
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

KAZAKHSTAN

Building NGO Capacity

Disabled Sports Training Curriculum Integrated into Education System in Kazakhstan

Although there are more than 500,000 mentally disabled people within the general population of 14 million in Kazakhstan, there has been no formalized mechanism to include them in physical education. Counterpart grantee, NGO *Special Olympics Kazakhstan* was the first to develop a methodology and specialists in physical training for the disabled. For more than five years, the NGO has combined partnership with educational institutions and methodology development with promotion, through the media, of the ability of the disabled to participate in sports. As a result of these activities, two state universities in Ust-Kamenogorsk and Karaganda and the Republican Academy of Tourism and Sports in Almaty have incorporated the program into their curriculums. This means there will soon be professionals who can contribute to the further institutionalization of physical activity for the mentally disabled.

Partnership and Coalition Building

NGOs of Taraz Unite into the Council of Youth Organizations

Taraz, as many other cities of Kazakhstan, suffers a high rate of crime, drug addiction and unemployment among youth. To alleviate some of these problems 14 NGOs of Taraz, many of which were trained at a number of Counterpart trainings including Association Development, decided to join forces and form the Council of Youth Organizations. Understanding the importance of collaboration with the government, they invited several representatives of government structures to join the Council. Some representatives of the new coalition now participate in working groups of the city and oblast Maslikhats, which enable them to promote their interests on the legislative level as well.

Media/Outreach

NGO Holds a Successful Public Relations Campaign in Mass Media

Many NGOs still experience problems in promoting their activities and gaining support of their constituencies through mass media. Thanks to the Counterpart-sponsored conference in Almaty in December 1999 entitled "*On the Way to Social Partnership*" Counterpart grantee *Junior Achievement* was given the opportunity to establish close relationships with leading journalists from the national press. As a result, a number of publications were created that helped the NGO conduct a monitoring of its educational programs, evaluate their effectiveness, assess the needs of teachers and students and attract attention of sponsors to projects implemented by *Junior Achievement*.

Public Policy/Advocacy

Artisan Association Builds Relationships and Lobbies for Special Tax Dispensations

Due to the high amount of taxes collected from artisans it is very difficult for them to develop their businesses and survive in a highly competitive modern market environment. To solve this problem NGO *Sheber Aul* – a Counterpart grantee and active participant in Counterpart trainings and events, presented a list of suggested improvements to the City Tax Inspector's office, which in turn forwarded them to the Ministry of Revenue. As a result, the government of Kazakhstan has approved the establishment of a special working group to consider artisan issues.

Association of School Public Councils Advocates for its Members

Several years ago, when it became obvious that the state could not provide adequate educational and safety conditions for children, school public councils (voluntary non-governmental organizations of parents and teachers) were formed in Kazakhstan. Department of Education officials in Almaty issued a decree to school leaders to refuse the funded services provided by the public organizations in an attempt to regulate or shut down these organizations. In response, the Association of School Councils obtained a written clarification from the government agency that oversees public organizations confirming they provide their services in accordance with their charter as an independent organization. The Association of School Councils is a Counterpart grantee, participant in Counterpart training workshops, including advocacy, and collaborated with well-known lawyers of the third sector legislation who are long-term partners of Counterpart.

Children Practice Advocacy Skills through Public Service

"*We the people...Project Citizen*," implemented in a number of secondary schools by the Information and Research Center for Civic Education around Kazakhstan, encourages students to develop and implement a realistic project to help solve problems in their communities. Using skills acquired while learning more about civil society, institutions, and mechanisms to solve various problems, the students of school #73 in Almaty implemented the program "Safe Road to School" to address the growing number of traffic accidents near the school – many of which were fatal. The students contacted a number of responsible government organizations and were successful in getting footpath signs and traffic lights on all the intersections near their school.

Government Relations

Social Partnership Roundtable Catalyzes Collaborative Draft Legislation

While many meetings between government representatives and NGOs are often not productive, a recent roundtable on "*Legislator-NGO Constituency Dialogue*" held in Shymkent by Counterpart trainers and supported by AED/Global Program catalyzed concrete collaboration. As a result of this improved understanding of social partnership learned at the roundtable, the Director of the Oblast Law Department initiated a meeting with interested NGOs to develop a draft law on Local Self-Government. Follow-up meetings were held at the office of Counterpart grantee and affiliated resource center *Southern Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers (SKAL)*. Counterpart target NGOs such as *Dialogue* and *Sootchestvenik* actively participated in the meeting, submitted their suggestions and even drafted their own versions of some articles.

NGO's Report on Women's Status Became a Basis for a National Report

The Feminist League's "Report on Women's Status in Kazakhstan," which was supported with Counterpart grant funding, was used as a basis for the First National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Liquidation of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Feminist League was invited by the Prime Minister to have representation at the working group for this issue. The government realized it lacked appropriate financial resources and experience in gender monitoring to adequately respond to this issue. Cooperation between the NGO and government assured the objectivity of the report.

Social Partnership

First Steps Taken to Foster Social Partnership in Ust-Kamenogorsk

While Counterpart has long been promoting the concept of social partnership, this type of collaboration has been slower to manifest outside of the capital area. The Ust-Kamenogorsk-based , Counterpart Affiliate Resource Center *Zubr* has been promoting collaboration among the different sectors. As a result, a department of the mayors office signed an MOU with *Zubr* to develop a joint strategic plan which includes collaborative projects involving other government agencies, business structures and NGOs. The first project has already been developed to and is focusing on the problem of drug addiction in the city.

KYRGYZSTAN

Media/Outreach

UMUT Public Association Builds Constituency through Public Relations

The population of the Issyk-Kul region in Kyrgyzstan needs more information about the role of the NGO community in developing democratic society. Through a Counterpart training workshop in Newsletter Development the UMUT Public Association designed and published a promotional brochure about the NGO and distributed it to the general public. As a result of this campaign, the deputy of Parliament was interested in learning more about the organization. Impressed by the NGO's accomplishments and ability to affect change at the community level, he joined the Board of Directors and is actively involved in NGO activities.

NGO POLIS Reduces Voting Illiteracy

Local elections in Kyrgyzstan on October 17, 1999 demonstrated a low level of legal literacy of both voters and election commissions. Among the most appalling violations were family voting, the absence of identification papers and inability of voters to fill out the ballots in a proper way (9% of the ballots filled out were invalid). Through counseling support from Counterpart and a grant from USAID the NGO held a nation-wide information campaign to improve voter understanding of the voting process. The NGO published 25,000 copies of color high quality posters both in Kyrgyz and Russian demonstrating the stages of voting, which were displayed in 2,064 election districts and public places. Based on the voting results the number of void ballots submitted throughout the republic was reduced to only 3.8%.

NGO - Mass Media Partnership Combats Smoking in Kyrgyzstan

Tobacco smoking is one of the main risk factors for development of non-infectious diseases and contributes to 82% of all deaths by non-infections diseases. This problem is especially important today, when the quantities of smuggled cigarettes and toxic tobacco products made by foreign companies is increasing. With grant support from Counterpart Consortium, NGO Smoke Free Kyrgyzstan conducted a wide scale anti-tobacco "Quit and Win" campaign through mass media. This information campaign included 12 television and 25 radio programs, seven press conferences, four competitions, three roundtables and a conference, 61 newspaper articles, 65 lectures, three PSAs, nine posters and two anti-tobacco informational billboards. Based on monitoring results, 68% of the 1659 people that participated in the contest abstained from smoking for 2 months and 36% (597 people) quit smoking altogether.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

NGO Business Training Helps Rural Women Secure Financing and Community Resources

Deterioration of agribusiness in Kyrgyzstan after the collapse of the USSR has resulted in a 67% unemployment rate among rural women. To address this problem and improve socioeconomic conditions of rural communities, the *Union of Rural Women of the Issyk-Kul Region* implemented a training project with a small grant from Counterpart Consortium to provide training and counseling services to almost 1,500 women. As a result of their improved skills, trainees developed business plans and community project proposals that have received \$9,555 from the State Fund and the Agricultural Financial Corporation.

Disabled Single Mothers Execute Successful Campaign to Help Themselves

Many single-parent households led by disabled mothers fall below the poverty level. Their children suffer significant disadvantages as a result. Through technical assistance and counseling offered by Counterpart Consortium, the *Beitap Association of Disabled Single Mothers* launched the "For Happy Childhood" campaign to raise funds and increase public awareness about their problems. As a result:

- 10 organizations, including governmental agencies, businesses and international organizations, have provided funding and humanitarian assistance totaling \$7,058;
- the Medical Academy conducted health screenings and examinations for 14 of the children free of charge; and
- the Land Distribution Department allocated 3 hectares of land for the members use. The members grew a significant crop of cucumbers, pumpkins and cabbage and distributed the crops equally among member families.

Association of Tax Inspectors Strengthens Its Financial Sustainability

The only source of funding for the nonprofit Chamber of Tax Inspectors was income generated through fees for counseling services. In order to improve its financial sustainability and promote organizational development the NGO needed additional fundraising strategies. Knowledge and skills gained by the NGO leader at Counterpart Consortium training workshops allowed her to make changes in strategic planning to address the NGO's needs. As a result of the changes the group dramatically increased its financial sustainability from 1997-1999. The NGO raised more than \$30,000 from grants and increased the amount of fees collected to \$10,000.

Counterpart Newsletter Helps NGO Identify New Source of Financial Support

NGOs still have limited access to information, especially about international donor agencies. As a result of the newsletter published by Counterpart Consortium and the local NGO *Zhan*, more information on a wide range of topics, including funding sources, has been made available to NGOs throughout Central Asia. The Women's League of Creative Initiative learned about the Global Fund for Women through the newsletter and recently won a grant from them to purchase basic office equipment for their office.

Association of Law Scientists Diversifies Funding Sources

The Association of Law Scientists in Kyrgyzstan needed additional funding to promote the development of a democratic state based on the rule of law through law making, independent expertise, introduction of new technologies and training of the Association staff members. Having acquired skills in fundraising and project design at Counterpart Consortium training workshops the Association was awarded more than \$30,000 from three donors to implement a series of projects on women's rights and open a study center on human rights.

NGO Facilitates Cross-Border Conflicts

There are three Kyrgyz and one Tajik villages in the Leilek region of the Kyrgyz-Tajik border that share a single source of drinking water. For many years Kyrgyz and Tajik villagers have been in dispute over access to the water. Sometimes conflicts resulted in murders on both sides. Through negotiations with the fighting parties and local communities the NGO *For International Tolerance* conducted a roundtable to reach consensus on how to resolve water access. Using skills acquired at Counterpart training in Project Design and PRA methodology, the NGO trained representatives of the local NGO community in writing a grant application. The community successfully submitted an application to UNDP to build a water system with 14 pumps. The location of the pumps was determined at community-based meetings with the local governor to prevent the installation of pumps in places that would cause a new wave of conflicts.

Association for Employment Promotion Creates Jobs through Developing Business-Incubator

There is a high unemployment rate in the Kyrgyz Republic necessitating the creation of additional jobs. Through fundraising skills gained at Counterpart Consortium, the Association of Employment Promotion received a \$3,830 grant from the German Technical Assistance Program to establish a business incubator based on the "Ainur" joint-stock venture. As a result of the project, the Association will train workers, provide counseling services and assist the incubator with registration at the Ministry of Justice. The owners of the joint-stock venture provided the incubator with premises and equipment.

POLIS Center for Support of Election Systems Diversifies Funding Sources

In order to promote democratic changes in Kyrgyzstan through the introduction of new election systems and technologies, POLIS, the Nonprofit Center for Support of Election Systems, had to raise additional funds. By using the skills acquired at Counterpart training workshops and through counseling services the NGO submitted a series of grant applications as well as made some improvements in the organizational development. As a result of fundraising activities the NGO generated \$39,579 from six donor organizations over the period of 2.5 years.

Public Policy/Advocacy

Advocacy and Policy Reform Results in Significant Savings that Utilities Pass On to Consumers

Utility providers in Kyrgyzstan have been publishing outdated regulations for mandatory distribution to more than one million consumers at more than \$1 per copy. In addition to forcing the utilities to incur this significant expense, the contradictory information was confusing to consumers. In order to solve this problem, Aikyn Association of Consumer Rights Protection held a series of roundtables and public meetings with a range of parliamentarians, government officials, utility officials and other stakeholders. As a result, the outdated regulation was stricken from the legislative codex, saving \$1,659,547 in energy and \$1,659,547 in utility company overhead, that would have been passed on to consumers. Accurate regulations were subsequently included as a free of charge supplement to a public service agreement.

Bishkek Center of Social Initiatives Advocates for Migrants' Voting Rights

Only 38% of voters, who are internal migrants living in new residential areas around Bishkek, participated in local elections on October 17, 1999 in Kyrgyzstan. Internal migrants abstained from voting, indicating a need to increase the level of their participation in parliamentary elections. Through training and counseling from Counterpart and a small USAID grant the Bishkek Center of Social Initiatives trained 80 leaders from new residential areas around Bishkek who continued voter education on a community level as well as published and distributed 500 copies of a directory on modern election technologies. The project resulted in a 22% increase in the number of internal migrants who voted in the parliamentary elections in February.

ILIM Educational Complex Secures a Tax-Exemption Under Unfriendly Legal Conditions

According to the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic all non-governmental entities have to pay 20% value added tax. ILIM Educational Complex is a nonprofit organization that does not provide paid services but had to pay the VAT. Through advocacy skills acquired at Counterpart workshops ILIM submitted various financial and registration papers to the tax inspection to prove the status of an educational association. As a result of lobbying the ILIM Complex was exempted from VAT for one year, totaling a savings of \$5,265 to the school budget.

Association of Law Scientists Institutionalizes Kyrgyz Human Rights Activists

A low level of legal awareness does not allow the population of Kyrgyzstan to fully enjoy their rights. Therefore there was a need to improve legal support to citizens through the establishment of the Center for Study of Human Rights and training of specialists in this area. By using the skills gained at Counterpart workshops and through a \$5,029 grant funding the Association of Law Scientists opened such a center and designed a methodology manual on human rights. As a result of the project

- The Association collected 1,070 books and methodology materials for the Center and opened a training room where 125 attendees have been trained in human rights issues.
- A course on human rights was incorporated in the curricula of the law department at the Kyrgyz-Slavic University. 113 students successfully passed the exams on human rights and 47 graduated from the University majoring in human rights.
- Four university students participated in a competition on international humanities law and were prize winners.
- As a result of 5 roundtables conducted for Parliament, governmental agencies, law enforcement bodies, NGOs and educational institutions, the orphans of a children's home received humanitarian aid including clothes and toys.

Share of Women-Deputies Increases through NGO Interventions

The 1999 local parliamentary elections resulted in a significant reduction in the number of women representatives (4 women among 105 deputies – 3.8%). Through counseling services from Counterpart Consortium and a small grant from USAID the Women's Center conducted 23 community-based meetings in 17 villages, 3 workshops for women-candidates and observers and established information boards for voters. The total number covered by the NGO information campaign totaled 760 people. Of the 12 women trained by the Women's Center, three were elected to rayon governing bodies and two to regional governing bodies in the 2000 elections.

Legal Environment

Association of Tax Inspectors Successfully Lobbies Tax Regulations in Kyrgyzstan

There are significant contradictions between the law and implementing regulations regarding deductions and use of funding for prevention and mitigation of emergencies. The Regulations provided a wider interpretation of law provisions, which entailed an increased amount of taxes levied on taxpayers. The Association of Tax Inspectors considered that it was an infringement on taxpayers' rights because some of the deductions were wrongly interpreted and therefore illegal. By using facilitation skills acquired at training workshops of Counterpart, the Association members conducted a series of roundtables for the republican tax inspection and lawyers. Three weeks, later based on the discussion results, the Ministry of Finance canceled the regulations and many of the Kyrgyz taxpayers were exempt from extra deductions.

Social Partnership

Training Center for Disabled Children Succeeds in Establishing Social Partnership

At the present 43 children with varying degrees of disability attend the Training Center for Disabled Children. Many of them are unable to move without help or have to use wheelchairs. The NGO wasn't properly equipped to handle the transportation needs of their students. Through skills gained at Counterpart workshops, the leader of the NGO reached an agreement with the Lega Transportation Company whereby it would provide vehicles and pay 50% of transportation costs for two years.

Association for Employment Promotion Creates Jobs for Vulnerable People

Families who have disabled children have to survive both financial and emotional difficulties. They lack the money to buy medicines and appropriate food. Most of mothers are unemployed because they stay at home to take care of children. With improved skills and a grant from Counterpart Consortium, the *Association for Employment Promotion* opened a mini-bakery and kindergarten. As a result of the project, six mothers work at the bakery and four mothers at the kindergarten providing care to eight disabled children who have three meals a day and undergo psychological and physical rehabilitation. The State Employment Department allocated \$270 for food and the bakery generates \$275 by selling pastries. The money is used to supplement the incomes of a number of member families.

Community Outreach

Talas NGO Pilots Innovative Community-based Support for Local School

The Talas school #2 did not have a dining room and 1,180 school students did not have an opportunity to eat during the school day. Having acquired knowledge and skills at Counterpart Consortium training workshops and roundtables the NGO *Tikmy* rented dining space at the school, made repairs and equipped it to provide schoolchildren with hot lunches. As a result of the project the NGO:

- Provided 12 children from low-income families with free breakfast
- Attracted volunteers to rehabilitate the dining facilities and neighborhood around the school
- Enhanced its community image and is encouraging other schools to replicate its experience
- Contributed to a decrease in the incidence of hepatitis from 18 cases in 1997 to 3 in 1999.

Taking into account the importance of the project the city department of education allocated funds, generated through rental payment, to cover food expenses for children of low-income families.

Rural NGO Counters Refugee-Women Unemployment

The population (5720 people) of the Sosnovka village in Kyrgyzstan is very diverse and mainly consists of refugees, disabled and single mothers. Official data indicates there are 219 unemployed in the village. By using skills gained at Counterpart's Project Design workshop and through a grant from the locally organized grant committee based in Kara-Balta the *Golden Hands* NGO implemented a small community-based project. With small grant funding the group purchased raw materials to make national felt crafts and made an agreement with a local farm to employ 33 women for short term. The number of people who turned to the NGO for employment opportunities increased by 60%.

NGO Relieves Burden on Refugee Family Budgets

A \$35 annual fee introduced by the Ministry of Education for renovation of school classes in 1999-2000 was unaffordable to many parents and caused financial problems for 59 low-income refugee families in the Alekseevka village. 46 children stopped attending school. By applying the skills gained at training workshops of Counterpart Consortium NGO *Hairinisso* organized a series of community-based meetings with senior citizens and parents to lobby the interests of refugee families. As a result of actions undertaken by the NGO 73% of school students were exempt from the repair fees, for 14% it was reduced by 50% and the total number of refugee children attending the school increased by 35%.

TAJIKISTAN

Building NGO Capacity

NGO "Fidokor" Promotes New Methods of Interactive Teaching in Secondary Schools

To increase the quality of the education in Khatlon Oblast – most affected by conflict area - the NGO "*Fidokor*," through the USAID and UNHCR-funded Tolerance Education Program, trained 500 teachers from 250 schools in interactive teaching methodology. Representatives of the local education departments were involved in the project as well. Recent monitoring visits indicated a 28-30% increase in students attendance in participating schools. After attending classes in these schools, representatives of Education Departments in 13 districts officially applied to *Fidokor* to receive training for teachers at schools not previously covered by the project.

Media/Outreach

NGO Newspaper Helps People to Make Choices in Elections

A lack of impartial information about Parliamentary candidates during the 2000 pre-election months was a serious barrier to voter choice. To address the problem, the Association of Journalists for Social Partnership, a Counterpart target NGO, published extensive information about all six political parties in two issues of its monthly newspaper – the only source of non-partisan information about political candidates in the country. More than 8,000 people received copies distributed at Candidate Forums. According to the Central Election Committee, in 78 polling stations where the newspaper was distributed opposition parties received 7-8% more votes than they did in other polling stations.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

Local Private Donors Join NGO's Efforts to Help Disabled Children

6,000 disabled children living in the Khatlon region are not adequately supported by bankrupt State health structures. NGO Umed, a Counterpart trainee, has successfully obtained \$2,500 in private sector in-kind support to establish a treatment center that is now providing pro-bono treatment for 20 children per month. In addition, Umed has received cash donations of \$900 to pay for food for patients.

