
THE COUNTERPART CONSORTIUM

PROGRAM OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND NGO DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CENTRAL ASIA REGION

QUARTERLY REPORT

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I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart project component is:

Strengthened democratic culture among citizens and targeted institutions.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

Kazakhstan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan Increases its Members

The Western region of Kazakhstan is characterized by a very small number of underdeveloped NGOs. To address this gap, the *Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK)* established a branch organization in Atyrau, with support from Counterpart. This branch assists the third sector in the decision-making process on different levels. As a result of increased capacity in organizational development, this branch of *CNOK* has been successfully operating as a coalition of Western Kazakhstan NGOs; they have already participated in a public hearing on oil and ecological issues; and in only six months *CNOK* has attracted more than 25 legal entities as new members. All of these successes have been achieved in a very short period of time and have stimulated improvement in *CNOK's* sustainability in different regions of Kazakhstan.

Baspana Successfully Continues its Activities

Counterpart grantee the association *Baspana* is the sole Kazakh NGO working with homeless and other vulnerable categories of people. *Baspana* recently completed a short-term project aimed at improving living conditions for its clients. In order to extend this project *Baspana* consulted with Counterpart on financial sustainability. As a result, *Baspana* signed a long-term agreement for three years with Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) for the amount of \$1,500,000. These funds will help *Baspana* to mobilize the homeless and socially vulnerable people to solve their problems more efficiently, and to strengthen the organizational sustainability of *Baspana* as well.

Counterpart Partners Fill Gap in NGO Services

Eastern and Western Kazakhstan have a small number of non-governmental organizations and the third sector's capacity has been traditionally weak. Counterpart's partners in Aktobe (*SMEDA*) and Ust-Kamenogorsk (*ZUBR*) have started implementation of their service delivery programs to local NGOs and communities in these regions. As a result of technical assistance and consultancies provided to initiative groups by both *SMEDA* and *ZUBR*, three new non-commercial organizations including the public union *Aktyubinsk History Society* and the public funds *East Kazakhstan Without Drugs* and *Youth City* have been founded and registered. For such a short period of activity the CSSCs have strengthened ties with local non-commercial organizations, contributing to sustainability of the NGOs and the Centers.

Volunteerism

Successful development of training net

In the mid-90's drugs became an increasing problem in Almaty schools. The NGO *Equal to Equal* was organized in 1995 and registered in 1997 with the mission of providing anti-drug education. The organization became a target of Counterpart support and received funding in 1997. In the last six months *Equal to Equal* has developed a network of training teams working in four Almaty schools. The teams consist of students with leadership skills, deputy directors on training, and school psychologists. All team members are working on volunteer basis. Each training team delivers trainings on healthy lifestyles. With support and training from Counterpart on Volunteerism and Association Development, *Equal to Equal* is currently expanding its network of volunteers. As a result of this ongoing support from *Zhalgas* Counterpart the volunteer training teams are involved in

the national and city activities to promote healthy living (round tables, conferences, TV programs and campaigns).

Social Partnership

NGOs and Local Government Work Together to Teach Disabled Children

There are more than 1,300 disabled children in Astana that cannot afford to receive a modern high quality education. Recently the public union *Disabled Children Society* and the Local Social Security and Labor Department started a joint project to educate disabled children in computer literacy. The total cost of the education is 140,000 tenge (about \$1,000). Eighteen children have already received training and twelve others are still being taught. Another 50 children are expected to attend two-month courses. *Disabled Children Society* was registered at the end of 2000. Kamka Madieva, the Director of *Disabled Children Society* indicated “the training we have received from Counterpart, and participation in the Republic Conference in February, 2000, On the Way to the Social Partnership, have played the major role in the realization of this project.”

Partnership, Coalition –Building and Association Development

NGOs Initiated Development of Youth and Child’s Mass Media Association

After the collapse of USSR, nobody, including government agencies, devoted time to the development of press and television development for children and youth, thus creating a void in youth education. The NGO *Kid’s Time* has participated in Counterpart trainings, receives ongoing technical assistance, and successfully completed the project “Unified Information Area for Youth and Children” with funding support from Counterpart. Building on this, *Kid’s Time* has concentrated its efforts on the mass media and other NGOs that support children and youth. From January 5-9, 2001 *Kid’s Time* held a conference in which it organized master-classes and round table discussions on the development of youth education. Representatives from 70 mass media organizations from all regions of Kazakhstan attended the conference. As a result of this assembly, *Kid’s Time* and the production company *Oriental Project* teamed up to form the *Association of Mass Media for Youth and Children*. The Association has already planned to conduct a seminar on new informational technologies for children in March in Almaty and an International Forum of Young Journalists in June in Astana.

Expansion of Network of Young Leaders Association (YLA) Across Kazakhstan

NGO networking is still rare in Kazakhstan. Even the most successful NGOs do not pay attention to network development, rather focus on individual and immediate goals to survive the transitional period. *Young Leaders Association (YLA)*, funded by Counterpart as a focus NGO, was supported and given the skills necessary to register the National level of YLA. Working in partnership with Counterpart, YLA developed an outreach strategy to foster creation of similar YLA branches across the country, which included participation in Counterpart trainings and a tailor-made technical assistance plan for leadership of potential new branches. YLA branches have been formed in several Kazakh cities and are collaborating with each other in a network to foster a collaborative environment for the development of youth movement in Kazakhstan.

