members.



НАСЛЕДИЕ



Февраль 1999 г.
№3

Пусть славится ремесленный народ, богатство он руками создаёт!

Информационный бюллетень Самаркандской Ассоциации Ремесленников «Мерос»

Партнеры - успех

Новости

■ 1 февраля детской творческой школе «Меросча» исполнился ровно год. Для детей было подготовлено не- большое угощение, создана праздничная атмосфера, мастера пожелали им всего наилучшего, больших успехов в творчестве.

■ 3 февраля состоялось заседание Совета Директоров SAR «Мерос». На заседании были подведены итоги ушедшего 1998 года и намечено проведение мероприятий на ближайшие месяцы текущего года.

■ Планируется провести:

6-7 марта - Международная выставка - ярмарка изделий ремесленников в Бишкеке.

26 марта - Международный семинар по натуральным красителям в Ашгабаде.

16-17 апреля - Международная выставка-ярмарка в Ашгабаде.

3-4 февраля в Самарканд приезжал представитель «Каунтерпарт Консорциум» Виктор Цой. Цель его приезда - создание фильма о социальном партнерстве НПО SAR «Мерос». «Мерос» тесно работает с органами власти, науки, СМИ и банками. Результаты достижения успехов в этой области налицо. Один из секретов партнерства - проект возрождения самаркандской ручной бумаги «Самарканди», который считается уникальным.

На вопрос, что может дать партнерство, отвечали следующие партнеры «Мерос»:

Нуруллаев Х.Д. - заместитель хокима области по культуре,

Насыров Б.Н. - управляющий отделением НБ ВЭД РУ г.Самарканда,

Харченко Альфия и Амонова Саодат - сотрудники телекомпании СТВ,

Шевченко Л.Н. - директор учебно-методологического центра туризма.

Буряков Ю.Ф. - профессор, работник Института Археологии, член Академии Наук Республики Узбекистан,

Мастер Ходжибобо, который работает на единственной действующей мельнице в махалле «Галаосиё»,

Гульбахор Салимова - координатор фонда «Помощь ремесленникам» в Узбекистане,

Блейр Шеридан - директор «Каунтерпарт Консорциум» в Узбекистане.

Фильм будет показан представителям НПО Центральной Азии, как наглядный пример тому, что не нужно заикливаться только на партнерстве с фондами, дающими гранты. При партнерстве с различными структурами можно добиться больших успехов, не пренебрегая ими, а стараясь заинтересовать их. Ведь не зря существует пословица: Не имей сто рублей, а имей сто друзей.

Приятно, что SAR «Мерос» стала образцом в этом плане и нужно стремиться быть примером всегда и во всём.

Внимание!

Конкурс!

Ассоциация ремесленников «Мерос» объявляет конкурс на лучшую эмблему для создавшейся Региональной Ассоциации ремесленников. Работы принимаются до 1 марта 1999 года.

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Региональная Ассоциация по поддержке ремесленников

15-16 января в Самарканде в Центре развития ремёсел «Мерос» проходила двухдневная конференция НПО в поддержку ремесленников. Участниками конференции были представители НПО ремесленников из пяти республик Центральной Азии:

Председатель НПО Кыргызстана Фонда поддержки Талантов Динара Чочунбаева, Председатель НПО Казахстана «Шебер Аул» Римма Нуртаева, Директор координационного Центра «Женская инициатива» Таджикистана Мехрибану Аминова, Председатель НПО «Центр развития ремёсел Туркменистана» Гозель Аннамередова, Председатель

НПО Самаркандской Ассоциации ремесленников «Мерос» Зариф Мухтаров, Председатель НПО «Центр развития ремёсел Бухары» Матлоба Базарова.

Цель конференции - создание Региональной Ассоциации ремесленников и подготовка проекта Устава для регистрации в органах юстиции.

Проходившая в Самарканде конференция третья по счету, после Алматы и Бишкека. Все три конференции показали, что создание Региональной Ассоциации по поддержке ремесленников необходимо, т.к. НПО ремесленников нуждаются в обмене опытом,

обмене информацией и др. Региональная Ассоциация поможет поддержать друг друга, найти выход на международный рынок и решать проблемы на региональном уровне.

Во время конференции было составлено письмо к региональному директору USAID в Центральной Азии Гленну Андерсу, с просьбой о продолжении финансирования деятельности АТА в Центральной Азии. Всем участникам собрания было предложено направить подобные письма в представительства USAID в своей стране.