Public Policy/Advocacy

NGO "Jahon" Expands its Human Rights Training to Militia in Dushanbe

Since the Civil War cases of human rights' abuse by law-enforcement employees increased – especially in the capital. The NGO *Jahon*, with support from Counterpart Consortium, conducted a series of seminars on Human Rights for 150 high ranking officials in Khatlon and Khojand oblasts. Based on their success, the Dushanbe City Ministry of Internal Affairs is receiving similar training from *Jahon*, funded by the Soros Foundation. High level officials will facilitate the training and *Jahon's* members will participate as experts. NGO *Jahon* is planning to conduct a series of meeting and roundtables with the Ministry of Internal Affairs Leadership in order to spread the experience throughout the country.

NGO's Efforts Increase the Number of Women in Parliament in Tajikistan

The former Tajik Parliament included one five women – just 2.5% of the total deputy seats. Before the Presidential and Parliamentary elections seven active women NGOs started an advocacy campaign to improve the status of women in society. A series of roundtables were conducted with the participation of Government officials, President's Office and leaders of six main political parties. The idea has been promoted also through the mass media. As a result, the President of Tajikistan issued an edict " On measures to improve of the status of women in Society." As a result, 11 female deputies were elected – a significant increase from the previous parliament.

Conflict Resolution

Local NGO Contributes Resolving Conflicts Between Armed Groupes In Gorno - Badakhshan

During the last five years, 15 clashes between rival armed factions in Khorog City have injured or killed 50 people and contribute to overall civil unrest and instability. NGO *Volunteer* a Counterpart grantee and target NGO that consists of 500 young people throughout the oblast, has been actively involved with the government structures in resolving the conflicts acting as a mediator between the armed groups. Since 1999 the members of this NGO managed to prevent 5 armed clashes by bringing together opposing sides to the negotiations.

TURKMENISTAN

Building NGO Capacity

Information Center Set-up Enhances NGO's Responsiveness to Beneficiaries

Three months ago, the NGO Trieria recently received a grant to open a Health Information Center in Dashoguz city in response to the new system of family medicine resulting from national health care reforms. The reforms are positive, but the population remained about their rights to health care under the new system. As a result of a public education campaign to address the problem. NGO membership has increased by 12 people, four volunteers are now actively involved, four doctors are providing pro-bono consultations and visits to the Center have increased by 20%. In addition, Trieria has entered into a partnership with the new health clinic to assist in the registration of patients qualifying for assistance. Thirty-two patients have been registered through Trieria's efforts and have received needed treatment that was previously unavailable to them.

Partnership and Coalition Building

NGOs Team-Up to Assist Unemployed Women

Traditionally, the Women's Union of Turkmenistan has been the only NGO recognized by the government working on women's issues, which has stymied collaboration and participation of other NGOs in gender issues. For the past 10 months, in the framework of a Counterpart grant, the Center for Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs has forged direct linkages with the Women's Union in its employment training program. This relationship has enabled the two NGOs to combine professional business skills with government relations in an effective employment placement scheme. Since February of 1999, over 240 women have been trained and 50 have been placed in jobs as a direct result of this NGO project.

Public Policy/Advocacy

Arma "arms" Pensioners with Skills to Lobby for Fair Pension Payment

A new Turkmen law on pensions was published on January 1, 2000. The following month, over 50 pensioners called or visited the office of *Arma* to request assistance in calculating their new pensions and subsidy rates in order to verify that their new payments were accurate. In response, *Arma* organized a roundtable with experts from the Ministry of Social Welfare in which 32 pensioners participated. Using the information gathered during the event, *Arma* was able to consult with over 50 pensioners and teach them how to review their January and February pensions to verify the accuracy of the amount. As a result of *Arma's* intervention, 42 pensioners discovered mistakes in their pension payments and were reimbursed by the Ministry of Social Welfare for the adjusted balances to correct the underpayment totaling an adjustment of over 4 million manat (approximately \$900).

Social Partnership

Mutual Understanding through Ecology

There are more NGOs working in the ecology sector than any other in Turkmenistan, yet their relations with government structures have traditionally consisted of one-time joint activities with no follow-up or perspective. Recently, the *Green Team* that receives free office space in the Turkmen State University realized the impact of their efforts of six months of labor when they hosted the first National Ecological Conference in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The event gathered over 150 teachers and representatives of nine Eco NGOs from across the country and incorporated interactive methods such as working groups to draft recommendations on how to re-insert ecological courses into the national educational program. This dialogue between government, NGOs and teachers was continued through nine articles published in the national newspaper regarding the importance of adding ecology to the school curriculum.

Community Outreach

NGO as Link to Outside World

In Turkmenabad City, 600 kilometers outside of Ashgabad, there is no place for people to access e-mail except for the Dostluk Center, which began receiving e-mail free of charge through Counterpart. In the past 8 months, 5 free seminars have been conducted on how to use e-mail for 45 participants. In addition, over 90 people over the course of the grant used e-mail at no charge through the Center. As a result of this international information access, the NGO has assisted the following activities:

- 15 students have applied to study abroad through e-mail
- Free books were sent to the Center by an American NGO
- 3 people with physical disabilities were put in contact with international clinics regarding treatment
- Volunteers at the Center have assisted 49 e-mail users by translating information from English to Russian and Turkmen for free

Civil Society Concepts Reach Turkmen Speaking Audience

Achyk Gapy, the first Turkmen speaking NGO to target the Turkmen speaking population, has provided a unique "pre-training" module on basic civil society concepts to over 100 people in villages in Ahal region. This "Pre-training" was designed by the NGO members and adapted to the local needs of the ethnic Turkmen population who have never been exposed to participatory approaches. The NGO's members developed all materials in the Turkmen language. As a result of the efforts of Achyk Gapy to reach the Turkmen speaking population:

- 2 new Turkmen speaking initiative groups were able to organize themselves around issues and have formalized their structures as NGOs.
- 80 Turkmen speaking participants who were formerly isolated from standard civil society training activities due to language, cultural and geographic barriers have completed NGO and Community training and become integrated into the NGO community network.
- a group of 25 volunteers was formed and is now transferring the information learned in the workshops to other members of their villages.
- The inhabitants of the settlements have formed 8 initiative groups for local needs, such as the decision of women's questions, health and hygiene, ecology and support of the farmers. The most active of these fledgling groups was recently the recipient of a small grant under a competitive Counterpart Consortium start-up connectivity grant program.

Discovering Civil Society Together

There are few NGOs focused on civic education in Turkmenistan. Counterpart grantee Civic Dignity is the only NGO conducting training focusing on civic education. In order to reach a broader constituency, the NGO launched a public outreach campaign through a series of training seminars that have trained 280 people, including youth, teachers, NGO leaders and other community activists. The theme of civic education had a catalyzing effect on audiences. Results include:

- 7 new initiative groups have been formed by participants of these training sessions in three regions of Turkmenistan. These groups carry-out meetings with students in their cities; discuss citizens' rights using handouts from the training; and have distributed newsletters and informational materials from the seminars to over 200 people
- Four teachers from one secondary school have added civic education topics to their class curriculum, thus reaching 400 students in Ashgabad alone.
- One teacher from Lebap region took the initiative to translate and conduct in Turkmen the module entitled: "Issues of Abortion"

Community Conflict Resolution in Action

In the past, communities receiving water from a modern purification plant would passively wait for the water to be delivered. If there were problems at the village level with distribution of the water, communities would become divided and grudges would be formed. Recently, under the water users' association project, that situation has changed. In three instances this quarter the Water User's Association of Turkmenbashi etrap has been asked to intervene and arbitrate conflicts regarding the use and distribution of the water. In one situation, three members of a serdop group (12 families) felt that the water delivered to their village was not sufficient for all of the group members. They decided to expel one family, a woman-headed household with four children. The woman contacted the WUA and asked for assistance. Using the facilitation skills learned through training methodology and conducting community meetings, the three WUA members were able to turn the situation around. The silent majority of the group members did not want to expel the family and slowly came its defense, thus diminishing the control the dominating three members had wielded in the community. The solution suggested by a local elder and adopted by the community was to let the woman be in charge of the distribution to demonstrate her commitment. Her status in the village has been raised as a result and the community is no longer divided over the issue.

UZBEKISTAN

Building NGO Capacity

NGO Introduces Humanitarian Law into Curriculum of Tashkent Law Institute

In addition to a lack of legal information about human rights law, progress in this regard in Uzbekistan has been very slow and recent terrorist activities have challenged the system even more. In order to address this, Counterpart grantee the *Center for Studies of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law* recently published 2000 copies of a book entitled "International Humanitarian Law." which examines human rights in a state of emergency and armed conflicts. The book will be used for 36 academic hours in the curriculum of the Tashkent Law Institute as a trial for permanent inclusion as a textbook. If approved, the text will become integrated into the national curriculum for international law.

Uzbek NGO Receives Support of UK Embassy

The Fergana Branch of the *Society for Consumer Rights Protection* has been a regular visitor of the Kokand NGO Support Center for the past 6 months. The NGO was in need of technical equipment to produce handout materials for its seminars and a newsletter on consumer rights for youth. The NGO has grown steadily and needs additional support to meet the demands of its constituency. With facilitation from Counterpart the NGO met with the Ambassador of the UK in Uzbekistan. Impressed by NGO's desire and efforts to educate youth, the Ambassador, through the British Know How Foundation, granted the NGO with a computer, printer, and copy machine. With these valuable resources the NGO continues its activities with even greater zeal.

Membership Base Expands as a Result of Counterpart Training

Grassroots level health reform in the Fergana Valley is targeting rural medical stations (SVPs) serving communities with basic primary health care. In collaboration with Abt. Associates, Counterpart provided Association Development and Governance training for SVP workers from all over the region, with assistance from an initiative group working to organize an Association of Medical Workers. As a result of the training, the General Assembly of the Association received membership applications from 35 SVPs – equaling 600 total staff members. Their accumulated human and material resources will effectively promote health reforms in remote areas.

Income Generation Activity Partners the Army with the Disabled in Uzbekistan

Umidvorlik, which focuses on disabled children in Tashkent, recently conducted PRA research that identified income generation for families as a critical need to improve the lives of disabled children. In response, the NGO gathered ten sewing machines from within the community and through a German Embassy contribution and began an income-generating project. Ten women will receive training to start the project. *Umidvorlik* is already finalizing the first contract with the Ministry of Defense to sew bedclothes for the Army.

Partnership and Coalition Building

Tashkent and Nukus NGOs Collaborate to Assist Remote Regions of Karakalpakstan

There is a great deal of work for NGOs in political, environmental, economic and social domains of Karakalpakstan. This amount of work is hard to accomplish with only one NGO's scarce human and financial resources. With the skills learned at Counterpart seminars, *Renaissance* of Nukus and *Engineering Ecology* of Tashkent consolidated their efforts to develop and fund an ambitious joint project in five regions of Karakalpakstan. With funding support from the Ebert Foundation, the NGOs will conduct seminars on legal, human rights, health, and environmental issues for women and youth. Strengthened also by informational support received from the Ministry of Health of Karakalpakstan, this coalition will be useful and advantageous for its beneficiaries.

Fledgling Youth Club Network Unites 67 Young Leaders in Uzbekistan

The *Bukhara Information and Cultural Center* founded the Young Leaders Club six months ago to provide counseling, training and technical assistance to the students of Bukhara Technological University. More and more students have been turning to the Young Leaders Club for guidance and support, resulting in two new Clubs opening at the University with 25 members each. These 3 youth unions will work in partnership to develop youth leadership abilities and to learn methods of tolerance and conflict resolution. 67 young leaders have started preparing their first project, a celebration of International Youth Day.

Media/Outreach

NGO Provides Health Education via Local Television and Radio Stations

For more than five years the *Association of Pediatricians of Bukhara* has been expanding and developing its programs. To reach a wider audience through its health educational program, the Association is working in cooperation with the Bukhara Regional Television, which agreed to air six 10-minute educational shows on hepatitis, hygiene and other topics and is paying for 50% of the spots. Also, having applied skills received at Counterpart training "Public Education through the Media" the NGO has contracted with a local radio station to broadcast a series of health programs on smoking and drug use. The NGO expects that these efforts, backed up by the powerful mass media, will raise the public awareness of health issues in Bukhara Region.

NGO Film Helped an Official Win Parliamentary Election

The recent parliamentary election was a significant event in the political and social life of Uzbekistan. Each candidate led a campaign to secure the votes of the citizens. One Bukhara Region candidate was elected to Parliament by voters who saw him in a film produced by NGO *Shod*, a Counterpart grantee. With support from Counterpart and the Eurasia Foundation, the NGO shot a series of four videos to publicize Success Stories of NGOs and state institutions that strive to bring about positive changes in Uzbekistan. National and regional channels aired the films. The former pro-rector of the Academy of State Construction, now MP and Consultant to the President of Uzbekistan, telephoned the *Shod* leader to express his gratitude for the film. He said - "Thanks to this film, the electorate learned about my work and about me. As a result, I was elected".

NGO Secures Unprecedented Free National Access to Televised Media

Given the notorious censorship on Uzbekistan television and reluctance of national channels to give free air time, *Gender: Innovation and Development*, an active participant in a number of Counterpart training workshops, was bestowed a rare honor. The NGO will produce and air a number of special programs about NGO topics, including gender policy, environment, legal and economical education, and development of non-profit organizations. This unique opportunity will help the NGO reach the hearts and minds of its constituents through one of the most powerful media instruments.

Financial Sustainability/Leveraging

Business –NGO Partnership Provides Expanded Internet Access in Bukhara

Internet access continues to be extremely limited in Uzbekistan, especially outside of Tashkent. The *Bukhara Information and Cultural Center* has successfully entered into a representational relationship with the leading private sector Internet provider in Uzbekistan (Naytov). This win-win situation means greatly enhanced Internet access for Bukhara and enhanced financial security and an expanded constituency base for the BICC.

NGO Fundraising Insured Financial Support for 62 Disabled Persons

The Karakalpak *Society for the Disabled* has a vast target group in Karakalpakstan, where the disabled population is comparatively large and local sources of financial support are limited. Having attended Counterpart seminar in fundraising, and after receiving consultations on organizational development at Nukus NGO Support Center, the *Society for Disabled* launched a successful fundraising campaign with the following results:

- The local hokimiat has granted 7-room premises to the NGO.
- The NGO bought an automobile with donated funds.
- Local private sector support in 1999 totaled \$5,350.
- 62 disabled persons have received financial support since then.

Social Partnership

NGO and Ombudsman Promote Implementation of Legislative Reform

One of many barriers to improved human rights in Uzbekistan is the lack of knowledge among teaching professors, State structures and the general public. For example, law enforcement officials don't know how new legislation should affect their conduct and performance. Counterpart grantee *Center for Studies of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law* and the Ombudsman of the Parliament of Uzbekistan have signed an MOU, making the commitment to collaborate to address this problem and to increase general public understanding of the new law. In addition to conducting an on-going series of workshops, they will design special training programs for law enforcement officials, teaching professors and State Institutions.

Service Delivery Leads to Tangible Success in Advocacy and Social Partnership

KRIDI's paramount goal is integrating disabled children and adolescents into general education and public life. Having participated in a full range of Counterpart capacity building activities, including a partnership with the National Parent Network on Disability in Washington, DC, *KRIDI* has put theories into practice. For example,

- In partnership with district kindergartens, *KRIDI* has introduced 27 children with disabilities into general kindergartens over the past 2 years. Parents of disabled children claim that their kids "have acquired an intelligent look", "can eat by their own" and "partake in all the shows". Other parents state that their children "have grown kinder" and "feel compassion".
- Partnership relations with the Institute for Supplementary Education have provided for extracurricular learning, such as drawing and music classes. 70 disabled children and their healthy peers come to *KRIDI* 3 times a week to learn and play together. There they, along with their parent, exchange life experiences.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

During this quarter, Counterpart focused activities in all countries on phasing out the program objectives of Phase II and shifting to the “new paradigm” in program activities planned for Phase III, under which the regional infrastructure and NGO support activities will be fully localized. Throughout the region there was movement toward localization of the training program, creating networks of trainers, expanding local language training, and increased numbers of paid trainings. Several offices also worked on strengthening their support center networks this quarter in preparation for the expansion planned in Phase III.

After arriving in the region last quarter, Ms. Elizabeth Comolli has been conducting organizational development exercises with the offices in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan with plans for activity in Uzbekistan next quarter.

This quarter was marked by a lengthy leave of Country Director Jay Cooper. Lorel Donaghey, Program Manager from Washington DC served as the Senior Advisor to the Uzbekistan team to coordinate all programmatic activities within this period. Lola Abdousalymova was Acting Country Director during this period.

The Makhalla Program in Uzbekistan continues to move forward as scheduled. Activities for this program are detailed separately in the report on that project.

The NGO Expand project in Tajikistan continues to be implemented. Additional staff were hired for the CHAP component. Activities for this program are detailed separately in the report on that project.

KAZAKHSTAN

The focus of this quarter was on preparation for Phase III and getting the staff to understand the importance of the localization of the support centers and culminated in the Counterpart Regional Staff Meeting held on February 24,25 in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. The main issues discussed were strategic planning for beginning Phase III, reviewing and updating the system of internal controls, providing organizational development consulting, and problems and opportunities in Phase III implementation. In preparation for Phase III:

- Efforts have been made to identify and possibly purchase appropriate space for Kazakhstan and Regional offices in Almaty.
- Marat Aitmagambetov was named Kazakhstan Country Director.
- Elizabeth Comolli conducted personal interviews with the Kazakhstan staff and Country Director to analyze job functions and make recommendations on how to organize the work of the office most effectively to meet the goals of Phase III.

This quarter was marked by the closing down of the Constituency Building program and incorporating activities of mass media coordinators into programs of country offices. While their activities were diminished, this effort is still important for developing the PR skills of resource center staff.

Kazakhstan has negotiated for funding with UNHCR to develop a training module and a video focused on the relationship of NGOs to refugees. Additionally, UNHCR support for half-time staff and administrative costs will enable Counterpart’s Astana Center to provide liaison and secretariat services to facilitate UNHCR’s communication with government officials in the new capital.

From December 1999 to February 2000, a series of two-day conferences, funded by AED/Global, were held by Counterpart, together with affiliated resource centers in Almaty, Atyrau, Pavlodar and Astana. Advisory and methodological support was provided by the Marshak Foundation (Russia), which has a breadth of experience in this area. The main goal of the conferences was to develop the concept of social partnership in Kazakhstan and encourage collaboration among participants, who represented all sectors of society – state and business structures, NGOs and mass media. As a result, nine projects were developed throughout Kazakhstan in the areas of legislation improvement, information exchange, and open dialogue between all sectors.

Zhalgas-Counterpart Center has been registered as a legal entity. The full name is the Association of Non-Commercial Legal Entities *Zhalgas-Counterpart*. The founders are representatives of the target groups Public Association of Lawyers "Legal Initiative" and the non-commercial institution Center for Democratic Education "Leader."

Training Highlights

This past quarter there were 6 regular trainings for target groups, 4 computer trainings in the Almaty Resource Center, and 22 requested trainings, which were paid partly or entirely by the client.

Training priorities continue to focus on the needs of the target groups and requested trainings with in-kind contribution from the client. Requested trainings give Counterpart an opportunity to reach more remote areas of Kazakhstan that may not otherwise be reached. For example, this quarter Counterpart was able to conduct training in Shimkent, Pavlodar, Astana and Ust-Kamenogorsk.

Training for grantees within the framework of their grants was successfully conducted this quarter. There was a TOT in fundraising for the Association of Libraries in which 32 heads of oblast libraries participated. The Association of Libraries has already conducted 12 follow-up training in their regions. Thanks to a grant it was possible for this group to conduct training in social partnership and constituency development in Leninogorsk, a town in Eastern Kazakhstan.

A Newsletter Development seminar was conducted for the first time in Astana for target NGOs, marking the first step toward developing the NGO press in the region. Several applications were submitted right after the seminar to be published in newsletters and newspapers.

The first follow-up of the Press-Conference training was held. Several participating NGOs consider this training to be the best one offered by Counterpart because of the direct practical application of the seminar's contents. Several orders have already been placed by NGOs for this training module.

Training in Writing Impact and Success Stories was initially designed for Counterpart staff development, but was conducted this quarter for an NGO. For increased effectiveness, trainers recommended meeting with the client NGO in advance of the training session to clarify organizational reporting practices.