Advocacy

NGO Rallies Support Against Domestic Violence

Domestic violence against women is a growing concern in Kazakh society. The Crisis Center *Podrugy* has received ongoing support from Counterpart through training in topics such as Newsletter Development, Advocacy, How to Conduct a Press Conference, and Governance as well as funding support to set up a battered woman’s shelter. As a result of Counterpart’s support and technical assistance, *Podrugy* has been successful in launching other initiatives, thus establishing the Center as one of the leading advocates against domestic violence. For example, the Center received funding from the Soros Foundation – Budapest for the *16 Days Without Violence* campaign, which ran from November 25 to December 10, 2000. During this initiative the question about adoption of a Law on Domestic Violence was raised. All of the following activities of the Center garnered wide public support for the adoption of such a law: collection of 1000 signature cards with the slogan “I vote for the Law”; television broadcast of two public service announcements against domestic violence; and

conducting a conference whose NGO participants included the Feminist League, the Association of Women-Lawyers of Kazakhstan, and the Union of Women's Crisis Centers.

Successful Lobbying Implemented by Counterpart Grantee

Through ongoing collaboration with Counterpart Focus NGO and grantee the *National Consumers League of Kazakhstan*, the Department of Consumers Rights Protection was established within the structure of the Anti-Monopoly and Small and Medium Enterprise Support Committee in February 2001. Prior to this there weren't any state-entities dedicated to the protection of consumer rights, nor was there systems for policymaking or tools for implementation. The League consulted on issues of structure, aims and procedures to be used by the Department. Another successful example of cooperation with the government is that the Ministry of Education agreed to include the course "The legal aspects of consumer rights protection" as a compulsory course in the Law and Economics program at the university level. Also, League representatives were included in two working groups comprised of the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the development of customs policies and a new law on trade.

Kyrgyzstan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

NGO Shoola in Issyk-Kul Region Gets Recognition in Donor Community

Social and economic crises in the Tonsk area of the Issyk-Kul Region in Kyrgyzstan urged the necessity to create a system of social service delivery to disadvantaged groups of people, advocate for women's rights and support NGO community development. Through skills and information obtained at Counterpart trainings *Shoola* designed a series of proposals that were submitted to donor agencies such as the Eurasia Foundation, ACT in Central Asia, Sacred Earth Network Ecological Association and Soros Foundation. As a result of successful fundraising efforts the NGO attracted \$202,600 that contributed to the following positive changes at the community level:

- Establishment of a fund for training high school children in economy and democracy;
- Creation of women's information center;
- Development of an electronic informational network on the southern shore of the Issyk-Kul Lake;
- Opening of a legal center to provide free counseling services to low-income citizens; and
- Recognition of the NGO leader's achievements with the award of the Presidential Diploma for activism and socially significant achievements.

Biom Youth Ecological Movement Develops Successful Proposal Writing Strategy

Biom Youth Ecological Movement has been actively involved in resolving many environmental, educational, social and economic problems in Kyrgyzstan. To continue to promote positive changes the NGO needed additional funding. Through skills acquired at Counterpart during training workshops and round tables the youth NGO submitted a series of proposals to donor organizations such as ISAR, World Bank, Soros Foundation, ACT in Central Asia, Milleocontact Oost Europe that were awarded \$16,225 grant support. This funding helped the NGO to improve its sustainability as well as to make the following positive changes at the community level:

- Increase of NGO membership increased to 450 members;
- Creation of a Board of Directors for the NGO;
- Establishment by the NGO of close collaboration with various ecological organizations and governmental agencies such as National University, Academy of Sciences, National TV and Radio Company, Bishkek schools and colleges); and
- Participation by NGO members in the IV Conference for the Ministers of Ecology of Pan-European Union that took place in Denmark. At the conference the participants designed a framework of environmental protection and joint steps to implement it.

Kok-Jangak Association of Entrepreneurs Strengthens its Fundraising Strategy

With the purpose of upsurging organizational development and more active participation in addressing vital issues of the Jalal-Abad region the *Kok-Jangak Association of Entrepreneurs* had to attract additional resources. Having acquired skills in fundraising, NGO financial sustainability and project design at Counterpart trainings the *Association* appealed to donor organizations and was supported by the World Bank, International Organization for Migration, UNDP, Soros Foundation, Eurasia and the regional governmental employment center. As a result of efficient fundraising activities the *Association* raised funds in the amount of \$23,900 that allowed the group to implement a series of projects:

- A center for senior citizens was built in the village Kok-Jangak;
- 139 unemployed citizens were involved in short-term employment projects;
- A public restroom was built in the city of Jalal-Abad; and
- A series of seminars in business planning was held for the members of credit unions.