К учредительной конференции, которая состоится в Бишкеке 5 марта 1999 года, все представители стран Центральной Азии должны подготовить своё видение стратегического плана Ассоциации на 3 года. Кроме того, Нуртаевой и Базаровой было поручено разработать этический кодекс члена ассоциации, Аминова должна составить список льгот для членов Ассоциации.

Создание Региональной Ассоциации по поддержке ремесленников даст возможность построить крепкий мост дружбы между НПО ремесленников Центральной Азии.

Уважасмыс читателди!
Ассоциация ремесленников «Мерос» поздравляет Вас

с Днём Святого Валентина,
праздником всех влюблённых.
Пусть Ваша любовь не проходит, а
с годами становится крепче.
Мы любим Вас и надеемся на
взаимность!
Успехов Вам, удачи и любви!

Дорогие читатели! Замечания, пожелания и предложения, а также все о чем Вы желаете прочитать на страничках нашего бюллетеня, присылайте по адресу, указанному ниже.

Выпуск подготовили:
Мухтаров З.А.
Гниломедова И.Ю.

Наш адрес:
703001
г.Самарканд,
ул.Ташкентская 43-А.
Тел./факс: (3662) 35-19-93
e-mail: meros@samuni.silk.org

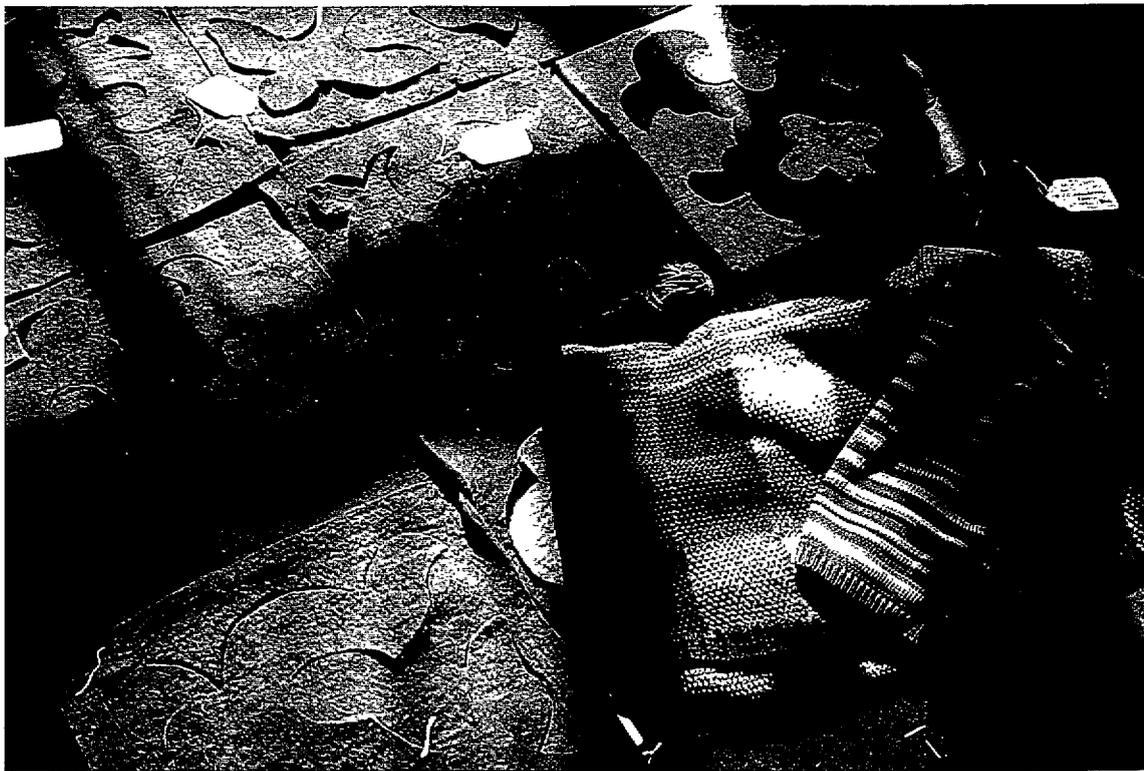
Информационный
бюллетень
САР «Мерос»
Тираж
200 экз.