Staff Development

- February 11-12, Senior Program Coordinator Maiya Tsyganenko participated in an Organizational Governance Conference in Moscow conducted by Counterpart International and Partner Foundation (Russia)
- March 1-6, Database Manager Anvar Uzakpaev participated in a regional database meeting in Bishkek
- March 28-April 2, Senior Program Coordinators Maiya Tsyganenko and Jamila Asanova participated in a TOT in Training Design and Team Work in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- February–March, a New Program Coordinator in Astana, Nurlan Zhumabekov, worked in the Almaty office to gain experience as a program coordinator.

Media Highlights

The Mass Media Coordinator, Zukhra Sultanova, and two Kazakhstani trainers participated in a regional TOT funded through AED/Global and conducted by Sue Benedetti on "How to Conduct Press-conferences." This training will likely become an advanced module of the Public Education through Media module and promises to be very useful and popular among NGOs.

The Kazakhstan Mass Media Coordinator and NGO *Zhan* produced the 7th issue of the regional newsletter dedicated to cooperation between NGOs and business.

Much has been done to conduct an information campaign in connection with conferences on social partnership. The Astana-based Mass Media Program coordinator organized meetings with journalists from Astana, Pavlodar and Atyrau on this topic before and after the conferences. They all supported the idea of opening a press-center in Astana to help journalists to get timely and accurate information on NGO activities.

NGO Support Centers

Astana Support Center

A new Program Coordinator, Nurlan Zhumabekov, was hired to work with target NGOs in Astana in February. He's spent his orientation period in the Almaty office acquiring knowledge and skills necessary to successfully perform his job responsibilities.

The Astana Support Center provided 85 consultations to NGOs, received 324 visitors, and conducted one TTAP, two follow-up workshops and three trainings. Support Center Manager, Galiya Omarova, conducted a training on impact/success stories writing for the center's staff, which will hopefully improve their reporting skills.

The Astana Support Center played a major role in planning and conducting a conference on social partnership in Astana from February 3-4. Participants from previous conferences, representing different regions of Kazakhstan, were brought to the capital to share ideas, thoughts and plans in this area. Representatives of 11 state structures, including the Minister of Labor and Social Protection who gave the opening speech, nine business structures and 17 representatives of mass media attended the conference – an indicator of the strong preparatory work and outreach conducted by the Center's staff.

The Counterpart Center provided consulting and information support to NGO *Zharia* to conduct a meeting with *Humanitarian Assistance Program funded by US Central Command*. 25 NGOs from Astana and Stepnogorsk participated at the meeting that was followed by visits to several government structures, including the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord.

Bibigul Salykova organized a visit to Astana by the Head of UNHCR Liaison Office, Mr Abdul Karim Ghoul. In particular he: 1) made appointments with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Parliament Deputies, representatives of the President Administration, Chief of the Agency for Migration, and Chief of the Department of Ministry of Inner affairs; 2) organized a meeting on the issue of Chechen refugees; and 3) prepared a dinner with participation of Parliamentarians and representatives of the President's administration.

Bibigul Salykova has been invited to the Conference of the International Organization for Migration.

Almaty Resource Center

Information on 29 new NGOs was entered and 53 old questionnaires were updated for a total of 732 current NGO profiles in the NGO database. E-mail boxes for 3 NGOs ("Alaman" public organization, Association "Medfarm Kazakhstan" and Association of Child Neurology) were created.

The Resource Center/Database Manager participated in the Regional Database Meeting, which was held in Bishkek from March 1-3. He prepared comments and brainstormed with colleagues on how to improve the current process for updating information. Participants discussed problems and potential solutions related to database activities such as time-sharing and volunteer activities.

Representatives from 73 NGOs used the Resource Center's equipment and were provided with consultations (613 visits). One of the Resource Center's new features is a course on computer training including Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Word. Representatives of 7 organizations took the computer courses and were trained in peripheral usage. For the most part participants are more computer savvy and understand practical applications of the programs, allowing the Resource Center Manager to spend more time on other issues.

Resource Center Volunteers have been instrumental in cataloging both library resources and educational materials acquired during the AED/GTD project financed by USAID.

KYRGYZSTAN

Training Highlights

Media Coordinator G. Uchugenova, Contract Trainer E. Tkacheva, and Support Center Managers B. Abdieva, N. Satarov and A. Kasymbekov took part in TOT workshop on Press Conferences held in Issyk-Kul on January 24- 28 and organized by the Counterpart Consortium with support from the Global Fund.

The first training workshop on Press Conferences was held on February 24- 25. Ten NGO representatives attended the workshop, where they gained basic skills and knowledge in holding press conferences for informing general public on NGO activities.

The *Public Education Through Media* training manual was formatted and edited in Kyrgyz. Handouts to the module are being translated in Kyrgyz. Based on training materials provided at TOTs by World Learning and USIS, nine handouts for the *Press-Conference* module were designed. The training manual for the same module is being updated.

Eleven trainings and fifteen follow-up workshops were conducted during the reporting period. 205 participants from 151 local NGOs attended training and 110 NGO representatives took part in follow-up seminars. A complete list of training activities can be found in Attachment 3.

Staff Development

The Organizational Development (OD) workshop was held for the staff of Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan on January 13. Participants identified the strengths of the organization as well as areas for improvement. A follow-up seminar on OD was conducted from February 23-24. Participants were divided into three groups and discussed and designed action plans in the following areas: Financial Sustainability, Information Exchange among Departments, and Staff Development. The plans were discussed at an all-staff meeting and two of them were approved for implementation while the Staff Development plan is under redevelopment.

The Information System Manager, Marat Nusurov, and the Webmaster, Valery Orekhov, conducted the regional workshop for database managers of Counterpart Consortium on March 1-3 with technical assistance from Senior Advisor Elizabeth Comolli. Participants from all five Central Asian countries learned specific features of the database, and outlined the database development plan.

Information Network

- *Database:* The NGO Database contains information on 2,310 Central Asian NGOs, including 1,019 Kyrgyzstani NGOs, which have been active. 25 new questionnaires were added, and information on 82 local NGOs was updated during the reporting period.
- *Information Network:* 8,889 user sessions were registered in the log file of CANGO.NET since January 1, 2000. The average user session length is 16 minutes. Users from USA account for 30% of the sessions, while other international users account for 29% of the sessions. The NGO Database (NGODB), NGO Homepages, Links, Listserv and Bulletin Board, and NGO Electronic Library are available on the Web Site. 15 homepages of Central Asian NGOs were developed in Russian (including 10 Kyrgyzstani NGOs) and 8 homepages were developed in English (including 4 Kyrgyzstani NGOs). 15 NGO homepages were updated. There are 144 homepages in Russian (including 109 for Kyrgyzstan) and 61 homepages in English (including 32 for Kyrgyzstan) on the Web Site as of March 31, 2000. An NGO Online Charts Page, which provides pie charts of NGO distribution by sectors and regions, was developed and introduced. Web Master Valery Orekhov is designing an Intranet Web Site for the office in order to improve activity planning and information exchange among staff.
- *Internet/Email Services:* 95 visitors from 65 NGOs (536 visits) used the Internet Center's facilities working with E-mail (43% of the visits), Internet (31% of the visits) and document processing (26% of the visits). Fifteen visitors used books from the library. 457 consultations for NGOs were delivered. Two workshops "Internet and E-mail" were conducted, 28 people from 16 target NGOs attended those workshops. Currently, 165 E-mail boxes are being maintained for NGOs, 10 new E-mail boxes for NGOs were created, 12 new NGO clients were registered. The software on E-mail server was upgraded this quarter. The Internet Center assisted the Children Fund "Aitana" in establishing a partnership with Save the Children Fund (UK).

NGO Support Centers

Support Centers took an active part in monitoring grantees, which received support through EGC offices working in their respective areas.

Jalal-Abad Support Center

The Jalal-Abad Support Center (JASC) provided 57 consultations for NGOs, received 188 visitors and made 14 field trips to outlying areas.

The JASC assisted NGO Chintamany (Tash-Komur Town) in conducting a roundtable in February on "Interaction between NGOs and local governments concerning the environment." Fourteen people participated in the discussions, including 11 from NGOs, the local sanitation station and the local media. The environmental NGOs of Jalal-Abad Oblast have not been very strong or active in the past. The participants decided to hold a second roundtable at the end of March and invite high school students and representatives from the Oblast Environmental Department. The NGOs also agreed to hold a special event on Earth Day, April 22, to build public awareness of environmental issues. Once this event is over, the NGOs have agreed to meet and discuss the possibility of forming a coalition of environmental NGOs in the Jalal-Abad Oblast.

The Manager of the JASC, Nurmamat Saparbaev, met with the Head of the State Regional Migration Department in Osh, S. Ismailova. She informed him that the Department is currently working on a database of refugee locations. The numbers of refugees should be available at the end of March. Mrs. Ismailova also mentioned that last repatriation for Tajik refugees would take place in June 2000.

The JASC initiated a meeting of local NGOs with the Governor on March 24, 2000. Sixteen representatives of 15 NGOs met with the Governor to discuss achievements and problems. They indicated that NGOs are ready to cooperate with state bodies but many local government leaders are not supportive. The Governor promised to host a meeting with heads of local governments to suggest ways for cooperating more with NGOs. The leader of the NGO "Children's Aesthetic Center," highlighted the need for books for preschool age children in Lenin village in Suzak Rayon. The Governor commissioned a grant of 5,000 som to buy these books. The money has been delivered to the NGO.

On March 25, 2000, The Support Center hosted a seminar on human rights for eight NGO representatives and refugees. The leader of the Public Foundation for Support of Economic and Legal Reforms (PFSELR) from Osh, conducted the seminar. In the end, the participants suggested conducting a series of seminars for NGOs to highlight ways to engage the general public to influence governmental bodies.

Kara-Balta Support Center

Kara-Balta Support Center (KBSC) provided 167 consultations for NGOs and received 116 visitors.

On January 22, 2000, NGOs Mok-Suu and Hireneso met with ADRA to discuss mutual co-operation. ADRA introduced its new program, which will provide clothes, shoes, educational manuals and computer materials, as well as run educational programs for beginning and secondary classes. Mr. R. Ashirov from Mok-Suu mentioned that there are 333 refugee children attending 14 secondary schools in the Panfilov Rayon who lack proper books, clothes, and money to pay school fees. Mok-Suu and Hireneso are gathering relevant information for ADRA about these children for ADRA.

NGO Hireneso provided applications to 30 refugees and the local population in the Jayl Rayon to receive credit from MCI ranging in amounts from 15,000 to 30,000 som, with a 36% interest rate for growing sugar beet. With assistance of Mok-Suu, the refugees of the Panfilov Rayon submitted 60 applications to MCI to receive credits ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 som. 31 of these applications were accepted by MCI. Mok-Suu also worked with Rayon Red Crescent Society to distribute sugar beet seeds to 110 refugee families and 48 local families.

KBSC together with Hireneso, Mok-Suu and Oi-Kain conducted a series of meetings aimed at mobilizing refugee groups in acquisition of Kyrgyz citizenship and residence registration. Representatives of local governments and passport offices took part in these meetings. Passport offices agreed to meet with refugee leaders twice a week to discuss each individual cases.

Naryn Support Center

The staff of the Naryn Support Center (NSC) provided 38 consultations for NGOs and received 167 visitors.

The Manager of the NSC, Nurdin Satarov, met with Deputy Governor S Aliev, the Coordinator of the State Program "Araket" J. Musuraliev and the Representative of the Women's Congress of Kyrgyzstan D. Abdykadyrova. The commission, consisting of above-mentioned people, has been created in order to have transparent procedures of distribution of 20,000 soms collected by the Kumtor Operating Company for poor people of Naryn Oblast.. The commission decided to hold monthly meetings.

Nurdin Satarov met with Deputy Akim of the Naryn Rayon T. Mutalibov, UNDP Representatives L. Helgeson, Gulmira Rasulova and the Coordinator of the State Program "Ajalzat" K. Orozakunova to discuss an upcoming UNDP project on social infrastructure. The group established the local grant committee responsible for selection of community projects related to this program.

TAJKISTAN

Security Situation

The security situation in general was calm except for a number of explosions that took place before the parliamentary elections. The last explosion went off in the Dushanbe City Mayor's car, killing one of the parliamentary candidates and causing minor injuries to the Mayor and one of his companions. After the incident the Mayor, who is very influential, initiated spot checks of cars in Dushanbe using various enforcement agencies. While these raids targeted illegally armed groups and individuals, they were accompanied by violence against citizens. Some checkpoint personnel were abusing their position and were searching ordinary citizens in the streets.

An UNMOT Security Advisor cautioned expatriates attending a security meeting of international organizations to be careful when traveling by car and limit outings in night time.

There was some tension between the supporters of the President's Party and some military candidates in the South during the pre-election period, but there were no incidents of violence reported on election day.

This quarter Counterpart continued providing high-level trainings for local NGOs. The trainings were scheduled according to NGO needs and covered various aspects of NGO management. As usual there are many people who want to establish their NGO. There has been tremendous demand for basic trainings like *NGO and Community* and *Project Design*. NGOs have been visiting Counterpart Office in Dushanbe and NGO Support centers in the field for consultations and information support. New information about funding sources for NGOs, subject-matter contacts and NGO related events were distributed to NGOs through the NGO Support Centers.

Counterpart's target organizations are groups working in conflict-impacted areas and continue to be the priority for activity. Counterpart has continued to be active in involving local NGOs with 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.

Because of the parliamentary elections in February Counterpart, in cooperation with NGOs, conducted a number of workshops, roundtables and other events related to Voter Education and principles of democracy and assisted NGOs in conducting candidate forums. During the workshops, forums and meetings a special literature on Voter Education was distributed among the participants. The whole activity brought remarkable results (see Attachment 6 Voter Education and Candidate Forums in Tajikistan).

At the same time, election events restricted Counterpart and NGO activities as government structures were actively involved in the campaign on behalf of the President's People's Democratic Party candidates and most of their services were suspended during this period.

Training Highlights

Counterpart training activities during the quarter included 55 training workshops for 737 participants from 497 NGOs conducted in all parts of the country.

Counterpart staff has been providing trainings and consultations on Organizational Development directly at NGO offices, oftentimes yielding greater results in terms of developing the capacity of NGOs.

Through the cooperation and collaboration with international organizations and local NGOs six training workshops were conducted for 107 local participants by trainers trained and referred by Counterpart and sponsored by international and local organizations.

Out of the 26 training modules previously available only in Russian, 15 have been translated into Tajik, reviewed and edited. Another important issue /step is to make them accessible for the beneficiaries: is to have enough trainers capable to conduct trainings in Tajik. This issue will be addressed during the next TOT on "Interactive Methods of Learning," scheduled for May.

Monthly meetings of contract trainers were held .The purpose of these meetings is to share experiences to improve the quality of the trainings and create a good working collaboration between them. Contract trainers found a need to improve some training modules to make them more appropriate for NGOs' needs. Some of them are already using their own materials, especially as handouts, when conducting trainings. It was decided to collect comments from all contract trainers about the training modules in order to make necessary changes. The first module to be review is the *NGO and Community* module.

Man and Nature, a local NGO, was contracted by Counterpart to conduct training workshops in Problem Identification, NGO and Community and Team Building for the Water Users Association in the Leninski district. The purpose of the workshops is to strengthen the capacity of this very large community-based organization. The first workshop was observed by Counterpart and discussed with the training providers.

Counterpart conducted two two-day NGO Governance workshops in Kurgan-teppa and Khojand for the local branches of the Association of Judges. The workshops were requested and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development in order to reinforce decision-making processes and develop membership and organizational structures for the Association.

Media

Counterpart funded a project for the National Association of Independent Mass Media of Tajikistan (NANSMIT) for them to develop a series of videos promoting the positive contributions of NGOs in Tajikistan. These videos will be distributed among the members of the association throughout the country to be shown in other regions. Additionally, 15 issues of the video news weekly will be shown on Poitakht TV under the program "Hamdasty"(mutural aid). On February, 16 the first issue of NGO video news was shown on *Poitakht*. NANSMIT is planning, during the next six months, to prepare and show another TV program called "Kindness Stays Forever" which will tell people about the most active non-governmental organizations in Tajikistan. This unique project of the Association is going to make a big contribution to the development of NGO sector in Tajikistan. It is anticipated that approximately half the population of Tajikistan will watch these films.

Counterpart, in cooperation with Leninabad branch of the National Association of Independent Mass Media, conducted a roundtable for 12 journalists from both independent and state media of the Leninabad oblast to identify problems journalists are facing in their work. During the roundtable discussions, it was revealed that over the past 4 years the status of journalists has been declining, as many of the best journalists either left the country or were killed. The participants identified 14 common problems that they face in their jobs including:

- Low level of legal knowledge and professional skills;
- Restriction and pressure by local authorities;
- Lack of unity among journalists; and
- Self censorship.

NANSMIT developed a project to improve the legal and professional skills of journalists as well as educate the Government structures on Civil Society in an attempt to address some of these problems.

NGO Support Centers

At the NGO Support Center staff meeting held in Dushanbe this quarter, facilitated by Coordinator Zaro Kurbanbekova, staff decided to meet every two months. At this meeting they discussed the following issues:

- NGO Support Centers Staff Development: All agreed that the staff needs to improve their skills and knowledge.
- Providing new kinds of services to NGOs: The Centers should be involved in providing new types of services, like providing consultations on organizational development issues and project design and monitoring grants.
- Covering new areas: There are still districts and communities not covered by Counterpart. The Khojand NGO Support Center suggested spreading services to NGOs through contract trainers from remote districts and by opening NGO Support Centers in remote districts.
- NGO Support Center Sustainability: Each NGO Support Center should start thinking about its sustainability. First things to think about are membership issues, obtaining legal status and staff development. The first step towards the sustainability would be to develop strategic plans for each Office. But the main issue is to build a strong network among NGO Support centers in Tajikistan and create links with the NGO Support Centers in other countries.

The topic “*Entrepreneurship and Legislation*” was discussed by Coordination Committee for Social Partnership members at the February meeting hosted by the NGO Support Center in Khojand. The Coordination Committee for Social Partnerships in Khojand was initially set up as a standing partnership of local NGO, Government and Private Business sectors after a Counterpart sponsored follow-up Conference on Social Partnerships was convened in early 1999. It has functioned as a collaborative problem-solving entity ever since.

Representatives of local NGOs, business, and government attended the meeting to discuss problems. This meeting focused on the problems faced by the business sector. All agreed that inefficient and often contradictory laws and regulations are passed almost without consideration by legislators or appropriate departments. Accordingly, entrepreneurs are subject to bureaucratic hassles and risks that greatly diminish business initiatives. Meeting participants agreed to combine efforts to determine and promote sensible solutions for some of the biggest problems and how to put them into action. The suggestions and documentation will be discussed with members of Majlissi Oli (Parliament) in order to address the problems of entrepreneurs and propose solutions through favorable legislation.

In the Khatlon Oblast of Tajikistan, the number of people interested in taking Counterpart trainings continued to increase. By the beginning of January, 36 people had signed up for *NGO and Community* and 45 for *Project Design* training workshops. Also, the NGO movement is now becoming so widespread in the Khatlon province that some government officials are expressing interest in attending Counterpart’s trainings to know more about NGOs. The NGO Support Center in Kurgan-teppa – the center of the Khatlon Oblast – was not able to conduct that number of trainings and invited trainers from Dushanbe to help meet the overflowing demand.

To solve the problem NGO Support Center in Kurgan-teppa suggested conducting a TOT on Adult Learning Styles in order to prepare good local trainers. Two of the best contract trainers from Dushanbe conducted the TOT for 15 NGO representatives selected from Kurgan-teppa, Kulob, Shahritus, Bokhtar and Vakhsh districts of the Khatlon Oblast. The participants were very active during the sessions and gained a lot of knowledge and skills on conducting trainings. Over the next 2-3 months the training candidates will participate in workshops conducted by trainers from Dushanbe first as observers then, as they gain more practical skills, they will assist the trainers more and more. The most successful candidates, we expect 10-12, will be hired by Counterpart as contract trainers.

One of the biggest problems for NGOs is lack of computer access. This is especially so in more remote areas. In Gorno-Badakhshan, one of the most mountainous areas of Tajikistan, there are only a few people who have computers and most of those are representatives of international agencies. When Counterpart opened its NGO Support Center two computer stations with email were set up in the office, but the local NGO representatives didn't have the computer skills to use them. To solve this problem the NGO Support Center organized special computer trainings for NGO members. Since the number of people interested in learning computer skills has steadily increased over the last three months, the NGO Support Center had to make a formal schedule for those trainings.