Volunteerism

Naryn CSSC Mobilizes Community Voluntary Initiatives

Transition to market economy and, consequently, an aspiration of society towards the progress is supported by volunteerism development in the Kyrgyz Republic. In the Naryn Region the number of volunteers was insignificant, prompting the need to increase their numbers to implement versatile community-based actions. Skills acquired by the members of the Naryn CSSC at the Counterpart workshop on volunteer management helped them to design an efficient work plan that envisaged the establishment of a center of volunteer initiatives under the CSSC. As a result, the number of volunteers in Naryn increased from 2 to 22 for the last six months. Moreover, a leader of a volunteer movement developed a specific program for local volunteers. The program resulted in development of the CSSC database of volunteers that pursue their activities in the NGO community of the Naryn Region. The database lists 102 volunteers.

Partnership, Coalition –Building and Association Development

Public Association of Scouts Builds Partnerships Through New Technology

The *Public Association of Scouts* is a newly established non-profit organization. Recognizing its limited experience and the need for information exchange and cooperation, the Association needed partners abroad to upsurge the Scouts' movement in the Kyrgyz Republic. Through skills acquired at fifteen Counterpart training workshops and accessing Counterpart's Internet Center the Association established friendly ties with five scouts' organizations from the US and Europe. As a result of these ongoing discussions, the leader of the American Boy Scout Movement visited Kyrgyzstan and signed three partnership agreements with the Kyrgyz Association. Moreover, due to the efficient use of the Counterpart resources the Association maintains sustainable collaboration with various Scouts organizations worldwide and is planning to participate in international conferences and meetings.

Association of Social Workers Successfully Utilizes Fundraising Skills

The *Association of Social Workers* was seeking additional funding to improve better quality health, social, psychological and legal services to socially disadvantaged groups of people in Kyrgyzstan. Through skills acquired at training workshops such as Project Design, Social Partnership, and Fundraising and counseling support from Counterpart the Association raised grants from international donor organizations (European-Russian Foundation, TACIS, Know-How, Danish Association of Social Workers, Canadian Agency on International Development) totaling \$282,280. As a result of the programs supported through these grants, the following positive changes were made in the *Association* and community:

- Two subsidiaries occupying a 100-hectar plot of land were established;
- A new bakery and senior citizens center were opened;
- A rehabilitation center was established and currently offers its services to 5000 disabled;
- 310 college students were trained in social services delivery and new technologies;
- The *Association* supplied its affiliates with new office equipment; and
- The *Association* entered the International Federation of Social Workers.

CACSA Support Expands Membership Through Strengthened Partner

Counterpart grantee the Central Asia Crafts Support Association (CACSA) provided support to the newly founded association of artisans *El-Onor* working in a remote region of Kyrgyzstan. *El-Onor* sought funding and support to improve organizational development and sustainability. CACSA offered counseling support and assistance in the marketing and sale of crafts to *El-Onor*. As a result of CACSA support and technical assistance, the regional and city governing bodies and the national bank of Kyrgyzstan requested that *El-Onor* produce national souvenirs and art works for the celebration of the 3000-anniversary of Osh city. The NGO raised \$1,100 through sales of these handicrafts and was awarded with a diploma by a city administration for active participation in festive activities.

Advocacy

Association of Consumer Rights Protection Makes National Authorities Reimburse Gas Fees

There are frequent gas outages as a result of the Kyrgyz government's inability to pay gas providers. In accordance with a Governmental Decree from 1997, consumers are entitled to be reimbursed for gas outages in excess of five days. *Aikyn* Consumer Rights Protection Association, through active participation in Counterpart trainings and round tables, acquired the necessary skills to address this problem. Appealing to the Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the KR Parliament and the First Vice Prime-Minister, *Aikyn* pleaded the case for reimbursement after a day of outage, rather than five consecutive days. The KR Government and KyrgyzGas Joint Stock Venture discussed the issue over a period of three weeks. A new Governmental Decree was adopted as a result of consensus among the interested parties and the advocacy campaign waged by *Aikyn*. The new decree states that consumers are eligible for reimbursement after a day of gas outage, and that that reimbursement should be available immediately. As such, consumers in Bishkek were reimbursed \$175,825 for gas outages in 1999.

Association of Consumer Rights Protection Impacts Decision-Making at Bishkek's Level

In 2000 Bishkek faced with an environmental from plans for construction of an incinerator by the Bishkek mayor's office and a contract with the company Italian Technology Innovations (ITI). The general public was concerned about ecological and economic hazards imposed by the planned project: pollution of the Chui valley; health impacts; the necessity to develop a site to bury poisonous dioxins; and an increased payment for utilities. The *Forum of Ecological NGOs*, established in 1997, in collaboration with the international center *InterBilim* conducted a series of activities to stop construction, using skills acquired at Counterpart trainings. Based on the results of the investigation that proved that the offered technology was not applicable in Kyrgyzstan the coalition held a series of round tables for governmental, non-profit and international organizations, mass media and attracted public attention to the problem. A wide scale media campaign was conducted in newspapers, television and the Internet. In September 2000 the ITI Company in Kyrgyzstan sponsored a trip of working group members to Italy to study the operation of a similar plant and its impacts on the environment and people's health. The working group offered to make another expert evaluation of the project with participation of non-profit organizations and as a result the construction of the plant was postponed.