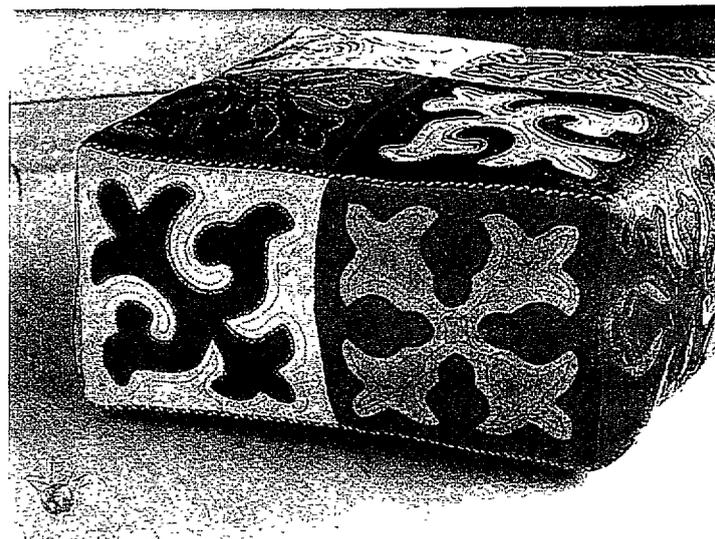
Artisan leaders improved their skills in working with the media and with local officials. Here Rimma Nurtaeva, Director of the Sheber Aul NGO, addresses the crowd during the groundbreaking ceremony for a new artisan center funded by Texaco International in Kazakhstan. The ceremony was attended by more than 20 media agencies and the Regional Governor of the greater Almaty region.



ATA Field Director Margaret Bishop looks on as members of the Turkmen Craft Center participate in a training exercise. NGO members, particularly women, have gained new confidence in their abilities and now actively work together to achieve common goals.



ATA design consultant Lynda Grose worked with Kyrgyz NGOs, not only on product development, but also on environmental and community health issues, such as safe practices for handling chemical dyes. Newly developed products, based on traditional skills and designs, now earn significant income for NGOs representing vulnerable individuals such as rural women and their families.



Traditional Kyrgyz Ottoman

Just the thing for decorating your yurt, this gorgeous felted wool ottoman is hand-stitched traditional applique. Comes as a cover only. Stuff it with extra blankets, sweaters or orphan socks! Big! 28 x 28 x 14 with welt closure. Yes, these colors are far too brilliant for vegetable dyes; we made a decision to support the Kyrgyz ATA co-op as they move toward a more eco-sound dye process. Kyrgyzstan.