Now 16 NGO members regularly use the computer at NGO Support Center and 7 of them use e-mail as well. With this new access to technology and information, NGOs in the region are growing and expanding activities. Since the NGO Support Center started its operation, 10 NGOs have got support from Counterpart and other donors organizations. A lot of information about NGOs flows to the region and NGOs are in a better position to find partners and create partnerships. Counterpart is expecting to increase number of the NGO Support Center computer users by providing one more computer to the office.

TURKMENISTAN

This Quarter's emphasis was on fine-tuning the Turkmenistan Approach for Phase III of the NGO Support Program. Staff members were all involved in planning workshops to discuss lessons learned from Phase II in areas of grant program implementation and evaluation; training adaptation; and targeting, in particular. Input was also gathered from Contract Trainers and grantees in order to tailor the final draft of the Phase III proposal based on actual needs identified in the field over the past 2 ½ years of operations.

Emphasis during planning meetings was placed on the increased focus on Community Outreach activities and the need to revise the definition of parameters of assistance and new types of targeted assistance to community-based organizations emphasizing membership, constituency building and sustainability.

Subsequently, an agreement was drafted and submitted to UNHCR for the joint-sponsorship of two new Civil Society Support Centers in the Mary and Lebap regions scheduled to be opened during the second quarter of 2000. In conjunction with the plan to place greater emphasis on activities of local initiative groups in rural areas, there has also been an increase in the training activities conducted in Turkmen language and for participants from the regions outside the capital.

Training Highlights

184 training sessions, for 2170 NGO members, have been conducted in Turkmenistan since the office became operational in February of 1998.

An increased number of outside training sessions continued this quarter in an effort to build the skills of the contract trainer pool and respond to the growing need for training in remote areas. As a result, five "NGO and Community," one "NGO Management," and one "Association Development" training session were held in oblasts with fledgling NGO/CBO communities. "Association Development" training was

conducted in Turkmenbashi etrap in the Turkmen language through the efforts of local trainers. During this quarter all Contact Trainers made follow up training sessions on "NGO and Community" training and four of them made follow up training sessions on: " Using Internet Resources;" "Newsletter Development;" and "NGO Management."

During this period, fifteen modules were conducted for 383 participants, 125 of which were from outside of the capital. In addition, two TTAPs were held for eighteen members of two target NGOs. Each group developed a six-month plan to strengthen their organizational development.

In order to foster better understanding of social partnership concepts and the role of NGOs in civil society, a one-day modification of "NGO and Community" for Business and Government structures was initiated in Dashoguz city for 35 people from different government structures.

Staff Development

The ongoing Staff Development process continued this quarter by the Programming Staff members that followed-up on the OD training they received in Almaty last quarter. The team presented elements of OD to remaining staff members and, based on responses, assessed which OD interventions to implement in Turkmenistan for the Counterpart office. This exercise both enhanced the team's ability to use the OD methodology as well as strengthened the teambuilding, information-sharing, and institutional knowledge of the remaining staff.

The WUA Project Coordinator spent three weeks in England learning video editing skills from a British NGO called RAP Action to further develop her participatory video methods through a grant from the Charity Know How Fund. She also exchanged ideas with community based organizations working in the Oxford, England area and will transfer those skills to CBOs working in the Dashoguz region during the following Quarter.

Senior Program Coordinator, Jeren Khakhieva, participated in the second intensive module of the "Education, Training and Support Program" conducted by INTRAC and aimed at strengthening the capacity of NGO support workers to provide "appropriate capacity building support (ie information, advice, consultancy and coaching to NGOs in order to improve NGO performance)."

Grant Manager, Irina Dedova, participated in a Regional Conference on "Effective Governance," in the framework of a two-year grant to Moscow-based, Russian NGO *Partner* – a Counterpart affiliate. Lessons learned by Russian NGOs in this thematic area were described and Ms. Dedova returned to Turkmenistan with several case studies which are currently being incorporated into the Governance and NGO Management training modules conducted in Turkmenistan.

Pavel Kharitonov, the Information Systems Specialist, joined the regional database team in Bishkek for a workshop designed to streamline the regional coordination of CANGOnet website and to make design improvements based on analysis of troubleshooting issues to date. Upon returning from the workshop, a mirror-site was established in Turkmenistan which increased the speed of the connection as well as improved the quality and cost-effectiveness of the website.

Information Network

Informational data was revised and updated as listed below:

- Five more NGOs from the regions gained access to e-mail - Mary Language Center; Chardjew Center Dostluk; Babadaykhan Language Center; Delta; and Arzuw.
- Four NGOs from Ashgabad got e-mail and eight now have full internet access - all of them are grantees.

- Payment for Internet access is now handled in local currency, saving the program over \$90 per month compared with previous months when we had no permanent connection and no dedicated phone line. With the increased traffic and access, this translates into overall savings of 60%.
- Mirror sites for www.cango.cpart.asb.tm and the Turkmenistan web-page at www.cpart.asb.tm have been launched.
- The Ashgabad SC now has the potential for up to 15 incoming tel. lines for NGOs to dial the Internet (4 lines are currently in use)

Roundtables and Focus Groups

Three roundtables were conducted this quarter with 103 participants from Turkmen NGOs:

1. A Roundtable was conducted jointly with the British Know How Fund on the topic of: "Public organizations in England and Turkmenistan". There were 17 representatives from 15 local NGOs present. The audience became acquainted with the work of Citizen's Advise Bureau in England and were presented information about the Bureau's activities followed by discussion of similarities and differences in approach between non-for-profit organizations in England and NGOs in Turkmenistan. During this RT local NGOs also learned about the Partnership between the Ashgabad NGO "Ynam" which gives legal and psychological consultations and the Citizen's Advise bureau.
2. A roundtable was organized in conjunction of the visit of Mr. Cliff Kupchan, the coordinator of NIS Assistance in the US State Department. There were 24 representatives from 22 NGOs in the meeting. NGO members representing Mass Media, Social Partnership, Ecology, Education, Women, Water Users, and Advocacy groups shared their achievements and challenges with the guest. A poster gallery was also set-up for visual representation of NGO activities. This RT was the first time that local NGOs working in the same sector nominated representatives to synthesize their overall achievements and present on behalf of each group. The activity marked a new phase in NGO coordination and development.
3. An Open House was held at the Dashoguz Support Center and attended by 62 representatives of NGOs, government, commercial organizations, and other international organizations working in Dashoguz region. The guests were acquainted with the work and services provided by the Dashoguz Support Center and more generally with the work of public organizations in Turkmenistan. The highlight of the presentation was a demonstration of the CANGOnet website and opportunities for Internet access and use in the center. Two Ngos, "Zenan" and "Trieria" did theatrical role plays on the work of their organizations. The Counterpart Support Center in Nukus Uzbekistan also participated in the event and exchanged experience with the Turkmen NGOs. It was the first major public event organized by the Dashoguz Support Center.

NGO Support Centers

Ashgabad Support Center

378 NGO representatives visited the Ashgabad Support Center this quarter. The majority of the visitors continue to come for consultations and to learn more about the activities carried-out by NGOs. The second greatest use of the Center is from NGO representatives requesting technical assistance in filling out applications and conducting research using the information services including email and Internet. This quarter, a new Resource Center Manager was hired with a background in library sciences. Since her arrival, all resource materials have been catalogued and the Center has been re-designed for more efficient use. NGO members have made many statements reflecting the positive change and the number of visitors has increased by 15% this quarter due to the improved service delivery and results generated by the information access available through the Center. Videos on NGO themes are regularly shown during coffee breaks of training sessions and NGOs have noted that the videos are a great catalyst for action.

Dashoguz Support Center

Over the last three months the main activities in the Dashoguz NGO Support Center continue to be consultations; project design assistance; and training and follow-ups with participants. This quarter, 62 visitors used the Center, 28 of which arrived for consultations on issues such as project design, fundraising, and how to formalize an NGO structure. In addition, two training sessions were conducted at the Center. Staff assisted two NGOs with grant document preparation, and also provided translation and editing assistance to one NGO which submitted a proposal to the European Youth Council. This quarter, three new initiative groups working in agriculture, reproductive health and ethnic traditions were identified and began working with the SC staff.

A new SC Coordinator was hired who is an attorney and brings valuable legal skills to the Counterpart team. She began working just in time to participate in the first Open House of the Center in which a good cross-section of government, NGO and business representatives were present.

Three ongoing Counterpart grants are under implementation in the Dashoguz region, under the monitoring of SC staff and the grant management team. One additional project was approved this Quarter for and NGO in Dashoguz city, reflecting the value of establishing regional SCs to respond to the needs of populations outside of Ashgabad.

Meetings and Contacts

On January 17th, a representative of GTZ – Mrs. Svetlana Bayramova visited the Center. Mrs. S.Bayramova described the project implemented by GTZ in Tagta etrap of Dashoguz region involving the improvement of the family health care system in Dashoguz. She indicated that she was interested in contracting with NGO members and CCT staff who had been through methodology training to assist in a TOT for family doctors involving: developing a short manual for doctors; designing and adapting the program for physicians and doctors; and developing a toolkit for family doctors. As a result of meeting it was decided to continue discussion with Counterpart's head office about possibility of using SC staff as trainers. Counterpart has put GTZ in contact with the Association of Family Physicians to link their programs in Family Healthcare.

The SC Manager met with Mercy Corps representative Elizabeth Houde who described Mercy Corps' micro-credit program. The project in Dashoguz region was through a needs assessment, using modified PRA and RRA methodologies. Counterpart contributed inputs to the questionnaire related to micro-credit for local organizations.

The Center Manager attended a meeting with entrepreneurs of Dashoguz velayet. The overall CCT program was described and the Manager was asked several questions like "what is an NGO?," "what is a grant?," and "What is the role of the SC?"

The SC Manager met with Sukhanberdy Melyaev, the Director of the Dashoguz Branch of International Executive Committee's program "Save the Aral-Sea Foundation" to discuss potential for registering the WUA under the Foundation.

The Peace Corps Business and Education Program Coordinator, Mr.Rakhman Khanekov, visited the SC to learn about development work going on in Turkmenbashi velayet involving Peace Corps volunteers placed in local NGOs. The SC Manager discussed the potential of having a volunteer placed in the SC during the next Peace Corps cycle beginning in the Fall of 2000.

UZBEKISTAN

This quarter was marked by a lengthy leave of Country Director Jay Cooper. Lorel Donaghey, Senior Advisor, joined Uzbekistan team to coordinate all programmatic activities within this period. Lola Abdousalymova was Acting Country Director during this period.

Deputy Regional Financial Director Yana Dobronravova visited the Tashkent office to conduct a financial audit of the grants allocated during Phase II. Khamid Kashaev, Financial Director of Counterpart Uzbekistan, traveled to Bishkek to conduct a financial audit of the Kyrgyz grant program.

On February 28, Counterpart Uzbekistan and Bukhara Information and Cultural Center (BICC) signed a partnership agreement. The agreement focuses on expansion and development of BICC support activities for NGOs of Bukhara Region. Those will include training and consulting services, promotion of social partnership between and among local NGOs, state institutions and makhallas, facilitation of NGO access to global informational resources, assistance in development of NGO advocacy skills, etc. Zainab Salieva, BICC Director, will manage the partnership project.

A regional NGO Support Center staff meeting took place on February 28-29 in Bukhara. Erkin Kasybekov, Counterpart Kyrgyzstan Country Director, led a session on community outreach, UNHCR related activities and management of NGO Support Centers in Kyrgyzstan. Support Center staff analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the Centers, paying particular attention to self-sustainability, autonomy and networking. Also, preparatory work for Makhalla Initiative Grant Program was carried out.

In order to promote better understanding of the social partnership concept and the role of NGOs in development of democratic society in Uzbekistan, an extensive mass media campaign has been undertaken by the Mass Media Coordinator and NGO Support Centers. Television, being the best medium to reach urban and rural populations, was chosen to streamline the information. Program staff produced a 15-minute film entitled "Key to Success" in Uzbek and Russian, two public service announcements also in Russian and Uzbek, and a number of informational clips. Two national channels have broadcast these promotional pieces several times.

Training Highlights

Overall for the period from January-March, Counterpart Uzbekistan provided 21 training seminars for 398 NGO and makhalla representatives.

Following NGO demand for training in accounting and taxation, a special 2-day workshop for 25 leaders and accountants of Tashkent-based target NGOs took place on February 21-22. The auditing expert of the *Association of Accountants and Auditors of Uzbekistan*, a Counterpart grantee and former target NGO, conducted the workshop entitled, "NGO Accounting and Taxation in Uzbekistan." This workshop was designed to help NGOs hone their financial management, bookkeeping and tax payment skills. Participants received comprehensive hand-out materials that will serve as a guide book for their daily tasks.

To impart the skills necessary for effectual interaction between NGOs and local governments, Counterpart Uzbekistan has provided 4 training seminars on Social Partnership for 64 participants in Kokand, Bukhara, Nukus and Tashkent. New approaches to communication with state officials have been adopted by a number of trained NGOs and the results are yet to come.

As a follow-up of TTAP exercises, a training seminar in Small Business Development was conducted for 18 members of Association of Pediatricians of Bukhara in January.

PRA/PCA training has been invigorated this quarter. 42 participants in Nukus and Fergana learned methods of identifying the needs of rural populations.

In order to broaden the pool of Uzbek and Karakalpak speaking trainers a 4-day TOT in Adult Learning was conducted for 24 NGO representatives. The majority of the participants represented target NGOs and eight of them were selected as perspective PRA/PCA researchers. The training was conducted jointly by the Marshak Foundation, Moscow and Program Coordinator Dina Mukhamadieva.

Another TOT, advanced training in training design and team work, was conducted by the Golubka Training Center, Moscow. This training is another milestone in the development of a local cadre of capacity building trainers. 17 trainees (including 6 Uzbek and Karakalpak speakers) have acquired operative skills in situational training design and experience of working as trainers' team. It is expected that they will work even more effectively and efficiently developing new training modules and conducting existing ones. Two Program Coordinators from Counterpart Kazakhstan also took part in the training.

Four contract-trainers participated in a TOT on "How to Conduct a Press Conference" held in Almaty. Back in Tashkent, they conducted this training seminar for 21 representatives of target NGOs on February 24-25. This first trial revealed the bright spots and drawbacks of the new module. Next time the seminar will be conducted with consideration of the lessons learned.

Counterpart Uzbekistan's training program has been supplemented with another training manual. On the basis of training seminars on presentation skills conducted earlier, a trainer-contractor Albina Sabirova has prepared a Training Manual on Presentation Skills, which will serve as a guide for the trainers conducting this popular module.

Dina Mukhamadieva, Program Coordinator, attained new experience training overseas. At the request of Counterpart Georgia she conducted a 3-day training seminar on Project Design for 25 Georgian NGOs. Her training abilities were highly esteemed by Counterpart Georgian staff and indigenous NGOs, and she found this trip useful for networking and development of her training and consulting skills.

Staff Development

- February 11-12 – Program Coordinator Anika Airapetyants participated in a conference on Organizational Governance in Moscow, organized by Counterpart International and Partner Foundation, Russia.
- March 1-6 – Andrey Lavkov, Database Manager participated in a regional seminar for Counterpart database managers, and as well as a training in Internet server design and development.
- March 2-5, TOT in Adult Learning. The Uzbekistan office was represented by Akmal Rustamov, NGOs Support Center Coordinator, and Bakhodir Umarmhanov, Akil Khayatov, Aman Kalimbetov, Support Centers staff ;
- March 28 – April 2, TOT in Training Design and Team Work – Program Coordinators Dina Mukhamadieva, Anika Airapetyants and Support Centers staff Zainab Salieva, Bakhodir Umarmhanov, and Palmurza Hojabekov represented the Uzbekistan office.

Information Network

The NGO database includes 457 NGOs as of today. Information on 40 new NGOs was entered into database. New NGO homepages were added to CANGONET, which now hosts 25 Russian and 25 English homepages for Uzbekistan NGOs.

NGO Support Centers

Nukus Support Center

The Nukus Support Center logged 58 consultations and 299 technical services during the report period. Partnership relations between Nukus NGO Support Center and Turkmen NGOs from adjacent regions continue to develop. Galim Nogaev made a trip to NGOs "Open Doors" meeting in Dashoguz, where he made a presentation of Nukus Support Center and gave the outlines of Karakalpak NGO activities.

Doctors without Borders visited the NGO Club meeting in February. Head of the Mission, Mr. Massod Doro, presented health and environmental programs implemented in Karakalpakstan. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between non-profit organizations and state institutions as intrinsic part of their success.

Kokand Support Center

This quarter Kokand Support Center logged 54 consultations on organizational development and 497 technical consultations to NGOs in the Fergana Region. Informational resources of the Center were updated with the copies of State Register of Namangan and Andijan non-profit organizations.

The second meeting of NGO Club took place this quarter. Eleven NGO leaders met and set the following priorities for year 2000:

- develop volunteerism;
- establish close interaction with mass media;
- build capacity of NGOs and NGO Club members;
- facilitate NGO access to informational and librarian resources, design a database of NGO Club members;
- network with other NGO Clubs and associations, and
- provide legal counseling to NGO Club members.

Tashkent Information Resource Center

This quarter 802 visits were logged at the Tashkent Resource Center. Representatives of 65 NGO and initiative groups came to Counterpart to receive information on domestic and internal funding resources, to order electronic information and newsletters and read non-profit movement related literature. 175 users searched the Internet.

Three issues of "Initiative" were published in both Uzbek and Russian and were disseminated throughout Uzbekistan. 90 copies were mailed to recipients in other Central Asian countries, Russia and Mongolia.

The library resources have been supplemented with a package of documents on NGO-related legislation in Russian and Uzbek languages. The package is very popular with initiative groups under registration and NGOs working with makhallas.

A poll of 97 Uzbekistan NGOs of different regions was conducted by means of USAID provided questionnaire. The results of the survey will be incorporated into a general picture of NGO development in Central Asia.

Five volunteers assist Counterpart Consortium staff under the guidance of Vildana Malyan, the Resource Center Manager.

D. NGO TARGET OVERVIEW

A complete list of target NGOs for each country can be found in Attachment 4.

KAZAKHSTAN

Target List Changes

No changes were made to the list of target NGOs.

NGO Target Overview

A number of target NGOs and all the resource centers participated in a the conference *On the Way to Social Partnership* where they were provided with an excellent opportunity to develop their own projects and meet with potential partners among representatives of government and business structures.

Several target NGOs such as *Zhan*, *Association of Enterprises of Faultless Business*, *SATR*, and *National Housing Association* joined the newly-formed **Confederation of Non-governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan**. This new association already has 22 NGO members and has elected Valentina Sevryukova, a former vice-minister, as president.

Baspana: Counterpart developed a training program through July 2000 for this NGO. *Baspana* agreed to cover all expenses for training. This is the first NGO for which Counterpart conducted the Impact/Success Story Writing training that was initially designed for Counterpart staff. It is also the first organization that was interested in receiving consulting on organizational development. The first meeting on this issue revealed the weaknesses and strengths of the NGO and helped Counterpart design and improve their training program.

Crisis Center Podrugi: Counterpart developed a training program aimed at strengthening *Podrugi's* organizational structure and financial management, as this NGO has recently received funds from several resources. Additionally, Counterpart conducted "Press Conference" training, which proved useful for the NGO because of its plan to publicize its women's shelter – funded through Counterpart's Women's Grants' Program.

Solyaris (Pavlodar): This NGO organized a training on working with mass media for NGOs of North and central Kazakhstan. Representatives from the following target NGOs participated: *Pokolenie*, *Junior Achievements*, *Business Women's Association*.

Zharia (Astana): Counterpart Astana conducted a series of consultations for the organization related to its proposals submitted to the Soros Foundation and TACIS.

Kazakhstani Association of Young Lawyers (Astana): A follow-up on strategic planning was conducted which resulted in the development of a strategic plan for the years 2000-2001. After participating in the "Newsletter Development" training, the organization prepared a proposal to Soros Foundation to produce its own journal.

Society of Disabled Children (Astana): According to the plan developed as a result of the TTAP process, representatives from this organization visited NGO *SATR* and worked with NGO *Zhan* - both in Almaty. A joint project was developed as a result of these meetings.

ANNOK: This NGO was given \$300 to conduct a survey of its members to assess their needs and evaluate the Association's activities. Based on the results submitted to Counterpart, the program staff denied ANNOK's request to fund a meeting of its Board of Directors.

KYRGYZSTAN

Target List Changes

No changes in the list of target NGOs were made during the reporting period.