Public Association of Social Welfare (PASW) Advocates for Elderly Rights

After gaining independence and under the transition to the market economy a group of retired people found themselves in a very hard economic situation. Many of them live under the poverty level. Since 1996 the PASW has organized 30 demonstrations in front of the Government Office and 3,000 meetings with the governmental officials lobbying for an increase in retirement allowances and benefits to orphans and families with many children. Through ongoing consultations with Counterpart partner CSSC *InterBilim*, PASW successfully appealed to donor organizations and received \$20,000 in grant support. *InterBilim* assisted the *Association* in organizing a regional conference that brought together high-ranking officials, non-profits, mass media, deputies, international organizations and the PASW volunteers. Through efficient collaboration of all related parties the following outcomes were attained:

- The amount of payment for gas heating was reduced for retired citizens, the owners of houses
- Gas meters were installed for free in the houses of 17,000 retired citizens
- 23 retired were able to get hearing aids for free
- Participants of the World War II got additional benefits
- An agreement with 6 pharmacies was reached and they sell medicines to the retired with 40% discount
- An amendment was made to the Law on Retirement Allowances according to which retired citizens who keep working will get retirement allowances in full amount. Prior to that they were 50% cut off.

Community Mobilization

Civil Society Support Center of Jalal-Abad Facilitates a Dialog with Different Stakeholders and Improves Community Social Infrastructure

In 1987 a small village of Tash-Bulak was destroyed by a mudslide and all the villagers were resettled to a new place, which was named after a damaged village. In 1993 this new settlement housed 17 refugee families from Tajikistan. The lack of water to drink and water crops was a huge problem that people faced with in a new place. Water resources were stored in reservoirs that did not meet any sanitary standards and contained many hazardous germs. It entailed the increase in a morbidity rate from hepatitis, skin and intestinal diseases. The Jalal-Abad CSSC that participated in many Counterpart training workshops and round tables designed a project to construct a water system in the village, which received a \$28,500 grant support from international donors. The project also gained a \$5,500 support from the local government. As a result of efficient fundraising a new water system was built and at the present time 89 families are provided with clean drinking water. A community-based association was established to maintain and improve water facilities.

For International Tolerance Facilitates Cross-Border Initiatives in Fergana Vallely

Residents of three villages that are in close proximity to one another in the Leilek area of the Batken Region had only one source of water, causing a series of ethnic conflicts in these villages on the Tajik-Kyrgyz border. Outbreaks of contagious diseases were also documented. The NGO *For International Tolerance* addressed this problem through peaceful negotiations with fighting parties and a number of round tables and community-based meetings with senior citizens. Having acquired skills through Counterpart's workshop on Project Design the NGO wrote a proposal to improve social infrastructure in the Fergana valley. The Swiss Development Fund and UNOPS supported the project with a total of \$96,972. A new water system connecting the three villages was opened in November 2000. Neither ethnic conflicts among 8,000 population nor cases of infectious diseases have been registered for the last four months. A community-based water users committee was established to monitor the operation of the water system

Tajikistan

Volunteerism

NGO For Earth Saves The Earth

Since the civil war, the Botanical Park of Dushanbe has been abandoned and is not longer a focal point for gathering in Dushanbe. The environmental group *For Earth*, an active participant in Counterpart training workshops, developed a project to rehabilitate the Botanical Park to its former condition. Many volunteers were needed for activities such as clearing away accumulated debris, pruning dead branches, and repairing irrigation ditches. To involve more people in the activities, information about the initiative was spread to other NGOs and interested and active individuals. More than 100 volunteers came forward, primarily from other NGOs, to help in the clean-up campaign. As a result the Park is attractive, safe, and once again a popular place for gathering. This small activity of working together is an indicator of the eradication of incidents of past violence.

Social Partnership

Conference On Social Partnership Results In Increase Of Public Awareness About NGOs

In Tajikistan the government-controlled media often ignored NGO events and activities and seldom carried stories to promote understanding of local NGOs and their activities. If an NGO wanted coverage, a fee had to be paid. Counterpart's Khojand CSSC was asked by the NGO *ASTI* to assist in addressing the problem by educating government media managers. Counterpart and its CSSC have assisted the local NGO *ASTI* with training and technical assistance. They conducted a Social Partnership Conference that brought together nearly 70 representatives of NGOs, government agencies and business organizations across the *Sughd Oblast*. The Conference promoted a better understanding of each other's activities and problems and helped them figure out ways to cooperate. As a result, the *Sughd Oblast* state TV company, as well as two other private TV companies, decided that each would allocate 20 minutes of air time for a special monthly program to cover NGOs and their activities. This first step helps the population of nearly 1,000,000 of *Sughd Oblast* to begin to learn about NGOs and to begin to invest in news for the public interest.