59-011 Kyrgyz Ottoman Cover \$299⁰⁰

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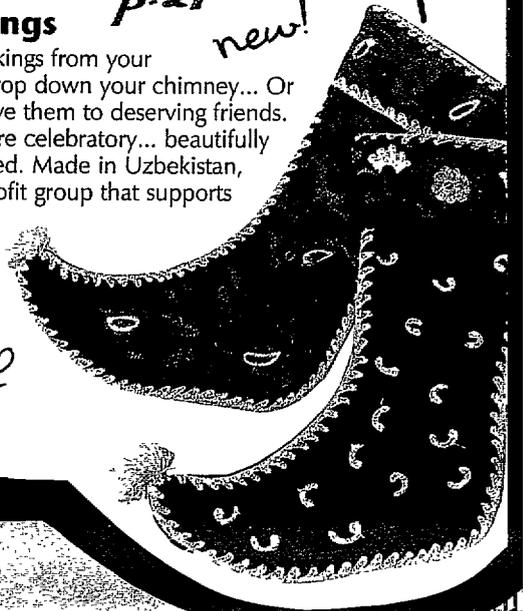
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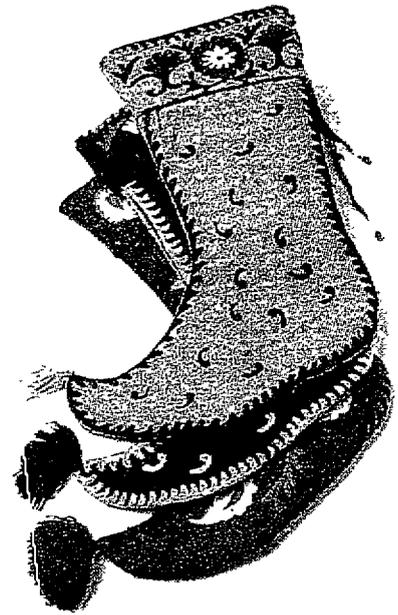
**A SUICIDE
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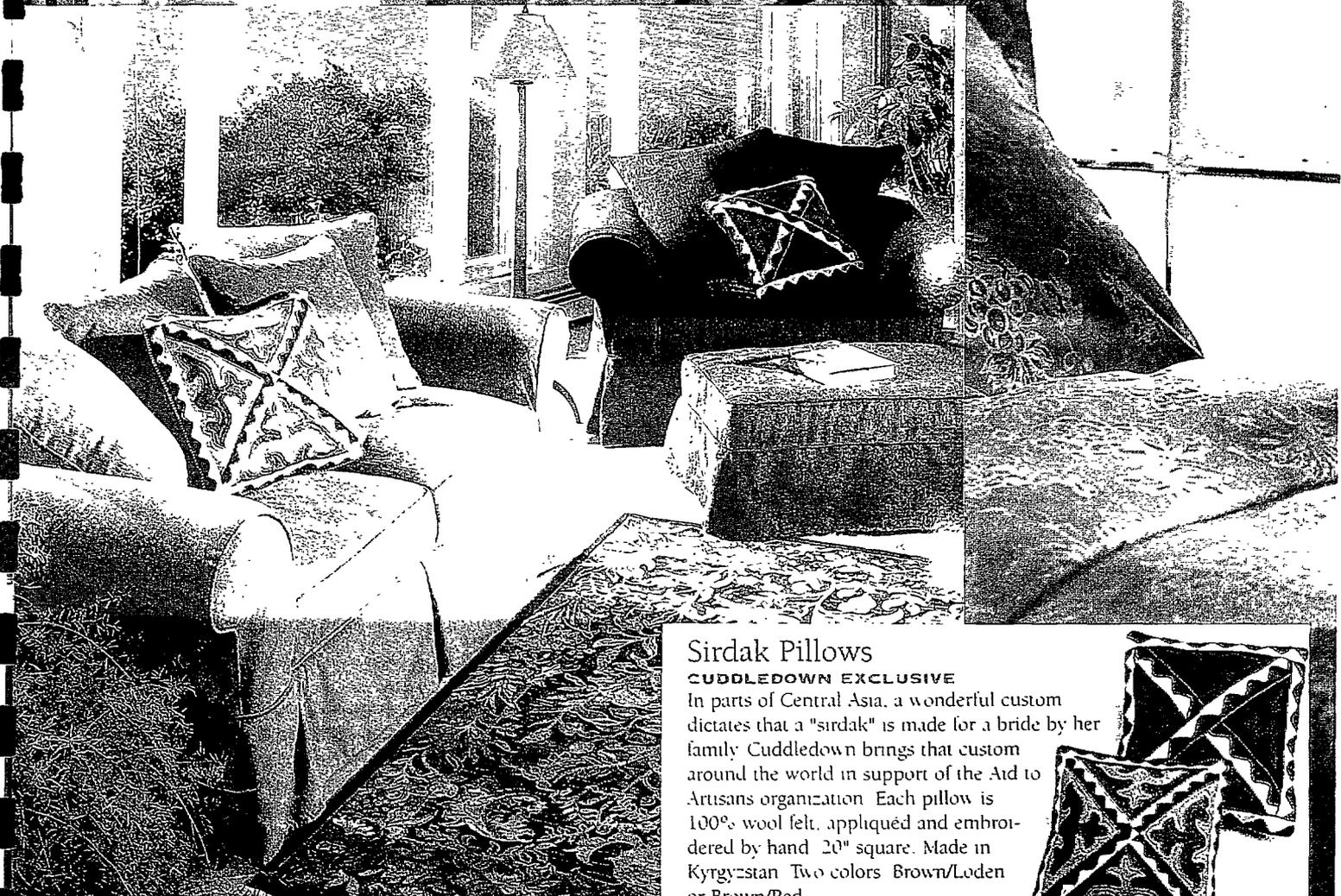


Tabloid History

When technology allows historians to pry into the lives of the past, what does it say about the present? By Philip Weiss

CUDDLEDOWN

of Maine

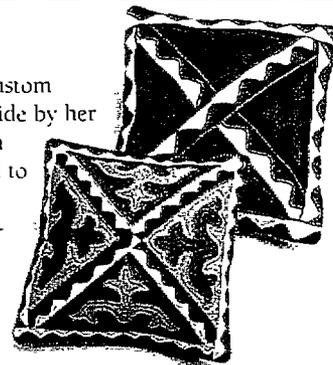


Sirdak Pillows

CUDDLEDOWN EXCLUSIVE

In parts of Central Asia, a wonderful custom dictates that a "sirdak" is made for a bride by her family. Cuddledown brings that custom around the world in support of the Aid to Artisans organization. Each pillow is 100% wool felt, appliquéd and embroidered by hand. 20" square. Made in Kyrgyzstan. Two colors: Brown/Loden or Brown/Red.

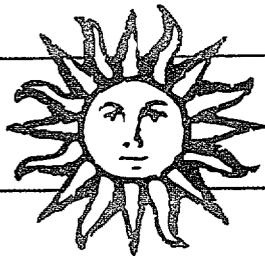
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