Target NGO Overview

Ylgy (Kerben Vl., Jalal-Abad Oblast): The NGO *Ylgy* started maintaining a visitor log for their office. The members are organizing mini-shops to sell dry fruits, mill flour, and press oil. Currently, the NGO is working with a UNDP grant to disburse micro credits to poor families in their respective areas. A loan committee was formed last year and meets regularly to review loan applications. *Ylgy* currently oversees 23 loans through this program

Aibek (Kerben Vl., Jalal-Abad Oblast): The NGO *Aibek* received payment in excess of 6,500 som for services provided during the election period. The members provided consultations and information to NGOs in Aksy Rayon in line with the project funded by Counterpart Consortium, which provided computer and other communication equipment. More than 170 people visited their office in a month for consultation, information and for equipment utilization.

Ai-Danek (Bishkek): This NGO is successfully developing cooperation with the PR Department of the President's Office and several groups of high school students. The NGO also became a member of the Russian youth movement "4th world" and an association of Russian youth media.

Association of Journalists of Central Asia (Bishkek): Monitoring TTAP's implementation revealed the Association moved into new office space, recruited and hired four volunteers from the Bishkek Humanitarian University, and created job descriptions for each staff position.

Oi-Kain (Kara-Balta): The members of this NGO have been conducting a series of legal seminars and consultations for refugees and vulnerable populations in the Jayl Rayon. In March, they held 4 seminars in outlying villages, in which 120 people (including 77 refugees) took part, and 43 consultations were delivered.

Chernobyl (Nookat, Osh Oblast): The NGO is successfully working on a partnership project funded by Counterpart and the private firm "Sakhoba". The bulletin "Solnyshko" that the NGO produces is increasing in popularity among school children. The NGO is increasing the number of copies it produces of its newsletter so it can meet the current demand as well as make the newsletter available for children in five additional villages of the Nookat Rayon.

TTAPs

No TTAP workshops were conducted this quarter, because TTAPs for all target NGOs have already been designed. The Program Coordinators conducted inventory (evaluation) visits to all target NGOs in order to assess the level of organizational development, taking into consideration the TTAPs previously developed and USAID's 14 indicators of NGO capacity. Counterpart identified, together with members of the target NGOs, the main gaps in organizational development to update Counterpart's assistance on a demand-driven basis. All data collected was entered to the NGO Database.

Follow-up workshops

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

Events

On January 27, 2000, the *Association of Invest Funds "Semetei"* conducted its first annual meeting to report on the year's activities. At this meeting members discussed and reviewed two issues. The first was from the Corporate Development Center of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, which invited *Semetei* to publish their annual report in the newspaper "Corporate News." The second issue was how to involve the Association in the World Bank project "Gates to Kyrgyzstan Through the Internet."

The *Association of Tax Consultants* introduced a new training course for tax consultants on February 7, 2000. The first training will be held in the building of the Kyrgyz-Slavic University and will last 2.5 months. A group of 12 trainees will gain access to new skills and knowledge in tax legislation, taxation procedures and bookkeeping/accounting.

The *Consumer Rights Protection Association "Aikyn"* started a 24-hour training course for members of the Youth Consumer Union, who are students of 14 high schools of Bishkek. The main goal of training workshops is to raise understanding of consumer rights, and forms and methods to protect them. The first training course was held in the Bishkek State Institute of Economy, and Commerce and Economic Department of the Kyrgyz National University from December 20 till January 20. Forty students took part in the seminars. The second training course started on February 1 for 20 students of the Bishkek Financial and Economic Academy. The trainers used various consumer-related video materials as well as resources from the library of *Aikyn*.

The *Center InterBilim* hosted a roundtable for NGO support organizations that provide training workshops to the NGO community in Kyrgyzstan. There were nine participants at the round table including INTRAC, UNHCR, Counterpart Consortium, UNDP, Soros Foundation and Gender in Development UNDP Program. The following issues were discussed at the round table: presentations of organizations about training workshops conducted in 1999; introduction of the UNDP project on building NGO capacity; and dissemination of information about the extension of the ETSP project.

Representatives of the NGO *Kyrgyz Style* (Talent Support Fund in the past) participated in the Central Asia Artisans' fair that was held in Almaty from March 18-19. Artisans' products, including clothing and souvenirs, from all Central Asian countries were exhibited at the fair. Revenue generated through the sale of products is to be used to strengthen financial sustainability and organizational development of Artisan Associations as well as to provide support to artisans and Children's Creative Centers.

TAJIKISTAN

No changes were made to the target list. New high-level training on NGO Governance was conducted for all targets. Trainings on NGO and Community, Project Design and Strategic Planning were conducted for the members of target NGO *Avesto*.

TURKMENISTAN

Target NGO Overview

This quarter, the following events and activities have resulted from Targeted assistance through the TTAP and OD processes:

- TTAPs were conducted for two Target NGOs.
- Eight targets were given access to the Internet via the Counterpart server and staff received training on basic Internet access. Other members were enrolled in Internet training for next quarter.
- Four members from 7 additional target NGOs participated in Internet Training, which increased their potential to use and benefit from the Internet.
- Members of the Association of Family Physician were given several consultations on Constituency Development, volunteers and membership. As a result, they have strengthened their linkages between oblast members of the association and the Ashgabad office through 5 volunteers who serve as regional contacts.
- Two Target NGOs received specially adapted "Association Development" training for their members (Association of Journalist and Association of Family Physicians).
- 14 Targets received additional technical equipment (modems, scanners, copy machines, fax machines, cameras, UPS, phone, etc.) with the overall total amount of \$3450 to strengthen their organization and improve information sharing as a result of good performance on their grants.
- The WUA received specific assistance on: "How to gather feedback from beneficiaries."
- The WUA members were trained in "Association Development and NGO and Community."
- Ecoforest was given guidelines on how to improve internal management in the organization.
- Ecoforest also received several consultations on how to conduct an ecological conference for students and members of other NGOs.
- Achyk Gapy also received consultations on how to organize a conference in the framework of their grant.
- Counterpart facilitated the relationship between the Patient's Rights Organization "Arkadag" and Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights. Following the contact, the Turkmen NGO became a local "reporter" for the "Committee" and is conducting a survey on 17 issues including: domestic violence; marital rights; reproductive rights; access to job, etc.
- The NGO "My Rights" received consultations on Coalition Development, juridical registration, and help in designing a strategic plan to gather signatures on registration issues for the Ministry of Justice.
- Special meetings were organized and conducted for the Association of Journalists on the topics of organizational development, team building, and conflict resolution. Financial management planning exercises were also adapted for the organization.

UZBEKISTAN

Target NGO Overview

TTAP exercises were conducted for *the Association of private tourist companies and small businesses* in Bukhara. They revealed the organization was working inefficiently as a result of incompetent management and lack of members' interest in the development of the association. There is a plan to train the organization in Association Development and Strategic Planning.

Mekhri Women's Society has conducted the first conference ever held by an Uzbek-based NGO. It marked the establishment of the Training and Counseling Center for Women and their Families. The Center is registered under Mekhri as a commercial enterprise. A number of journalists and representatives of international organizations, embassies, non-profit organizations and makhallas took part in the conference.

E. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

KAZAKHSTAN

- Counterpart staff conducted a presentation on project design during the third annual international conference of Peace Corps in Kazakhstan, entitled *Women in Development/Gender Development*. Information on Counterpart's activities was presented during a Fair of Women's projects, which was a part of the conference at which NGOs' representatives from different regions of Kazakhstan participated.
- Three conferences on social partnership funded by the AED/Global were conducted in Pavlodar, Atyrau and Astana
- According to our previous agreement, database files were transferred to the UNDP Resource Center for the purpose of improving the system of informational exchange.
- As a result of successfully conducted trainings for water-users and the high quality of Counterpart trainers, international organizations such as EPIC, AED, Mott-McDonald and World Bank are working with Counterpart to provide water users-associations training in the Almaty Oblast and Maakhtaral (Southern Kazakhstan Oblast). Taking into consideration the specificity of such training, a new, two-week training module was developed. Further, Counterpart developed a strategic training program for associations that would include such topics as PR and Accounting.

KYRGYZSTAN

- Along with Counterpart staff, members of USAID/CAR both from Almaty and Bishkek actively participated in monitoring of the EGC grantees' activities throughout the country. It strengthened M&E efforts in general and was a useful tool for staff development in Bishkek.
- Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan facilitated the search of a partner organization for the Center of Youth Initiatives, which is interested in implementing the project "Together to the Presidential Elections! A Countrywide Tour Show". After networking with many people and organizations a relevant partner was identified and agreed to provide counseling/training to the project staff tentatively in June 2000. *Nadácia pre občiansku spoločnosť (NOS)*, a partner NGO from Slovakia, has a very profound experience in conducting Rock the Vote- type campaigns in Central Europe countries. Agreements between the two potential partners are being negotiated.
- Based on the results of e-mail negotiations and personal meetings with Mr. Ric Bridwell, State Partnership Coordinator from Montana, and Farm-in-the Dell Foundation, the latter was partnered with the Training Center of Disabled Children. The US partner invited the Kyrgyz colleague to visit the Farm and other agencies that work with developmentally disabled. The visit is scheduled for May 1-12, 2000 with the funding provided by the US partner.
- The JASC staff met with Mr. Richard Tracy, Head of MCI in Osh. Mercy Corps has received a grant from UNHCR to develop a limited number of social infrastructure projects in areas with high concentrations of refugees. MCI asked the JASC to help identify potential project locations and to assist refugee leaders in writing proposals for these projects.
- OSCE has been monitoring the parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan. The Jalal-Abad SC helped the OSCE team with logistics such as finding translators and drivers for their international observers. The staff also let them use their office equipment and space for a small fee (totaling \$240), which the JASC is going to use to supplement their communication budget.
- Country Director Erkinbek Kasybekov was approved by the Vice Prime Minister to become a voting member in the National Selection Committee (NSC) for the UNDP project "Capacity Building Support for NGOs and CBOs in the Social Sector." Senior Program Coordinator Janna Rysakova was appointed as Selection Committee member in the Chu oblast within the framework of this project.

- A “Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) for Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare” workshop was held by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on February 15-16 in Bishkek. Governmental agencies, NGOs and research institutions, businesses, international organizations and multilateral donors attended the workshop. There were 200 participants who discussed the following issues: trends and causes of poverty; education and poverty; health care and poverty; social welfare and poverty; pension reform and poverty; and creation of jobs and opportunities for poor. NGO representatives were visible speakers and contributors. Counterpart mobilized the NGO community in Kyrgyzstan before the workshop to come up with written suggestions. There were 5 round tables throughout the country in our NGO support centers and in Bishkek. Over 110 representatives from about 100 NGOs took part in development of suggestions to CDF concept. There were 24 NGO representatives, who were delegated to take part in National CDF workshop.

TAJIKISTAN

- The UNDP Evaluation Mission to Tajikistan visited Counterpart to discuss the working situation in the country and to request Counterpart staff assistance. UNDP is interested in introducing a new project initiative in Tajikistan and would like Counterpart’s assistance to review a draft proposal and provide feedback related to the relevance and feasibility of the project in Tajikistan. They said that they wanted to receive input from Counterpart because we had been highly recommended as having expertise regarding the local situation, needs and resources here in Tajikistan.
- Counterpart initiated advanced negotiations with the Central Asia Development Agency (CADA), regarding common interests in providing Internet services to local NGOs via a planned satellite link funded by NATO and the Soros Foundation. Counterpart Consortium’s interest is in providing Internet services to local NGOs – an NGO Internet Training and Access Center. The new satellite link would provide a much improved and cheaper Internet connection that would provide faster and cleaner data transfer.
- NGO Support Center in Khojand had a meeting with UNOPS representative in Khojand to share with it the database and other information about NGOs operating in this area and refer some NGOs as potential partners to UNOPS.
- On two occasions Counterpart met with Randa Slim, representing the Kettering Foundation in regard to needs and assistance for a new local NGO that is forming to carry on work begun in the Committee for National Reconciliation (CNR). In addition, issues of furthering the peace process and avenues for involvement of NGOs in general and selected NGOs might play in the process were discussed. We pointed out that the underlying issue is not so much one of lack of assistance to one group or another, as it is general lack of access to constructive means of participation by the public in national and local public policy decision making. Additionally, there is a general lack of useful problem-solving initiatives by government leadership.
- Counterpart established and developed a dialog with the new UNHCR Head of Office on issues of local and regional scope relevant to the present and future interaction between UNHCR and Counterpart Consortium.
- Counterpart had meetings with UNHCR about continuing funding some Counterpart activities, particularly NGO Support Center operation and activities in conflict-impacted areas through the NGO Fund Project. Issues related to the Tolerance Education Program were also discussed.
- Subsequent to the meetings with UNHCR, Counterpart developed and delivered final reports on the NGO Support Fund 1999 and Tolerance Education 1999 and draft descriptions of both projects for funding in the year 2000.
- Counterpart Tajikistan met with the OSCE Program Officer to discuss a potential role for Counterpart/Tajikistan to provide services as a sub-contractor under the OSCE/UNDP Civic Education Project. This project is relatively short-term (6mos.) and would include high levels of training and outreach to rural areas of Tajikistan.

- Counterpart Country Director and Program staff met with the UNICEF Regional Program Officer to discuss common interests and opportunities for working together with UNICEF to evaluate its water and sanitation programs in 11 districts of Khatlon Oblast. They are interested in assessing any and all impacts in these areas that accrued from several sub-projects that were implemented by various international NGOs in the period from 1996 through 1999. Counterpart Tajikistan is reviewing the scope of work required and identifying resources to respond to this request.
- The UNDP in Tajikistan awarded a \$100,000 grant to OSCE to continue an expanded program of community-level training workshops. The local training resources for this project were developed by Counterpart Consortium for OSCE under a joint project in 1999 that focused on education of rural women in the areas of human rights, family rights and electoral participation. Over the next six months training will be conducted by local trainers, materials will be distributed to participants and materials will be produced for public education on the electoral process and its contribution to civil society. Direct beneficiaries include a total of nearly 2000 women, youth, local officials and political party representatives across the country. This collaborative sharing of expertise and leverage of resources will have significant and desperately needed impact on key aspects of development of civil society and, ultimately, democracy in Tajikistan.

TURKMENISTAN

- Counterpart has completed its second project in Dashoguz velayet under contract with UNICEF. This project involved using participatory management methods to establish school-level hygiene committees that then developed action plans and budgets for improving the sanitation and hygiene situation in 31 schools. The committees carried out the improvements over a three-month period.
- SMEDA has entered in to an agreement with Counterpart to insert NGO representatives into their English language and basic computer courses free of charge upon referral from Counterpart. In addition, SMEDA will work with Counterpart on NGO legislation questions by providing consultations with a lawyer twice a month regarding NGO law and taxation.
- The Know How Fund sponsored a trip for the Water User's Project Coordinator to travel to Oxford England for advanced Participatory Video Editing training. The Coordinator also visited several community organizations in England and exchanged knowledge on how to apply the participatory video techniques in urban and rural settings.
- UNHCR and Counterpart have finalized a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly fund two regional NGO Support Centers in Mary and Lebap regions in 2000. The agreement will be signed during the first month of next quarter.
- Counterpart's WUA team assisted Mercy Corps in the development of a questionnaire for its micro-credit program in the Dashoguz region.
- UNDP has solicited assistance from Counterpart to develop a TOT on "working with communities" under its Municipal Services Project pending final approval from the TK government.
- Counterpart has assisted Environmental Resources Management Limited, UK to identify NGOs that can be involved in ecological forums regarding the Trans-Caspian Pipeline.
- Counterpart is working with Hagler Bailly to assist local oilfield workers to establish an Association.
- Counterpart assisted UNHCR's to draft an agenda for it's NGO Parinac (Partners in Action) conference in Ashgabad. Break-out discussion groups were facilitated by Counterpart staff from the region.

UZBEKISTAN

- In March the Nukus NGO Support Center provided assistance to IFES Program Officers by arranging meetings with local NGOs, initiative groups, and secondary schools in areas where IFES is launching a pilot educational project.
- The Tashkent Resource Center has offered NGOs another source of financial support. According to the agreement with ISAR/Kazakhstan, the Resource Center will disseminate information on ISAR's NGO support activities in Uzbekistan. First information on grants for environmental and health projects was delivered to Uzbek NGOs, which started developing their project proposals.
- Greg Stephenson, MIP Field Coordinator, gave a presentation to 15 business, education and Peace Corps development volunteers on NGO development in Uzbekistan and the role that Counterpart Consortium plays there. It is expected that this information will encourage volunteers to work with NGOs and Support Centers in the regions to help with organizational development, translations and the organization of seminars.
- In January the Nukus NGO Support Center hosted a visit of Jennifer Brick and Ulugbek Isayev, USAID, and Eldar Martsinovish, International Executive Service Corps (IESC). International guests met with a number of Nukus NGOs and the Minister of Public Education of Karakalpakstan.

F. LEVERAGING

KAZAKHSTAN

- \$200 for in-kind contributions to trainings provided by Counterpart to NGO *Baspana*
- \$46,754 from Global AED to conduct a series of conferences ‘On the Way to Social Partnership’ in Almaty, Pavlodar, Atyrau and Astana
- \$2,286 from Mott-McDonald (funding from the World Bank) to conduct training to the Water-Users Association in Maakhtarl (see Cooperation and Coordination)
- \$20 in sales of the CD containing the Counterpart database of NGOs and donors’ organizations
- \$5,000 in transfers from UNHCR. These are related to the contracts with UNHCR that were signed by David Smith on 2/9/2000 for \$30,000 for calendar year 2000 to support the Astana NGO Support Center.
- \$15,400 from EPIC/AED/USAID for conducting training to the Water-Users Association in Almaty Oblast.

KYRGYZSTAN

- Two agreements with UNHCR were signed. The first agreement for \$110,000 supports the development of Support Centers in Jalal-Abad and Kara-Balta and Community Centers in Batken and Kant. The goal is to strengthen self-representation of local/refugee communities and their participation in decision-making processes on local and national level through development and building capacity of established regional and national networks of community development NGOs and Support Centers in Chui, Jalal-Abad and Batken Oblasts of Kyrgyzstan. The other agreement for \$27,500 is to provide small grants to local NGOs through Counterpart Consortium. The goal of UNHCR’s small grant program under NGO Trust Fund is to complement other initiatives to provide support for local indigenous NGOs. Seed grants provided to refugee NGOs “*Hireneso*”, “*Mok-Suu*”, *Afghan School and FSLER (Osh)* are intended to support their growth and activities. Financial assistance is intended to support specific project activities as well as to strengthen the institutional capacity of the organizations.

TAJKISTAN

- \$3,645 from UNHCR for Tolerance Education Program
- \$370 from the Swiss Development Agency to conduct two training workshops for a local NGO
- \$2,265 from UNHCR for Voter Education training workshops/candidate forums
- \$200 from Medicines Sans Frontiers to conduct a training workshop for the local staff of Medicines Sans Frontiers.
- \$2,265 from UNHCR to conduct Voter Education training workshops/candidate forums
- \$1,075 from UNHCR to conduct a TOT in “Adult Learning Style”
- \$202 from UNHCR to conduct a Problem Identification workshop

TURKMENISTAN

- **\$9,600** from UNICEF to complete the expansion of the contract under its Water and Sanitation Hygiene Project in schools of Dashoguz velayet.
- **\$3,123** from Charity Know How Fund to send a Counterpart staff member to England for a Participatory Video editing training program.
- **\$14,936** from Global to bring members of the American Academy of Family Practice to Ashgabad for a Conference of partner NGO the Turkmen Association of Family Practitioners.
- **\$1,880** from Soros' Open Society Institute to send a representative from NGO *Civil Dignity* to Vienna for the "Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Human Rights and Humane Treatment"
- **\$5,300** from "Equality Now" in conjunction with OSI, to send a member of NGO *ANNA* to the 44th Session of the Commission on the UN's "Women 2000: Gender Equality Development and Peace for the 21st Century, " in New York.
- **\$3,719** from the British Know How Fund to Ecoforest for equipment and office furniture

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

ICNL Begins Implementing the New Tax Changes for Kazakhstan

Through various seminars, discussions with governmental partners and presentations in parliamentary conferences, ICNL has pointed out several ambiguities in the Tax Code. One of these ambiguities is the definition of a "grant". This definition was subject to various interpretations and in some cases, grants were considered income subject to taxation. ICNL proposed a clarification to this definition that would undeniably place grants in a category distinct from income (non-profit revenue). Representatives from the Ministry of Revenue accepted this point and even went one step farther by enacting a clarification to the current definition of grant and exempted all grant money from taxation. The result of this provision could save NGOs and the donor organizations up 20% on each grant made. This is the most progressive change in NGO taxation in Central Asia and possibly the entire NIS.