Partnership, Coalition –Building and Association Development

Crafts NGO Association Helps Members To Become Sustainable

The *Association of Crafts NGOs of Tajikistan* was established last year with technical assistance from Counterpart. There are seven members in the Association of Crafts NGOs and not all of them are particularly strong. NGO *Khairiya*, located in Sovetsky District of Kulob, was one of the weaker members. In the past there was much rivalry among crafts NGOs and very little working together. Two members of the *Association*, *Haft Paykar* from Dushanbe and *Faizbakhsh* from Faizabad, together with *Khairiya* held an exhibition of handicrafts made by those NGOs. The purpose of the exhibition was to demonstrate and advertise crafts traditions among the people in that area and then to broaden the constituency of the *Khairiya*. The *Association* members collaborated to host an interactive exhibition that displayed their products. Further, the exhibit demonstrated the NGOs ability to work together and the benefits of such collaboration. As a result, more than 500 people attended the exhibition, the local government officials of this remote area learned about NGOs for the first time, and *Khairiya* identified 10 crafts women as potential new members, in addition to their 41 existing members. The new *Association of Crafts NGOs* has found the path to participatory membership and the benefits of working together.

Advocacy

NGO Engages Donors To Provide Assistance To Fergana Valley

Ittifoq is an excellent example of a Counterpart alumnus organization in action. Supported by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, *Ittifoq* has implemented a monitoring system of ethnic conflicts in the border areas of the Fergana Valley. Special conflict resolution interventions using Counterpart's Problem ID workshop were conducted by the NGO in the several of the target communities. As a result, problems involving shortages of irrigated water and land were identified as major sources of conflict. The NGO presented the results of the workshops to interested international organizations, which resulted in three project initiatives to resolve the problems of distribution of irrigation water and land. The total budget of these projects is approximately \$250,000.

Community Mobilization

NGO Leads Community Mobilization To Build A School In Pastkhuf

320 children of Pastkhuf village in the mountainous province of Gorno Badakhshan had no school of their own and had to walk nearly 5 km. to attend classes in a neighboring community. This is a major problem in the winter in Gorno Badakhshan, which prevented Pastkhuf children from attending school at all in the several hard winter months. Encouraged by NGO *Bunyod*, an ongoing recipient of training assistance from Counterpart through the Khorog CSSC, villagers decided to build a school for their children. *Bunyod* invited local government to help with the project and the officials contributed the equivalent of \$25,000. A local commercial firm helped the community by contributing transportation of building materials at no charge. The community members contributed the labor costs by completing all the construction work on a voluntary basis, thus saving the project \$51,000, or 45% of the total costs.

Counterpart Training Helps Roshtqala Community Open New Cultivated Areas

20,000 people of the *Roshtqalaa* district of GBAO live in poverty because of the lack of access to irrigated land. After participation in Counterpart's *Problem Identification* workshop, the *Farmers Association of Roshtqalaa* engaged members of the community in the identification of a project to build a six-kilometer water channel to open new cultivated land. Assisted by the Khurog CSSC the *Association* successfully received support from the Aga Khan Foundation for this effort. According to the project, the *Foundation* provided building materials worth \$20,000 and the local community completed all the construction work in four months. The community's voluntary contribution was equivalent to \$12,000. The channel provides irrigation to 27 hectares of new agricultural land that will improve the standard of living in the *Roshtqalaa* community.

NGO Clients Helps Themselves Deal With Loneliness

Loneliness is a widespread disease, suffered mostly by the disabled and pensioners. Supported financially and technically by Counterpart, the NGO *Medservice* created the *Hope Club* for lonely people of the Oktyabrsky district of Dushanbe to meet and communicate. The idea became so popular that during the first four months of the *Club's* operation the number of clients grew from 627 to 1,499. This increase caused another problem – the small club was not able to entertain all NGO beneficiaries. To address this problem, NGO members created their own *Active Groups* – a small-scale model of the *Hope Club*. Presently ten such groups have been established to serve different professional interests in various neighborhoods. In all, roughly 1,000 elderly found a solution to their loneliness.

UMED Leverages Support For A New School

The Kulob region village of Sino did not suffer consequences of the civil war; however, the overall economic crisis in Tajikistan has had an impact on the standard of life for inhabitants of this rural community. One outcome of this disparity is that the community school has not been repaired in more than ten years, resulting in illnesses and diseases among the children who studied in these unfavorable conditions. Residents appealed to local authorities for assistance, but lack of money prevented the government from helping. To address this problem, *Umed* developed a project and began to search for alternative funding sources. With support from the Kurghan-Teppa CSSC, *Umed* received support from the Embassy of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project Program, for a total of \$49,980. *Umed* announced a tender and construction work was implemented over a short time period. The resulting initiative provided 580 school children of the Sino village with an opportunity to begin a new academic year in a brand new school.

NGO Helps A Shugnan Community In Food Production

Darmorakht Village has suffered from chronic land shortage in mountainous Shugnan District. Community members have been unable to grow sufficient food to feed their population. The traditional crop of food grain, irrigated wheat, lasts only one month of the long seven-month winter. NGO *Madadgor* helped Darmorakht village people to develop a project to bring more land under irrigation, through the construction of a new headgate and 7 kilometers of irrigation canal. World Food Program and Aga Khan Foundation supported the project and community members provided local materials and all of the labor involved. Now the more than 3,000 inhabitants of Darmorakht village can use 8 more hectares of land and grow enough grain to stave off hunger during the winter months. NGO Darmorakht is a frequent client of Khorog CSSC for training, advisory and information services.