Kazakhstan Changes Registration Time Limits for NGOs

Kazakhstan made amendments to their law "On Registration of Legal Entities". The changes directly target NGO registration (that is, the amendments are only applicable to NGOs). The first amendment shortens the deadline on the Ministry of Justice's response to registration applications. The change eliminates the requirement for registration applications to contain the list (detailed information) of the Board of Directors. The amendment states that only information on the founders is required. These changes, albeit slight, will improve the regulatory environment for NGOs.

TAJIKISTAN

Tajikistan Working Group Finishes First Draft of Two New Laws: A New NGO Law — "On Non-commercial Organizations" And A New Law on Charities

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. They, in turn, approached ICNL for assistance. 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. The new draft law is expected to be submitted after April 1st, 2000, in the Parliament of Tajikistan. Adoption of this law will further improve Tajikistan's legislation on NGOs.

UZBEKISTAN

Additional NGO Laws Slated by Uzbekistan Government

Last Spring's adoption of the new law, "*On Non-Commercial Organizations*" was a hallmark for ICNL and the NGO sector of Uzbekistan. But additional, specific forms of legislation are still needed. In response to this need, ICNL's partner, The Institute of Monitoring Legislation, proposed that additional NGO laws be slated for the 2000-2001 legislative calendar. To this, the government responded in the positive and added the following laws for promulgation and introduction: *Law on the Registration of Legal Entities*; *Law on Foundations* and a *Law on Institutions*. These laws are to be completed by April and submitted for readings in Parliament. For 2001, the government is planning two more laws; *Law on Unions and Associations* and a *Law on Charitable Activities*. Work on the Tax Code may also be possible during the year. If adopted, these laws have the potential of creating a comprehensive and progressive legislative framework for NGOs.

ICNL Plans Training for Ministry Officials

During the previous quarter, ICNL and Counterpart carried out a training series for NGOs and government officials in the implementation of the new NGO law. This training was funded by Global Training and Development and held in four different cities (Samarkand, Bukhara, Nukus and Kokand). Although these trainings were a success, it became abundantly clear that officials from the Ministry of Justice (being those that must implement the logistics of the new law) need special attention. The Ministry officials requested further ICNL assistance in the form of a specific training. This training will be executed by ICNL and its governmental partner, the Institute of Monitoring Legislation, and detail specific implementation issues for Ministry officials. Global has agreed to fund the tentative training for January in Tashkent. Dozens of Ministry officials will be brought in from the regions to take part in this critical training.

ICNL Continues Work on 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. 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 January). The final product will be used in the above-mentioned training for the Ministry of Justice.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

KAZAKHSTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

As mentioned in the previous Quarterly Report, ICNL is continuing its work with the Senate Legislative Committee of Kazakhstan in drafting this new NGO law--to be adopted in early 2000. Submission of the draft law was set back due to changes in the Legislative Committee. The new Committee began work in December. ICNL will continue to extend its assistance to the new Committee for finalizing the NGO draft law. This draft will elaborate on the current law, *On Public Associations* and regulate foundations, institutions, and associations. If the appropriate changes are made, this law will also effectively deregulate certain aspects of NGO management such as the regulation of on-going activities by governmental ministries.

ICNL has been attempting to improve the tax treatment of NGOs. The changes outlined in the *Project Impacts section* will definitely make a tangible improvement. But ICNL continues to address other forms of taxation, such as the taxation of NGO economic activities and the lack of tax breaks for charitable organizations. ICNL was invited to a series of such meetings with the drafters of the new tax code. ICNL provided these drafters with proposed amendments and gave advice and consultations on NGO taxation.

Implementation of Policies Affecting NGOs

Last quarter, on December 10, the government of Kazakhstan adopted amendments to the Tax Code that clarify the status of "grants" (amendment to Article 5, point 8). Previously, there was a very ambiguous provision that stated grants and other forms of humanitarian aid were exempt from income (former Article 34). The former provision left room for arbitrary interpretation and proved problematic for both NGOs and taxation authorities. The amendment to Article 5 mentioned above, now further clarifies what a grant is. That is, the new wording leaves no doubt that grants from international donors and grants made pursuant to international agreements are non-taxable revenue.

Secondly, as of the effective date of the amendments, January 1st, local NGOs that receive grant money from international organizations, and the international organizations themselves, are not obliged to pay the "social tax". The social tax in Kazakhstan, much like social security systems around the world, is a tax on an individual's salary by approximately 26%. This exemption applies to grant funds and therefore should apply to both the international organizations and their grantees, the local NGOs.

ICNL provided over twenty-five consultations on the new tax changes that effect NGOs in Kazakhstan to both local NGOs and international organizations. ICNL also provided four large-scale presentations to large audiences on these tax changes. The presentations were held at the US Embassy (Partners' Forum Meeting held with the Ambassador); two INTRAC Donor Meetings held for the international donor community and lastly at an international/regional NGO law conference held by a local NGO.

It is noteworthy that ICNL wrote several articles on these most recent changes. One article appeared in the Johns Hopkins Journal, *The Analyst* (February 2, 2000). Other articles appeared in *The Times of Central Asia*, *Globe*, and other local papers and NGO bulletins.

Increased Local Capacity to Spearhead Legal Reform and Dialogue

ICNL's local NGO partner, the Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK), held an international NGO conference on NGO legislation and the role of NGOs in legislative process. For this event (sponsored by Soros), 6 ICNL experts were invited to participate on conduct discussions on NGO law reforms. ANNOK borrowed from ICNL's experience from 6 countries, which include Bulgaria, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Poland and Hungary.

ICNL Partner, Vadim Nee, attended a conference on internal governance in February. The goal of this event was to examine the self-governance of NGOs in the NIS and explore the best methods as compared to western models – a very relevant issue in the region. Vadim Nee will incorporate this experience into ICNL's work in the field of Central Asia.

KYRGYZSTAN

Technical Assistance with Drafting Laws

In 1998, ICNL facilitated the creation of an NGO/governmental working group. Over time, ICNL gave countless consultations and participated in dozens of event devoted to discussing draft laws. These efforts brought national focus to the NGO legislation. ICNL continued to foster the relationship between NGOs and government and continually was engaged in drafting and re-drafting this NGO law. But even the final version of the law went through heated discussions between different NGOs during the last three months prior to adoption. With ICNL's assistance, amendments to the draft were prepared by NGOs and submitted to the Parliament. Finally, in June 1999, the Kyrgyzstan Parliament passed the NGO law. Passage of the law comes after two years of collaboration between NGO lawmakers, government officials and international organizations.

ICNL has also 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 was able to publish that same article in Russian and English versions 12 times. The publications ranged from local Russian language papers to international journals. A second article on the new NGO law was also accepted for publication in the Johns Hopkins Journal, *The Analyst* (January 15th, 2000). ICNL will continue to write such informative articles on legislative changes as they come about.

As with any new law, the NGO law of Kyrgyzstan was further defined and elaborated in subsequent instructions issued by the Ministry of Justice. Such instructions usually describe in detail how the law is to be implemented. As such, the content of the instructions is critical. During this quarter, ICNL obtained the draft comments from the Ministry of Justice and provided suggested revisions. The revisions would provide for more progressive implementation of the law.

Consistent with the adoption of the new NGO law, Kyrgyzstan also adopted a new law on charities. ICNL assisted USAID and other international organizations that had serious concern over the law's content. ICNL provided in-depth analysis to this new law and is continuing its consultations and attempting to amendment this law. Although the law has good intentions, there is still much work that needs to be done to make full use of this new law. ICNL will specifically focus on coinciding tax benefits to this law through the next quarter 2000.

Implementation of Policies Affecting NGOs

Like in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyzstan government is addressing tax reform. Included into this activity is the concept of tax breaks for NGOs. ICNL drafted and delivered letters to both the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Taxation requesting to assist on this project. The results remain to be seen but the initial reaction was positive whereby ICNL has been invited to meet with the drafters of the new Tax Code in April.

ICNL's Kyrgyzstan partner, Nurbek Imakeev, also wrote an article that was published regarding potential tax advantages for NGOs in Kyrgyzstan. The article was also presented to the drafters of the new Code.

Increased Local Capacity to Spearhead Legal Reform and Dialogue

During this period, ICNL partner, Nurbek Imakeev, met with members of the Kyrgyzstan Judges' Association to discuss a planned seminar series in April regarding the NGO law. The seminar series will invite judge's from all regions to come and discuss the implementation of the new NGO law and its legal ramifications in court cases.

TAJKISTAN

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 (Parts I & II) and Tax Code. The first version of the "*Law on Non-Commercial Organizations*" was completed in August. In addition, 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 adopted in May 2000.

TURKMENISTAN

Implementation of Policies Affecting NGOs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the office of Counterpart Consortium requested model NGO laws of different countries. ICNL provided such materials to both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. ICNL re-iterated its desire to work with the government on legislative improvements.

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.

Implementation of Policies Affecting NGOs

ICNL completed a training series for NGOs and government officials (*as described in the Project Impacts section*). By popular demand, ICNL will hold a 2nd training specific for the Ministry of Justice. To this end, ICNL and its governmental partners 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 for the Ministry of Justice in 2000 and hopefully indoctrinate government representatives to the new law.

Increased Local Capacity to Spearhead Legal Reform and Dialogue

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

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.

ICNL also did a presentation on the new tax changes for the quarterly donor round table. He also spoke on the current initiatives and outlined potential tax amendments for 2000. Those in attendance included Counterpart, UNDP, UNHCR, OSI, USAID, World Bank, INTRAC and Peace Corps.

NGOs

ICNL contributed to a large-scale international conference with the Association of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan (ANNOK). This conference invited hundreds of NGO representatives from the Central Asian Regional and even from Eastern Europe. ICNL provided several speakers from different countries to discuss their experiences with NGO law reform and provide advice for its development throughout Central Asia.

KAZAKHSTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL cooperated with the UNDP and American bar Association on a legislative training of Kazakhstani deputies on legislative processes. ICNL continues cooperation with NDI, OSCE, INTRAC, World Bank, ISAR and Charity Know How Fund.

The Almaty ICNL office participated in the quarterly donor round table held in February 2000 and even provided the February Partner's Forum with a presentation on the new tax changes in Kazakhstan. The round table was attended by dozens of international organizations which include: UN organizations, USAID, Soros, Mercy Corps, Peace Corps, INTRAC, Dutch embassy, Japanese embassy, OSCE, Red Cross, and others. These round tables are intended to coordinate activities in development. ICNL is considered the leader on NGO legislative issues.

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

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 Podoprighora, 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 local partner, Muatar Khaidarova was invited and participated in open meetings of the UN in Geneva as an NGO observer. There she discussed refugee problems in Tajikistan and other human right issues such as freedom of association. Ms. Khaidarova has also been invited to the US by an American NGO called "Law and Society" for a program called "Cause Lawyering". Her invitation is based on her excellent reputation as a human right attorney.

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 Ministry of Justice).

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; Bakhram 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. Most recent ICNL assisted the International Planned Parenthood Foundation on an NGO law conference. Other international contacts were established with OSCE, UNDP, and UNHCR.

NGOs

The International Planned Parenthood Foundation (family planning) fund in Turkmenistan conducted a huge conference for Turkmeni NGOs on local NGO legislation. ICNL provided the matrix and ICNL legal expertise including consultations to trainers and ICNL written material (in Russian).

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. This is a high profile NGO that may actively participate in the working group.

GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

KAZAKHSTAN

Grant-related activities in this quarter were focused on monitoring and closing the grants awarded in Phase II. The following organizations have been monitored during this time period:

1. Almaty Housing Cooperatives' Association
2. Association of Pension Funds of Kazakhstan
3. Association of School Councils
4. Belovodie-1, Leninogorsk
5. Consulting Center *Zubr*, Ust-Kamenogorsk
6. Eco-center, Karaganda
7. Feminist League
8. Gender Information Analytic Center, Karaganda
9. Information and Research Center for Civic Education
10. Junior Achievement
11. Legal Initiatives
12. Librarians' Association Of Kazakhstan
13. Public Charitable Foundation *XXI Century*
14. SATR
15. Scouts of Kazakhstan
16. Sheber Aul Artisans Village
17. Special Olympics Kazakhstan
18. Southern Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers, Shymkent
19. Umit, Support Center for the Deaf
20. Women's Resource Center, Shymkent

Completed projects include:

1. Sheber Aul Artisans Village
2. Aynalayin (Taraz)
3. Consulting Center ZUBR, (Ust-Kamenogorsk)
4. Sootechestvennik (Shymkent)
5. Public Association *Diabetes Society* (Taraz)
6. Eco-center, (Karaganda)

The grant KA98-121 given to EcoProject (Almaty) was closed and was denied to transfer for the rest of funding because: a) the project has been completed and b) the video-camera which they asked for in the new budget submitted by the NGO was not initially included in the project.

KYRGYZSTAN

The Grant Manager Kuban Assanov monitored two Counterpart grantees and received 16 monthly project reports from grantees. Seven projects were successfully completed. The Grant Manager indicated that in general projects were implemented according to planned goals and objectives. Four short-term grants totaling \$30,985 were awarded out of saved grant funds and ATA funds to the following Bishkek-based NGOs: ASIMO, Fund of Legal Problems, Central Asian Association of Artisans, and Fund of Promotion of Legal Infrastructure.

Election Grants

USAID provided Counterpart Consortium with funds (\$175,000) to promote open and fair elections. The Election Grant Committee (EGC) consisting of representatives from ABA, Public Affairs Section of 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 were 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. In December 1999, EGC approved 54 projects for parliamentary elections held on February 20, 2000 totaling \$126,300. The grant administrator monitored all projects, paying special attention to non-partisan implementation of the projects. Monitoring results were reported twice a month and e-mailed to USAID/CAR. The quarterly consolidated report is being prepared.

Community Projects

The Kara-Balta Center monitored 4 community projects, and the Jalal-Abad Center monitored 6 community projects funded last year through the UNHCR small grant program. The main observations were that all projects have been progressing at a satisfactory rate. The project of "Save the Town" (Kok-Jangak, Djalal-Abad) was suspended because the Center staff feels that refugees targeted by the project have not been adequately informed about project goals and objectives.

Grantees monitored by the Grant Manager include:

1. ASIMO, Bishkek
2. NGO Coalition for Democracy, Bishkek

The list of completed projects includes:

1. ASIMO, Bishkek
2. Fund of Legal Problems, Bishkek
3. Association of Social Institutions, Bishkek
4. Chernobyl Union, Nookat, Osh Oblast
5. Aibek, Kerben, Jalalabad Oblast
6. Employment Promotion Association, Bishkek
7. Afghan Veterans Union, Bishkek

Grantees for the reporting period include:

ASIMO (Bishkek): \$845 to ensure NGO participation in the seminar "Poverty alleviation and social protection." The NGO will coordinate implementation of the seminar – send invitations, compensate travel expenses for participants, reserve rooms in hotel. The purpose of the seminar is to develop a Comprehensive Development Framework for Kyrgyz Republic, focusing on coordinating activities and cooperation among all sectors. The grant committee believes this project will facilitate dialogue between the NGO sector and the national government to design a strategy for country development.

Fund of Legal Problems (Bishkek): \$140 to conduct a round table discussion on institutionalizing volunteerism in Kyrgyzstan by drafting a law on volunteerism. The requested amount covers facility rental, stationery, and document translation. The round table will provide an opportunity for organizations to obtain a legal basis for volunteer movement in Kyrgyzstan. The project is important in terms of the development of a legal status to shape the volunteer movement for Kyrgyz Republic.

CASCA: \$25,000 to conduct a series of meetings to maintain artisan network in CA, to recruit staff of newly formed association of artisans of CA, and to establish an artisan resource center. The grant funds would cover costs of communication equipment for 16 public member organizations, travel, 3 staff salaries, and hosting a fair in Almaty. The project would promote the development of artisan association in CA, through which the member organizations can engage in dialogue with governments and business.

Public Foundation for Support of Legal Infrastructure and Education (Bishkek): \$4,890 to conduct a workshop for 40 teachers from secondary schools, develop the students and teachers manuals and within the Program "We and Law," release the final edition of the book, translate to Kyrgyz and publish 400 books. The book is to be introduced in the curricula of the secondary schools throughout Kyrgyzstan. The project covers 30 schools from 6 regions of the republic including Bishkek. The project would increase legal awareness of the population, using new forms and methods of learning laws, including interactive teaching and comprehensive approach towards basics of the law. It also provides practical knowledge for applying acquired skills in day-to-day life.

TAJIKISTAN

No grants were awarded during the period. Since the current phase of the Program is finishing, Counterpart was busy closing out the remaining grants. The following grants were closed:

- **NGO Avesto's** project "Peace for Life" was successfully implemented, without any significant changes.
- **NGO Women Voters** project "Elections and Women's Rights." Since the project was related to voter education and election issues, they requested an extension of the project for one month until the end of the elections.
- **NGO Right & Prosperity's** project "Child in conflict with Law" – after some violations found while monitoring the project, the NGO was given one month to correct the situation. By the end of the aforementioned period Counterpart monitored the organization and decided to complete funding the project. The project was accomplished without any other changes.
- **NGO Zan va Zamin's** "We Value Cleanness" project – taking into account the successful accomplishment of the project, especially the remarkable successes in working with the housing committees and mobilizing people to address their problems, Counterpart awarded this NGO with the first ever certificate of a successful grant.
- **NGO Jahon's** project "Society & Power" – in addition to submitting final report, *Jahon* submitted two new-developed modules for conducting trainings among the militia staff on human rights. These modules are available now for other interested NGOs.
- **Tajik Journalists Association "Social Partnership"** – the project "Mass Media & Social Partnership" – taking into account the poor coverage of the issues related to the elections by Tajik Mass Media Counterpart supported this NGO's proposal to publish one more issue of the newspaper "3 + 1" devoted to the Parliamentary Elections. In this issue independent and non-partisan information about the parliamentary candidates was presented.
- **The Branch of the Women Ecological Association's** project "Center of Civic Education" – because of the far location of the NGO from Counterpart Dushanbe and the Khojand NGO Support Center, Counterpart wasn't able to provide conduct a site visit to this NGO; however, their reports show satisfactory implementation of the project.
- **NGO Volunteer's** project "No Drugs in GBAO" – besides working on drug issues within the framework of this project this NGO has been involved actively in the reconciliation of various group conflicts in Gorno-Badakshan. Taking into account their commitment to the issue, Counterpart decided to send the leader of this NGO for the participation in the workshop "Role of the Leaders in Building National Reconciliation in Conflict Society" conducted by AED/Global Training Program in the USA.
- **NGO Fidokor's** project "Steps to Peace" – by the end of the project this NGO produced a handbook "Iqdomi Sulh" (Steps for Peace) which recounts this NGO's experience with conflict resolution activity in Hisor and Shahrinaw districts. The handbook contains some modules on conflict resolution in conflict-impacted areas as well as some recommendations for others who works on the issue. A number of the Handbooks are available for NGOs through our NGO Resource Centers.

Other grants closed during the quarter include:

- **NGO Umed** – "Refugee Household's Sustainability"
- **NGO Modar** – "Mini – Parliament"
- **NGO Women Initiative** – "Women & Peace Process"
- **NGO Women & Society** – "Cypress"
- **International Foundation "Khuboni Porsigu"** – "Steps to Self-Awareness"

- *Foundation of Supporting Civil Initiatives* – “From Conflicts To Cooperation, Civil Peace & Consent”
- *Center of Youth Initiatives “Ittifoq”* – “Peace to Your Home, Tajikistan”
- *NGO Nidoi Asr* – “Protect Yourself”

Open grants include:

- *NGO Manizha* – Newspaper for Tajik NGOs” – after the problems this NGO had with the registration of its newspaper in the Ministry of Culture and Information, it was registered then and 3 issues of it have been published already. There are two more issues should be printed soon. Taking the situation into account Counterpart agreed to extend the project duration.
- *NANSMIT* – due to the late receipt of the special equipment for making films about Tajik NGOs activities this NGO applied to Counterpart to extend the project duration. 2 from 16 video films have been already completed and showed by Dushanbe TV.

UZBEKISTAN

Counterpart awarded one grant this quarter:

“Umidvorlik”- Center for support of children with disabilities and their families, Tashkent: \$2,180 to promote legal education for 150 women in 6 makhallas of Tashkent city for the development of crucial self-consciousness, the ability to have influence on themselves and on society for the purpose of participating in the decision-making process through conducting 6 seminars and series of consultations. This project is supported as the first step to development of makhalla women's advocacy.