Turkmenistan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Internet Link Increases NGO's Resource Base and Range of Services

The National Society of the Red Crescent of Turkmenistan is a member of the international network of Red Crescent Societies, which carries out a large number of humanitarian programs. In order to make effective use of the network, members of the Turkmenistan Society need a quick and reliable link to organizations from many countries around the globe. Counterpart responded to this need by providing the NGO with two e-mail boxes and Internet access free of charge. The following activities were made possible through effective use of Internet and e-mail resources:

- Assistance to 17,300 members of large families, disabled and deaf people in Dashoguz velayet under the Food Provision Program for the Aral Sea Disaster Zone, in conjunction with the American Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.
- Electronic fundraising to assist one disabled man to access sponsors that contributed \$3,000 towards an operation.
- Public information campaign on international humanitarian law for representatives of local government authorities and school directors throughout Turkmenistan. In all, 10 seminars were carried out for 60 participants drawing from resources downloaded from the Internet.
- Distribution of over 1,000 copies of informational materials about the activities of the Turkmen Red Crescent Society to international media sources.
- Coordination of 20 meetings of the National Red Crescent Society, including participation of 20 international representatives from 15 different countries in Europe and Asia.

WUA Moves Forward Through Successful Fundraising

Counterpart has spent the last two years fostering the establishment of the Water User's Association in the Dashoguz region. As a result of the grassroots approach and thanks to critical social partnerships with government structures at the village, etrap and oblast levels, the Association grew to a staff of 5, and now successfully provides service delivery to 33 water committees in 22 villages of the etrap, reaching over 11,000 people (1/2 of the etrap population). The Association graduated from Counterpart program support in January of 2001 and is in the process of being registered with the new name of WUA *Sarygamysh*. Once the WUA localized, its members began in-depth consultations with the Dashoguz Support Center to identify sources of funding that would allow them to continue their mini-grant revolving fund scheme. Within a two-month period, *Sarygamysh* drafted and revised project proposals for submission to various donors. As a result, the Canadian Embassy of Moscow (CIDA) sponsored them with a grant in the amount of \$1,950 to provide mini-grants, enabling the WUA to expand its water delivery to more communities and to increase its membership base. This revolving fund is the basis of the current income-generation scheme of *Sarygamysh* and their successful project design and fundraising efforts reflect their commitment financial sustainability and expansion of services.

Volunteerism

Initiative in Action

During Soviet times, the term volunteer was applied to mandatory service, which has made the western concept of volunteerism a difficult concept for Turkmen NGOs. In order to address the need for more broad-based awareness of the role of volunteers in NGO work, Counterpart developed and conducted a new training module. Upon return from the Regional TOT on "How to Work with Volunteers in an NGO" training, Counterpart initiated a student *Volunteer Club* at the Polytechnic Institute of Turkmenistan. Within a month the Club was offered rooms to use free of charge from the Institute and began immediately to plan their first Fundraising Action - a "Charity Ball". The activity was planned and executed through volunteers and resulted in raising \$110 from a combination of baked goods and handicraft sales. The *Volunteer Club* used the funds to purchase warm clothes and boots for children in the Ashgabat Orphanage. Their volunteer recruiting skills increased, as five students from Institute joined the club as permanent members.

Dedicated NGO Helps Children Learn about Ecology

NGOs working in the area of ecological education include many of the most professional and experienced Turkmen organizations. At the same time, many of them don't have developed membership structures, which result in a stunted beneficiary base. Following Counterpart's Constituency Building training and a series of consultation visits with staff, *Green Team* carried out four types of activities to attract volunteers to their organization. For example, through targeting pre-school and elementary schoolchildren *Green Team* discovered that absolutely no curricula related to ecological education exists in the current system for these age groups. In order to fill that gap, the NGO recruited 15 university students and 3 lecturers to volunteer their time to implement an ecology program in 5 Ashgabat pre-schools. The NGO simultaneously attracted 8 parents to assist in the

program as volunteers, by involving them in the preparation of handouts, selection of themes and lobbying of school directors. Through these voluntary efforts, *Green Team* and volunteers organized and carried out three ecological holidays and contests at three nursery schools. They plan to continue to work through parents and teachers to extend the reach of these interactive eco-activities. Currently, the NGO is developing a membership structure scheme to help volunteers graduate to members.