Monitoring exercises were carried out with the following NGO grantees in this quarter:

1. IROSAM, Samarkand International Communication Center
2. Meros Association of Craftsmen of Samarkand
3. Bukhara Center for Information and Culture
4. BWA, Bukhara
5. Association of private tourist companies and small businesses

All grantees have submitted their final financial and narrative reports, and projects' financing has ended this quarter.

The list of completed projects includes:

1. BWA, Bukhara - “Enlightenment of Businesswomen of Bukhara Region”
2. BWA, Kokand - “Creation of Electors' club”
3. Bukhara Center for Information and Culture - “NGO Support Center”
4. Mehri Women's Society, Tashkent - “Establishment of Tashkent Counseling and Training Center for Women and Families and Support of Hot-line Services and Training in Uzbekistan”
5. Meros, Association of Craftsmen, Samarkand - “To establish production of Samarkand Handmade Paper and Create Local Market”
6. Shagala Center, Nukus - “Development of Shagala Center”
7. Association of private tourist companies and small businesses, Bukhara - “Bringing Together Private Tourist Companies and other Small Businesses”

TRAINING MATRIX

KAZAKHSTAN				
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	1	17	24
2.	Project Design	1	3	18
3.	Public Education through the Media	2	31	47
4.	Fundraising	4	35	84
5.	Financial Management	1	23	23
6.	Advocacy	2	29	42
7.	Financial Sustainability	2	26	48
8.	Human Resource Management	1	12	18
9.	Social Partnership	2	32	53
10.	Governance	1	11	16
11.	Constituency Building	3	44	69
12.	Newsletter Development	1	13	19
13.	Impact/Success Story Writing	1	1	17
14.	Press Conference	1	22	25
15.	Special WUA Training	5	54	94
16.	Basic Computer Literacy Courses	4	7	11
	Total	32	360	608
KYRGYZSTAN				
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	2	24	35
2.	NGO Management	2	27	37
3.	Fundraising	1	19	27
4.	Financial Management	2	31	41
5.	Financial Sustainability	1	13	19
6.	Human Resource Management	1	17	20
7.	Press Conference	1	11	12
8.	Using Internet and E-mail	1	9	14
	Total	11	151	205
TAJKISTAN				
#	Type of workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	12	133	208
2.	NGO Management	1	14	20
3.	Project Design	8	113	139
4.	Strategic Planning	3	40	48
5.	Public Education through the Media	1	15	15
6.	Association Development	1	10	11
7.	Financial Management	1	7	14
8.	Financial Sustainability	1	10	13
9.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	2	24	29
10.	Social Partnership	2	25	31
11.	Governance	3	14	49
12.	TOT in Adult Learning Styles	2	31	33
	Total	37	436	610

TURKMENISTAN				
#	Type of Workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	8	94	122
2.	NGO Management	3	45	49
3.	Project Design	2	25	29
4.	Strategic Planning	1	18	18
5.	Public Education through the Media	1	18	18
6.	Association Development	2	19	30
7.	Advocacy	1	11	12
8.	Human Resource Management	1	13	15
9.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	12	12
10.	Social Partnership	1	7	8
11.	Constituency Building	1	8	10
12.	Newsletter Development	1	9	10
13.	Using Internet and E-mail	3	27	37
14.	Small Business Development	1	13	13
15.	TTAPs	2	2	18
	Total	29	321	401
UZBEKISTAN				
#	Type of workshop	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants
1.	NGO & Community	4	28	81*
2.	NGO Management	1	14	16
3.	Project Design	3	39	66
4.	Fundraising	1	5	11
5.	Financial Management	1	9	13
6.	Financial Sustainability	1	15	18
7.	Social Partnership	4	28	64
8.	TOT for Contract Trainers	2	28	41
9.	PRA	2	9	42
10.	NGO Accounting and Transparency	1	18	25
11.	Press Conference	1	15	21
	Total:	21	208	398

* Including Makhalla participants

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
4. Consulting Center "Zubr", Ust-Kamenogorsk
5. Eco-Center, Karaganda
6. Help, Kostanai
7. International Club "Kiwanis," Taraz
8. Inkar, Aktyubinsk
9. SKAL (Southern Kazakhstan Association of Lawyers), Shimkent

Affiliated Resource Centers

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), Astana
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. Center of Democracy Assistance, Karaganda
15. Children's Time, Almaty
16. Consumer's Advocate, Astana
17. Consumer's Rights Protection Society
"Shield", Stepnogorsk
18. Copyright Association, Almaty
19. Disabled Children Committee, Astana
20. Ecological Tourism Center "Belovodie",
Leninogorsk
21. Ecological Union for Information and
Coordination on Ecological Education
"Ecos", Kokshetau
22. Ekoproyekt, Almaty
23. Equal-to-Equal, Almaty
24. Feminist League, Almaty
25. Gender Informational Analytical Center,
Karaganda
26. Information and Research Center for Civic
Education, Almaty
27. Junior Achievement, Almaty
28. Kaspj - Tabigat, Atyrau
29. Kazakhi Association of Young Lawyers,
Astana
30. Kazakhstan Confederation of Free Trade
Unions of Miners (KCFTUM), Almaty
31. Kazakhstan Association of Food
Enterprises, Almaty
32. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human
Rights and Rule of Law, Shimkent
33. Kostanai Business Women Association,
Kostanai
34. League of Young Voters, Almaty
35. Librarians Association of the Republic of
Kazakhstan, 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. Podrugi, Crisis Center, Almaty
45. Service of Ethnological Monitoring and Early Prevention of Conflicts, Shimkent
46. Sheber Aul, Almaty
47. Shimkent Business Women Association, Shimkent
48. Social Adaptation & Labor Rehabilitation for Mentally and Physically Disabled Children SATR, Almaty
49. Soldiers' Mothers Committee, Almaty
50. Soldiers' Mothers Committee, Astana
51. Solyaris, Pavlodar
52. Sootechestvennik, 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 Resource Center, Shimkent
59. Women' Association for Development and Adaptation "Zharia", Astana
60. Women' Voters Coalition, Almaty
61. XXI Century, Almaty
62. Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan, Almaty
63. Zhastar, Astana

KYRGYZSTAN

A-list of Target NGOs

1. InterBilim, Bishkek
2. Aikyn, Bishkek
3. Polis, Bishkek
4. Public Fund of Harmony and Tolerance, Bishkek

B-list of Target NGOs

1. BIOM, Bishkek
2. Legal Initiative Fund, Bishkek
3. Association of Social workers, Bishkek
4. Training Center for Disabled Children, Bishkek

C-list of target NGOs

1. Kyrgyz Association of Brokers and Leaders, Bishkek
2. Tree of life, Bishkek
3. Smoke Free-Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
4. EJIAD, Bishkek
5. Carmel, Bishkek
6. Crisis Center Umut, Bishkek
7. Crisis Center Sezim, Bishkek
8. Charitable Fund Sanitas, Bishkek
9. Talent Support Fund, Bishkek
10. Educational Complex Ilim, Bishkek
11. Association on Supporting Business Women, Bishkek
12. National Society of Red Crescent, Bishkek
13. Youth Advocacy Organization, Bishkek
14. Civil Dignity, Bishkek
15. Ai-Danek, Bishkek
16. Association of Specialists of Interactive Methods, Bishkek
17. Women Congress of KR, Bishkek
18. Chamber of Tax Consultants, Bishkek
19. Association of Central Asian Journalists, Bishkek
20. TV Cross Road, Bishkek
21. Semetei, Bishkek
22. Junior Achievement, Bishkek
23. Fund of Legal Problems, Bishkek
24. Bureau of Children's Project, Bishkek
25. Public Center of Ecological Information, Bishkek
26. Bishkek Center of Social Initiatives, Bishkek
27. Bishkek Educational Fund, Bishkek
28. Kyrgyz Committee on Human Rights Protection, Bishkek
29. Chinar-Bak, Naryn Oblast

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

5. Lawyers of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
6. Alga, Chui Oblast
7. Public Center Leader, Karakol

30. Oi-Kain, Kara-Balta
31. Association of Employment Promotion, Bishkek
32. Coalition of NGOs For Democracy and Civil Society, Bishkek
33. Baichechekey, Kara-Balta
34. Jez-Oimok, Panfilov Rayon
35. Fund for Support of Legal and Economic Reforms in Kyrgyzstan, Osh
36. Youth Association Gulfstream, Osh
37. Nookat Chernobyl Association, Osh Oblast
38. Ata-Jurt, Osh
39. Information Teachers' Club, Talas
40. Union of Afghan Veterans, Osh
41. Kindness to Women, Aravan
42. Batken PFA, Batken oblast
43. Ulgu, Jalalabad Oblast
44. Aksana, Jalalabad
45. Justice, Jalalabad
46. Bureau of Children's Rights Protection, Jalalabad Oblast
47. Tendesh, Naryn
48. Bayastan, Naryn
49. Soopker, Naryn
50. Shoola, Talas
51. Medical Center Tsirina, Talas Oblast
52. Center of Women Initiatives, Talas
53. Talas PFA, Talas
54. Kut-Bilim, Issyk-Kul Oblast
55. Union of rural women, Karakol
56. Association of Family Doctors, Karakol
57. Youth ecological Movement Green House, Karakol
58. Shoola, Issyk-Kul oblast
59. Umut, Balykchi

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" (Businesswomen Association)
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
17. Ishonch Center for Social and Legal Support for Women and Youth
18. Public Research Center
19. Society for Consumer Rights Protection of Fergana Region
20. Bukhara Branch of the "Tadbirkor Ayol" (Businesswomen Association)
21. Fergana Branch of the "Tadbirkor Ayol" (Businesswomen Association)

**SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
KAZAKHSTAN**

“On the Way to Social Partnership” Conferences

Social partnership development was initiated at the Conference “Social Partnership for Prosperity” held on September 13 – 15, 1998 at Lake Issyk-Kul in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In order to design ways and mechanisms for social partnership development in Kazakhstan, a series of two-day conferences was held in four cities of Kazakhstan – Almaty, Atyrau, Pavlodar and Astana from December 1999 to February 2000. Thus, practically all regions of Kazakhstan were covered. The Academy of Educational Development (AED/GLOBAL) and Counterpart Consortium, supported by USAID, organized the conferences in Kazakhstan. The network of Kazakhstan resource centers provided practical assistance. Advisory and methodological support was provided by S.M. Marshak Foundation (Russia), an experience organization in this arena.

The goal of these conferences was to highlight the basic premise of social partnership, identify the need in Kazakhstan, envision the implementation process (including the circumstances accompanying this process, its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and prospects) and, through information structuring, to develop a dialogue and policy to be implemented through various mechanisms.

Over 200 representatives of governmental and commercial agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and mass media were involved in conferences. The participants of the conference worked in small groups “Governmental Structures and Non-governmental Organizations”, “Commercial Structures and Non-governmental Organizations”, “Mass Media and Non-governmental Organizations”.

Through the analysis of the current interaction and things to be done in order to improve the interaction among the sectors, the essential prerequisites for mutually beneficial cooperation based on internal and external factors have been shaped along with the specific mechanisms and project ideas for each of the identified social partnership development area.

During the conferences the necessary conditions for implementation of social partnership were discussed. The result of these discussions can be found in the following list of projects developed within the framework of the social partnership concept:

1. Creation and dissemination throughout Kazakhstan the concept of development of NGOs
2. Improvement of the legislation affecting NGOs
3. Creation of a cross-sectoral virtual resource center
4. Development of training program and trainers’ association in Western Kazakhstan
5. Organizing and conducting a Fair of Social Ideas and Projects of NGOs in Western Kazakhstan
6. Setting up a press-center
7. Creating a constructive dialogue between NGO and business sectors (*Dialogue Club*)
8. Setting up and development of a resource center for addressing social problems– Pavlodar
9. Development and implementation of a social partnership’s policy in Ust-Kamenogorsk

Special Report: Election Training in Tajikistan 1998-2000*

Counterpart Consortium Tajikistan first initiated activities related to the electoral process in early 1998 by conducting a round-table to discuss the issues with women's NGOs in Dushanbe. As a follow up to this event, a nation-wide conference on "Women and Elections" was conducted in Khatlon Oblast in June 1998. Local governmental officials tried to prevent this activity and created a lot of problems during the preparation period. These problems were overcome by the persistence of local women NGO leaders and international organizations operating in Tajikistan. Counterpart Consortium continued supporting and encouraging the women NGOs to work together on their common interest in the election subject. A group of women's NGOs was selected to participate in the "Making Democracy Work" workshop conducted by Judith Davis and Nancy Barbee from the US NGO *League of Women Voters/Colorado* in Almaty, September 1998. Two leaders of the women NGOs were also invited to the second workshop conducted by this organization the next year. A loose coalition of women NGOs was formed in late 1998 on the subject of increased advocacy and participation by women in government.

The third 'training of trainers' on the "Voter Education & Conducting Candidate Forums" subject was planned and organized by CC, LWV/CO and funded by AED/Global Project in December 1999. It provided Voter Education and Candidate Forum training for 20 NGO leaders in Tajikistan. This training was the beginning of the series of trainings and Candidate Forums that were evidence of the unprecedented scale of NGOs involvement in the upcoming elections in Tajikistan. Those 20 then conducted 9 "Voter Education & Candidate Forum" trainings throughout Tajikistan in January 2000. There were at least 15 to 20 participants at each training representing government, NGOs, CBOs and certain organizations involved in election process in Tajikistan. A total of 174 volunteers were trained to conduct Candidate Forums using 16 of the originally trained NGO leaders. They then began to act as validator/trainers to help the volunteers conduct Candidate Forums and to report to Counterpart on how effectively they were trained.

The next step focused on visiting volunteers who were conducting Candidate Forums in non-partisan and fair ways, which followed logically from the content of the trainings. A schedule of visits was of the Candidate Forums was created and conducted in a very short period by the trained volunteers.

Reports prepared after every visit to a Candidate Forum included: the number of electors (women/men); the number of events related with the election in certain districts; course of events; problems that have arisen; recommendations; and any ideas that will assist in improving this kind of activity and training in the future.

At the beginning of the activities volunteer organizers of the Candidate Forums settled contact with the local governmental officials in each their district. This was necessary because uninformed governmental officials could prevent activities from happening. For this reason the volunteer organizers of the Candidate Forums met with the chiefs of every district's local governmental structure and tried to inform or educate them on Candidate Forums and nonpartisanship. It should be noted that while some of the high level governmental officials understood the importance of Candidate Forums, many approved of holding Candidate Forums only after intense discussions.

* This report was prepared March 6, 2000 by Counterpart Program Coordinator Barno Gaibullaeva after collaboration with NGO leaders (Validators/Trainers) and the 174 Volunteers who conducted Candidate Forums all over Tajikistan.

In one instance, in Kulob, the volunteer organizers couldn't persuade local governmental officials to support Candidate Forums. Governmental officials didn't give permission because of incident, (car bombing killed a government official/candidate) which had happened in Dushanbe city a day before. Organizers of the forum were ready to cancel forum. They were very surprised when more than 600 people arrived for the forum and no candidates (all at funeral in Dushanbe city) Taking into account this fact and wish of the people to meet with the candidates, organizers conducted a forum the following day for over 600 voters and 9 candidates, without any permission from local government. A representative from local government who was obliged to participate in this event after the official recognized that it was an important activity and a fair means of introducing candidates to the voters. After this, Candidate Forums were conducted without any kind of problems from governmental officials. A letter expressing thanks from the Kulyab town election committee was given to the volunteer organizers and is good evidence of the forum's successful results.

The second group of volunteer organizers and 2 validator/trainers that conducted and observed Candidate Forums in Gissar and Shahrinau districts noted that Candidate Forums were initiated and conducted by the Vice-Chairmen of the Shahrinau district government and also by the Chief of the District Election Committee of the Gissar district, who were both trained as volunteer organizers of candidate forums. At the same time our non-partisan Candidate Forums were happening, the Chairman of the Government of Shahrinau District, who didn't participate in any of voter education training was conducting public meetings with the candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party (the current governing party). In these meetings candidates from other political parties weren't invited. The President's representatives at those meetings appealed to voters to vote only for candidates from their party. It was a good opportunity for the voters who participated in both events to compare Candidate Forums with the single party meeting and to decide which one is open and fair.

Volunteers who organized and conducted Candidate Forums in Kurgan-teppa noticed that of the 32 polling stations, only two stations had two or more candidates registered. It was evidence that voters had limited options in election process. Organizers of the Candidate Forums decided that it wasn't reasonable to conduct Candidate Forums with only one candidate. All candidates were representatives from the Peoples Democratic Party.

Still in Kurgan-teppa, it should be noted that candidates perceived Candidate Forums in different ways. At the beginning many wouldn't participate in Candidate Forums with other candidates. After observing other candidate's participation in the Candidate Forum, however, many of them changed their position and favored this fair and equal activity. For example, as the result of one Kurgan-teppa Forum, the candidates themselves initiated other Candidate Forums. They invited the trained volunteer organizers (and validators/trainers) to assist them in facilitating the Candidate Forums prepared by them. One of the results of the Candidate Forums was a round table to which all volunteer organizers of the Candidate Forums were invited, including representatives of local mass media and members of the local Election Committee. Governmental representatives in Kurgan-teppa said they recognized the significant and important role of the Candidate Forums for fair and democratic election process and mentioned that the experience gained that should be used in future elections.

Candidate Forums conducted in Shartuz, Kabodion and Beshkent districts showed that local government officials weren't ready to support the democratic Candidate Forum activities in this election. They prevented the volunteer organizers from conducting Candidate Forums for the Majlic-i-Namoyandagon (Parliament) and advised them to "not interfere in this affair." However, the volunteers and validators/trainers decided to organize and conduct Candidate Forums with the participation of the candidates for the majlis-i-mahalli (local governing councils) and all of the 6 Candidate Forums were well received. Candidates and voters appreciated their efforts and many asserted that this new democratic activity must be conducted in every district for future elections.

Candidate Forums were successful in the Gharm area of the Karategeen Valley, a significant achievement of the volunteer organizers and the NGOs in this area. Darband district is different from others in the Valley, with a dangerous environment for any kind of activity. The Islamic leaders who control this district consider everything from their Islamic sect's point of view. Only one forum was conducted in one of the communities of the Darband district for 144 voters (137 men and 7 women). In this context, this one Candidate Forum should be considered a great success of the democratic process.

Volunteers in Khojand city and in districts of Leninabad organized 11 Candidate Forums. The Forums were very well attended by citizens and candidates. Over 2000 citizens attended to hear 35 candidates for Parliament and local councils present their positions and respond to questions from the attendees.

In Dushanbe volunteer organizers contacted government officials for permission to conduct Candidate Forums, taking with them knowledge of the new election law. Officials weren't familiar with the new law and were therefore reluctant to give approval. The volunteer organizers went to the Deputy Mayor who allowed them to hold Candidate Forums after February 22, a date not acceptable to the volunteers. They started the Forums the week before and invited election committee representatives to participate. Candidate Forums conducted in Dushanbe city showed that Volunteers and validator/trainer's could set close contact with the governmental officials and election committees. The Chairman of one of the districts of Dushanbe city was a candidate for Parliament and participated in all Candidate Forums. He perceived Candidate Forums as a very good form of advertising and thanked facilitators for their efforts in election process.

According to the validators/trainer observations of Candidate Forums across Tajikistan, people seemed to be interested in finding out what different candidates said. They also seemed to appreciate the rules of fair treatment and showed preference for the "new ways" used in Candidate Forums. It was also observed that many Government officials were accepting of the new ideas and rules and active in implementing them. There was a clear demand for knowledge about election candidates and the process.

Almost every validator/trainer reported that there were numerous Candidate Forums held in places and at times that they could not visit. It is estimated that over fifty (50) Forums were held in addition to those reported (see chart below).

People liked the opportunity to meet with candidates at one time and compare their positions on key issues. They also noted the non-partisan position of moderators and the equal treatment of all candidates and appreciated the time limit on responses, as is required candidates to be concise. Candidate Forums helped voters attract attention to the content of the candidate's platforms as well as their right to an option. Nearly all candidates who participated in Candidate Forums recognized and mentioned the main merit of the Candidate Forums was equal opportunity for everybody.

The non-partisan attributes of the Candidate Forums alleviated distrust on the part of government officials of NGO activities. In many cases the Forums demonstrated, for the first time, the power of people working together in a coordinated fashion.

It is worth mentioning that particularly in the rural districts, volunteers and validator/trainers relied on local Hokimats' assistance. They say that government authorities were usually very helpful in organizing Candidate Forums to help bring a great number of people together and to facilitate volunteers' and trainers' logistical arrangements.

Several recommendations were made by validators and volunteers regarding future activities and needs

- Voter education should be conducted on an ongoing basis, not only during the election period.

- NGOs working on this subject need new knowledge and additional information about other aspects of voter education. Candidate's Forum was the new and only nonpartisan method providing equal opportunity for candidates. They want more.
- NGOs and other community volunteers should learn to conduct Candidate Forums without any control from governmental officials. To reach this goal, government officials should participate in trainings on Voter education from the beginning to be informed on this subject and on international standards for democratic activities.
- Candidate Forums should be open for all to monitor and learn.
- Development and use of standard formats for validators of Candidate Forums and other voter education activities by volunteer organizers is very important and will simplify the internal and external reporting process.
- Counterpart's role in this process was excellent, as it placed the responsibility for initiating and conducting voter education activities on the people to had the interest in coming for training – the volunteers. The training encouraged and built on their motivation and provided them with knowledge and skills to do the Candidate Forums and left the initiative up to them. No funding was provided in the conduct of the Forums, yet over 100 Forums were conducted cooperatively with government and election commissions in the public interest. Counterpart should continue this activity.
- Voter education is needed in the schools to build awareness and participation in government at an early age.

**Candidate Forums conducted by Volunteers and Validated in February 2000
(Prior to February 27th Election)**

Location	# of Forums	# of Attendees	M/F (%)	#Parliament Candidates	#Local Gov Candidates	#Trainers/ Validators
Kulyab area	10	1165	60/40	9	7	2
Gharm area	10	852	89/11	3	16	2
Shahrtuz	6	344	35/65	N/A	13	2
Kughan-teppa	8	752	77/23	9	6	2
Leninabad Oblast	11	2035	64/36	13	22	2
Shahrinau/Gissar	10	720	68/32	7	11	2
Dushanbe	23	1516	60/40	25	25	4
TOTAL		7184	65/35 ave.	66	104	16

NOTE: Many of the Candidate Forums were held in public schools, where students were present in relatively large numbers to observe. We estimate that about 1000 or more students witnessed these events.

WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION

TURKMENISTAN

- Quarterly Update
- Golden Spring Newsletter

Quarterly Report January till March 2000

Water Users' Association Project, Dashoguz, Turkmenistan

Project Activities

Over the last three months the most significant activity of the project has been the shift in direction of the activities of the project from "staff-driven" to "member-driven."

The first example is the use of participatory methods by a group of volunteers to develop membership criteria. The project staff wrote a questionnaire to survey the village water committees on their understanding of membership in the association. A group of volunteers from three different committees along with staff then spent a day analyzing and discussing the results of the survey. By the end of the day they had formulated a set of criteria that must be met by members and committees to establish, maintain and cancel their membership in the water users' association. The conclusions made at the volunteers' meeting will be distributed and presented at the April association meeting. The water committee representatives will then return to their communities to discuss the membership criteria and gather feedback from residents so that the criteria may be adopted at the May meeting. This successful integration of volunteers will be replicated in May when a group of volunteers will begin to meet to finalize the charter of the association.

The second example of a "member-driven" activity was the introduction of "quarterly meetings." Often after a water committee builds a serdop and begins to receive water delivery, the level of activity falls off dramatically even if there are outstanding problems to resolve such as lack of the repayment of borrowed money or the fair distribution of the water. Therefore, the staff developed concept of quarterly meetings of the water committee and other members in villages where they already have a supply of water. Such meetings are designed provide residents and their committee with an opportunity to raise any issues and talk through any problems.

Of the five quarterly meetings held over the past three months, the staff called two such meetings while the remaining three quarterly meetings were called by community members themselves who then asked the staff to facilitate the resolution of a conflict. For example, in the village of Shirvan, the local distribution in the village had completely fallen apart because of disagreement over whether to lock the lid and faucet of the serdop. The woman in charge of distributing water quit because she was accused of stealing the water or giving it only to friends. Another committee member invited the WUA staff to hear the different sides and help them find a solution. In the end, the community purchased locks, distributed the keys to two responsible people, and re-established an orderly distribution that all could agree on. Since then, the committee members (two women) have attended association meetings, are active volunteers on WUA committees and have announced that their community is ready to pay back the money the borrowed from the WUA project to build their serdop.

Sustainability Strategies

During this quarter the WUA staff carried out an expansion of an earlier pilot project for UNICEF. The project entailed introducing water, sanitation and hygiene equipment in 31 schools in Turkmenbashi and Kuneurgench etraps. Having conducted the evaluation of the pilot project in late 1999, the staff was in the position to apply the lessons learned from that project to the expansion of the intervention. An important modification to the approach taken earlier was the introduction of sanitation committees in each school. These committees were then charged with developing a plan of action and budget for improving the sanitation and hygiene situation in their school. Then the committee was responsible for carrying out the work. An informal network formed between the staff of different schools for identifying and purchasing materials and for sharing ideas on possible improvements that could be made. Based on the positive findings of a monitoring trip by UNICEF staff at the end of March, the UNICEF office in Ashgabad is considering Counterpart Consortium for replicating the approach in other areas of Dashoguz.

The mainstay of WUA's sustainability strategy is the water truck itself. This past quarter the truck reached its maximum carrying capacity at 44 drop off points. The number is less than anticipated due to difficult roads and greater distances. Also, the original projections for cost-recovery requirements were underestimated and therefore the delivery fees must be adjusted up in the coming quarter. Water committee representatives have volunteered to sit on a review committee that will assist in determining a delivery fee that is compatible with the local economic situation and covers the true cost of operating the truck and supporting the association activities. The staff is already searching for funding to purchase additional water trucks in the coming months.

Community Development Programming

The programming of WUA project focuses primarily on fostering community development through meetings, roundtables, training, mini-grants and information sharing. The construction of a community-owned, community managed serdop serves as a basic building block activity of the community organizing efforts under the WUA project. Presently 5,800 people receive water through participation in this project. During the quarter, there were 2 Association meetings at which a minimum of 35 water committee representatives from 17 villages attended.

Community Meetings and Consultations

During the quarter, the WUA project staff carried out 43 full community meetings and approximately 105 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. Also, 10 NGO-related consultations took place at the WUA office between October and December.

New and Existing Water Committees

Over the three months, 3 new communities invited the WUA staff to present our activities; and 3 new water committees were formed through open election by community members. Under the project 34 water committees have been formed by participating communities. Twenty-five are presently working while 9 have stopped their activities giving about a 26% attrition rate or conversely 74% success rate in terms of committees sustaining their activities throughout the building process and beyond.

WUA Style Social Partnership Meetings

There were 6 social partnership meetings this quarter. Under the WUA a social partnership meeting is a particular community meeting in which 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 to Getting Water Plant Water* 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

The last three months 5 mini-grants were awarded to participating communities allowing them to install 19 additional serdops. One community failed to adequately present its strategy for managing the serdop and did not meet the *Criteria for Giving a Mini-grant*, thus it did not receive a grant. By the end of March, 30 serdops were built, some of which were funded the previous quarter. The total number of people receiving water increased by 1537 this quarter. In all, 61 serdops have been built and are already serving 5,800 of residents. The WUA water truck services 38 serdops covering 3,500 residents.

Inter-community resource transfer and decision-making

During the past three months, 4 mini-grants involved inter-community transfer of money¹. Participating communities paid back 5,841,000 manat (approximately \$375) which was then transferred immediately to other communities.

¹ Representatives of different existing water committees which borrowed money from the WUA to cover part of their 51% ownership of their community serdops pay back the money to the WUA project which then immediately included the money in a mini-grant. Such representatives of communities participating in the project are *entitled* to take part in the decision of how and where the money they pay back will be used. During the social partnership meetings the representatives of other communities give advice and talk about their experience in organizing their community and serving as committee members. This 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.



Дашогуз велятыныё Сапармырат Т-ркменбашы этрабындакы
Сув Уланыёылар Проектиниё хер айда чыкян маглумат бюллетени.
АБШ-ныё Халкара «с-ш Агентлигиниё (ЮСАИД) хемаят этмегинде
Туркменистандакы Каунтерпарт Консорциум тарапындан чыкарыляр.



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Шу санда:

- Каунтерпарт Консорциум Т-ркменистанда--1 сах.
- «Агтаран тапар»-1 сах.
- Сув комитетлериниё карз алан пулларыны ызына гайтарып бериши- 2 сах.
- Миннетдарлык билдирй-рис - 3 сах.
- Сув уланыёылар ве сув комитетлериниё член-лери билен гечирй-н йыгнакларьмыз- 3 сах
- Аял-гызларыё активлиги -4сах

"АГТАРАН ТАПАР"

Якында "Гаравул гала" сув комитетинде сув уланыёыларыё умумы йыгнагы болуп гечди. Бу йыгнага оба адамлары, СУП-ниё ишг-рлери гатнашдылар.



Гаравул-гала сув комитетиниё хасабаты йыгнагында.

Йыгнакда "Гаравул гала" сув комитетиниё бир йыллык хасабаты дисленилди ве ерине етирилен ишлере баха берилди. Обада пейдаланылян б саны сердопдан сув ичй-н 930 адамыё агзыбир-ликли сув ичип башланына бир йыла голай вагт болды. Олар шу вагтыё ичинде диёе бир агыз сувуны ичмекликде агзыбирчилик г«ркезм-н, эйсем обаныё ыкдысады ягдайыны говуландырмак барада хем чыкалга г«зледилер. Оба адамлары СУП-иё ишг-рлерине экиш ерлериниё суварыш системасыны д-зетм-ге к«мек сорап й-з тутдулар. "Дост кын г-н-ёде белли"-дийлиши ялы, СУП-иё ишг-рлери оба адамларына бу иште к«мек этмек -чин Ашгабатдакы "Винрок" халкара оба хо©алыгыны «сд-рмек барадакы институтыныё ишг-рлерине й-з тутдулар. Шонуё нети©есинде оба адамларыныё тагалласы билен экин ерлерини насос билен д-л-де, эйсем гатланыё к«меги билен сувармак проекти, ягны гидрогурлушыклары гурмагыё планы ишленип д-з-лди. Бу иште оба адамлары «з з-хметини ве г-йчлериниё етдигин-ден пул серишпелерини орта тойпулар.

(«Би биринчи сахыада).

Шейлеликте "Эл-эли ювар, ики эл биригип й-зи" дийилени болды. Тиз вагтда акар яба сувы габаян гатла гурулды ве 1999 йылы май айында оба адамлары ондан пейдаланып башладылар. Шу йыл болса, оба адамлары иши довам эдип атыз араларында ене-де 5 ерден гидро гурлушук гурмаклыгы планлашдыр-ярлар.

Шейлеликте, бу иш гиёден йбаёланып башлады. Шу ишиё нетиёсинде 500 га голай пагта мейданы ве оба адамларыныё меллеклери аякдан сув ичди.

"Чексеё з-хмет-ягар рехнет"-диенлери, адамлар «з з-хметиниё илкинчи мивесини эй-м гкр-п башладылар. Бу йыл болса оларыё ерден бол хасыл алмак барадакы умыды хасда улы. Бу болса "Т-ркмениё алтын асырында" д«влетимизиё баямагына Гаравул галалыларыё улы гошанды болар.

"Гарвул галалылар" «з обаларыныё ыкдысады дурмушыны говулашдырмак -чин к«мек эдип бил-йёек башга-да донор гурамаларына й-з тутмаклыгы ниет эдй-рлер.

Ат«ан Бабаев.

СУП-иё «емгыетчилик билен ишлешмек боюча координаторы.

Сув комитетлериниё карз алан пулларыны ызына гайтарып бериши.

Сув Уланыёылар Проектиниё обалара эдй-н к«мегиниё бири хем хеммелере белли болшы ялы обалардакы сув комитетлерине мугт кичи грант пул к«мегини бермекдир. Обаныё халкыныё «злериниё йыгнан пуллары сердопыё бахасыныё 51 %-не етмедик ягдайында оба «емгыетиниё хайыш этмеги эсасында, СУ проекти гурамасы процентсиз кредит х«км-нде карз пул к«мегини хем берй-р. Карз алыян

(Ызы -ч-нчи сахыада).

пулыё мкчбери хер обада хер хер хили болуп билер ве эсасанам алын«ак сердобыё конструкциясына, сердобыё т«верегини абаданлашдыр-мак -чин ниетленен мкчберине баглы боляр. Сув комитетине гарнт берилиши.



Карз алынан пулуё ызына гайтарылып берил«ек мкхлети «емгыетиё членлериниё «злери маслахатлашып беллей-рлер ве СУП билен ылалашык багланшылыяр. Бу ылалашыкда хер айда гайдып берилмели пулуё мкчбери ве н-че айыё ичинде ызына берилмелидиги гкркезий-р. Ызына гайдып берилмели пул агыз сувы сердоба гетирилип башланандан соёра йыгналып башланяр. Карз пуллар йыгналып боландан соёра, бу пулы сув комитетиниё членлериниё бири СУ проектиниё ишг-рлери билен билеликте кичи грант х«км-нде агыз сув ягдайларыны говулашдырмак ислей-н башга бир оба берилй-р.

Х-зирки вагта ченли "Гаравул-гала" обасыныё сув комитети «злериниё карз алан пулларыны "Сарыгамыш-1" ве "Ялкым" сув комитетлерине кичи грант к«мегини берм-ге гатнашды. Шейле ёллар билен "Сарыгамыш-1" обасыныё сув комитети «з орнунда СУП-дан алан карз пулларыны гайтарып берен вагты бу пулы "Атгырлан" сув комитетине кичи мини-грант х«км-нде СУП-ныё ишг-рлери билен билеликте говшур-дылар, Мундан башга-да шейле механизм башга обаларыё арасында

(«Еи икинчи сахыпада).

хем ёла гоулды. Меселем: "Ак алтын" обасы- "Агзыбирлик" сув комите-тине, "Селмели к-л", "Гызыл там" сув комитетлерине карз алан пулларыны кичи грант х«км-нде берм-ге гатнашдылар. Х-зирки г-не ченли СУП-ныЕ проекти @еми 16 сув комитетине карз пул к«меклерини бердилер.

Халманов Сапаргелди,

СУ проектиниЕ к«пч-лик билен ишлей-н специалисти.

Миннетдарлык билдирй-рис.

Т-ркменистаныЕ президенти Сапармырат Т-ркменбашыныЕ "10-йыл абаданчылык" максатнамасыныЕ эсасы угурларыныЕ бири "Саглык сыясаты"-дийип ыглан этди. ХалкыЕ саглыгы агыз сувы билен берк багланшык-лыдыр.

Шейле максат билен, этрабымызда сув заводыныЕ гурулмагы, сувдан мугт пейдаланмак -чин Сув Уланыбылар ПроектиниЕ этрабымызда ишлемеги, буларыЕ хеммеси халкыЕ саглыгы -чин эдилй-н алада дийип мен хасап эдй-рин. Сув уланыбылар проектиниЕ ишг-рлери А. Бабаевие, А. Амановие, А. Осыковие тагалласы билен, биз этрап меркезиние Аль-Хорезми к«чесиние яшайбылары «зара маслахатлашып, агзыбирлик билен шу к«чеде сув гуймак -чин "Центр-1" ады билен сув сердопыны гойдык. Сердоп 1999-ны йылыЕ август айында гоулды. Сентябрьдан хем сув гуюлып башланды. Сувдан пейдаланян @еми 16 хо@алык, 118 @ан. Биз сувдан мугт пейдаланярыс. Сув хер хепд-ниЕ 1-2 г-нлери берк д-зг-н боюнча гуюляр. Сердоп шу к«ч-ниЕ боюнда халк -чин хем сув гуйян машынар -чин хем ис обайлы ерде гоулды.

Сердоп арасса сакланьяр. СЭС-ис г«зегчилигинден гечирилди. Сердопа дегишли документлер сув комитетинде сакланьяр. СердобыЕ агзыны ачмак ве япмак -чин й«рите адам белледик. Сув заводьндан сув гуймак -чин гелен

машын бир минут хем артыкмач сакланьлмаяр.

Комитетимизде сердобыЕ арассачы-лыгы барада й«рите арассачылык журналы й«редилй-р, сув машыныныЕ с-р-@иси билен гол чекишмек -чин график-расписаниеси д«редилди. Умуман бизие Аль-Хорезми к«ч-мизие шу сердопдан сув ичй-н яшайбылары АмериканыЕ халкара «с-ш агентлигиние хемаят этмегинде ишлей-н Сув Уланыбылар ПроектиниЕ ишг-рлерине улы миннетдарлыгыны билдирй-рлер.

Хайбатов Гурбан, "Центр-1" сув комитети.

Сув уланыбылар ве сув комитетиние членлери билен гечирй-н йыгнакларымыз.

СУ Проектиние ишг-рлери билен Сапармырат Т-ркменбашы этрабында д«р-н сув комитетлери билен 3-айдан квартал йыгнакларыны гечирип дур-ярыс. Биз йыгнага гатнашян адамлары г-н тертиби билен таныш эденсоЕ, сув комитетиние членлери «з сердоблары-ныЕ ягдайлары барада айдярлар ве сувуЕ пайланьшы хакында «з араларында маслахатлашярлар. СУП-ныЕ гечирй-н йыгнагы 3-айдан хер обаныЕ сув комитетлери ве сув уланыбылар билен гечирилип дурян-дыгыны ятлатярыс. Бу йыгнакларда сув комитетлерис ве сув уланыбы-ларыЕ н-хили пикирлериние бардыгы, сув -пч-нчилиги барада, сув машыны барада ве эдилен ишлер барада й-зе чыкян проблемалары чекинм-ни маслахатлашып билй-рлер..

СУ Проектиние ишг-рлери комитет членлериние эден ишлери барада билен г-рр-@лешип, й-зе чыкян проблемалары билелешип ч«змегиЕ ёлларыны агтарярлар. Шейлеликде аркалалашыкы ишлешмек обаларыЕ агыз сув проблемасын ч«змеги а@сатлашдыряр.

Байрам Ж-й@-ев,

СУ Проектиние ишг-ри.

Аял гызларыЕ активлиги.

Шу г-не ченли обаларда 20 саны сув комитетлери херекет эдип, оба адамлары 41 саны Өемгыетчилик сердопларындан, сув заводыныЕ арасса агыз сувуны ичй-рлер. Арасса агыз сувы меселесини ч«змекде гелин-гызлар хем четде дуранок. 8-саны сув комитетлеринде 14 саны комитет членлери гелин-гызлардыр. АдамларыЕ кынчылык чекй-н меселелерини шол санда арасса агыз сув меселелерини к«ч-лик болуп «злериниЕ ч«змекли-гине аял-гызларымыз актив гатнашярлар.



Аял-гызлар йыгнакда.

Сарыгамыш-1 сув комитетинден АразглыОова ЯСыл, ГоОук гала сув комитетинден КакаОанова Тавус, Гум гачы сув комитетинден Мырадова Г«щел ялы комитет членлеримиз арасса агыз сувы ве бейлеки кынчылык чекй-н меселелерини к«пч-лик болуп бирлешип ч«змекде «з теклиплери, карарлары билен чыкыш эдип, хас-да активлик г«ркезй-рлер. «злериниЕ к«пч-лигиЕ кынчылык



чекй-н меселелерини ч«змекде алып барян ишлери барада газетлерде чыкыш этселер, бизиЕ гелин-гызларымызыЕ битирй-н ишлери хас айдыЕ г«рнерди ве оларыЕ «з кынчылыкларыны ч«змеклигине к«п к«мек боларды.

Алкым обасыныЕ аял-гызлары.

Хорматлы гелин-гызлар «з-СизиЕ к«пч-ликлейин алып барян ишлериСизи гурайшыСыз, ерине етиришиСиз барада макала язып чыкыш этсеСиз бизин "Алтын дамОа" газетимиз сизиЕ хызматыСызда.

Гадырлы гелин-гызлар, шейле хем сизи етип гелй-н Байдак байрамыСыз билен т-йс й-рекден гутлаярын. Сизе берк Оан саглык, машгалаСызда агзыбирлик, ишиСизде -ст-нлик арзув эдй-рин.

Аманг-л Дурдыева.

СУ ПроектиниЕ

Өемгыетчилик ишг-ри.

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LEGAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY ICNL

The following legal materials were provided in English and Russian 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

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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