Media/Outreach

Yashil Expands Constituency through Publication

The dissemination of information through media sources is a challenging task in Turkmenistan. Local NGOs have thus resorted to developing and mass-producing their own internal publications. Utilizing financial support from ISAR and technical training from Counterpart in “Public Education through the Media” and “Newsletter Development,” the ecological club *Yashil* published a book of classroom lectures/exercises on Caspian Sea issues entitled, *The Caspian Yesterday and Today* in Turkmen and Russian languages. Eighty copies of the book were distributed among NGOs, Ministries of Education and Environment, Institutes, and schools in Ashgabat, Balkanabat and Dashoguz cities. *Yashil* has received favorable feedback from UNDP’s Caspian and Biodiversity programs. It is now being used by these two programs as a practical base from which to train school children and was presented at the UNDP’s Conference on Caspian Biodiversity. Due to the high demand for the content, ISAR has decided to print a second run of the book and is considering expanding the content to include information about other countries bordering the Caspian Sea.

NGO as Alternative Information Source

Isolation and lack of access to informational resources is one of the main problems facing residents of the small city of Seidi, Turkmenistan. The initiative group *Arzuv* decided to take on the challenge of bridging this information gap and received funding support from Counterpart for a computer, printer and modem as a first step towards increasing access to information. Over a six-month period, this initiative group, composed of teachers from the local high school, published and distributed 24 different types of newsletters, booklets, methodological materials, and fact sheets to more than 4000 people (25% of the total population). Thanks to the efforts of *Arzuv*, citizens from all walks of life received informational materials on such subjects as civic education, ecology, and drug abuse. The effect on the local population is evidenced in the subsequent involvement of over 600 people in two activities organized by the NGO, a drug abuse awareness campaign and an environmental protection action. These activities elicited the attention of the local hakimlik, the local department of the Ministry of Education and the Kugitanski Nature Preserve, all which pledged their interest in carrying-out joint activities with the NGO in the future.

Advocacy

Help to NGOs Seeking Practical Legal Information for Vulnerable in Society

During the past year, a unique initiative group began to participate in Counterpart’s trainings. *Sahy* has organized around the needs of underprivileged members of society. The NGO discovered after working with the poor that one of their major needs is access to concrete legal information. To bridge this information gap, the NGO approached the Ashgabat Resource Center Manager with a project idea to develop a series of seminars in response to the most common legal questions asked by their constituents. As the Phase 3 grant program hadn’t begun, Counterpart’s programming team referred *Sahy* to the US Embassy Democracy Fund and assisted the group to develop a project proposal that was submitted to the Fund and subsequently funded. In the framework of the grant, *Sahy* conducts monthly seminars that incorporate the interactive adult learning environment they attribute to Counterpart training. Seven seminars have already been successfully conducted and *Sahy* has invited experts from different government structures to speak on concrete legal rights. The Russian embassy provides free space to hold the seminars on such issues as: housing codes; conflicts; labor code; migrant status; dual citizenship; Turkmen citizenship; passport changes and social services. To date, 152 people have received information and advice through the NGO’s efforts.

GEO Inspires Communities to Take a Stand on Litter

The habit of dumping garbage into any open hole in the city is becoming a common practice in Dashoguz city. One of the worst examples of this trend is the huge garbage dump that has emerged on the highway between two etrap centers in Akdepe and Boldumsaz. In addition to the sanitation threat of exposed garbage, citizens also commonly burn trash in piles outside of their homes, leading to an increase in lung disease among inhabitants and to increased pollution. The Ecological Club *GEO* took it upon itself to track the complaints submitted to the regional sanitary inspection station. Unsatisfied with the responsiveness of the local municipal services department, *GEO* began a public education campaign to end the dumping practice. Using the Dashoguz CSSC NGO Discussion Club as a public forum, *GEO* harnessed the collective energy of other Dashoguz NGO members. The issue was a major topic of a Round Table dedicated to implementation of the Aarhus Convention of the EEC on access and participation of the population to information and the decision-making process on issues related to the environment. As a result:

- A resolution on the Aarhus Convention principles was submitted by the NGO group to the Ministry Nature Protection, listing violations of the convention, and recommending steps to end the violations.
- For the first time, NGOs, international organizations and representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection arrived at joint decisions in an open public forum.
- The garbage dump on the highway was closed and the local municipal authorities are re-designing their strategy of waste management in the most effected etraps.

Community Mobilization

NGO Serves as the Bridge Between Community and Donors

Counterpart grantee *Ceik Ocara*, which targets refugee communities in Turkmenistan, has entered into a new stage of development. Together with UNHCR Counterpart has continually targeted this NGO with training and participation in regional events to build their skills in refugee focused NGO activities. They currently enjoy the status of experts in assessment of refugee needs. Last year UNHCR received a request from the Medical Department of Lebap province to assist them to procure 30 types of medical equipment for five medical points in areas where refugees are settled. In response, UNHCR involved *Ceik Ocara* to reassess the refugee needs in those areas. After a stakeholder analysis was concluded among NGOs, medical points and refugee communities, it was decided not to equip the medical points as was requested but to redirect the request to the central medical hospitals in those areas in order for access to be broadened to more refugee communities. As a result, 17 items of medical equipment in demand among refugee communities have been delivered and will serve not only the refugees, but also the local population surrounding those refugee communities – thus fostering their integration into local communities.

Uzbekistan

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

The First Youth Club Registered in Bukhara

The youth in Bukhara are apathetic about civic involvement because they have no real active civic and social position in Uzbek society. In 1999 Counterpart partner the Bukhara Information and Culture Center (BICC) initiated the establishment of a *Club of Young Leaders* and trained them in Counterpart modules such as “Communication Skills,” “Facilitation Skills,” and “Conflict Resolution.” The organization increased its profile after the successful implementation of four city-wide activities – the “Day of youth service,” “Day of the Earth,” “Day of Children Protection,” and “Youth Against Narcotics”. A 300% increase in membership over one calendar year compelled the *Club* to be registered as an independent organization. The spectrum of the *Club’s* programs is wide – from civil society to psychology and including ecology and cultural heritage of the past. By casting this wide programming net, the young people of Bukhara can unite according to their interests and gain a better understanding of themselves and their own unique personalities.

Doctors in the Fergana Rayon Teach Children a Healthy Way of Life

After attending Counterpart's training in project design, the *Association of Rural Primary Medicinal Organizations* successfully submitted a proposal to the Embassy of New Zealand in Moscow. Supported with \$5,350, the *Association* will implement a project aimed at propagating a more healthy way of life among children between the ages of 7-17 years old. 3,700 children from three districts and two towns in the Fergana rayon took part in 12 actions where knowledge of a healthy lifestyle was presented through tales, songs, poems, and puzzles. Professionally written, they have been collected in manuals and textbooks that are now used with great effect by schools in the Fergana region.

Development of Private Tour Business in Bukhara

While the private tourism business in Bukhara has developed a great deal over the past few years, service in the lodging and dining arena do not yet meet world standards. Counterpart grantee the *Private Tour Firms Association*, with that aid of a US specialist in international tourism Mr. Korin, conducted a training for its members on arranging tour business. As a result of the training:

- One of the *Association* members opened a restaurant with a wide choice of vegetarian courses. The restaurant is very popular among tourists, including foreigners. At present there are orders from 10 firms for 2001.
- *Association* and BICC developed a 2-day training on "Hotel Management" which covers the basics of marketing, market analysis, client profitability and service culture. The training resulted in an increased in the standards of service among hotels in Bukhara. The city and the state national company *Uzbektourism* have indicated the need for such training in 25 private hotels.

NGO Solves Problem of Leisure time and Employment of Youth

One of the problems the educational organizations of the Khorezm region face with is shortage of funding from the state. As a consequence, leisure time and employment of youth become one of the serious problems of the region. As a result of attending the Counterpart training in project design held last October, the organization *Almaz Limited*, a member of the Business Women Association (BWA) of the Khorezm region, was funded by the German Association of Craftsmen and Businessmen to create a training workshop to teach teenagers basis of craftsmanship, like stamping, pottering. From the beginning of training program about 200 teenagers were trained. Within the framework of the project a workshop was opened and equipped with necessary materials for training up to 50 teenagers. Upon completion of the project the *Almaz Limited* plans to offer courses for a fee to train teenagers in handicrafts. As a result of this project *Almaz Limited* was able to secure materials and equipment to enhance longer term sustainability.

Volunteerism

A Volunteer Center Now Operating in Samarkand

NGO possibilities are limited because of insufficient resources – both human and financial. After the conference *Perspectives of volunteerism development in Uzbekistan*, conducted by Counterpart in partnership with Global Training for Development Project, a Volunteer Center (clearinghouse) has been created in the crisis center *Umid*. This is the first initiative to unite volunteers. At present there are 32 volunteers in the database. Most of these are women - beneficiaries of *Umid*. Many of them were educated as trainers by *Winrock International*. Their basic work as volunteers is the dissemination of information about NGOs. *Umid* services three regions in Uzbekistan – Samarkand, Kashkadarya and Djizak. In addition, three doctors periodically make consultations free-of-charge and operate on burn victims, four teachers educate children in shelters, three correspondents (TV, radio and newspaper) write about the activity of *Umid* free of charge. The flow of volunteers contributes exponentially to the number of people who are helped.

Social Partnership

The Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health (UARH) Operates in Eight More Densely Populated Regions of Uzbekistan.

In a short period of time the *Uzbek Association of Reproductive Health* has established branch offices and extended its activity to eight of the twelve more densely populated regions of Uzbekistan. Effective work with governmental and local authorities, health organizations, mahalla committees, and women's councils has resulted in a joint partnership with the *Republican Reproductive Health Center of the Health Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan* and the *Women's Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan*. The Strategic Agreement governing long-term activities under this partnership includes: 1) information exchange; 2) conducting joint actions and measures, meetings, conferences, round-tables etc.; and 3) mutual training of personnel. An annual plan for joint activity has been made up for six regions of Uzbekistan. According to this plan, measures will be taken to protect citizens for a free and informative choice concerning their reproductive and sexual health, the quality of medical workers will be raised, and the quality of medical service in the sphere of reproductive health will be improved. Counterpart provided a great deal of assistance in the formation of *UARH* and has provided ongoing support to *UARH* project in four regions of Uzbekistan.

Advocacy

NGO Helps to Develop Small Business

Last October the chairman of the small enterprise *Bekchanboy*, Saidnazar Bekchanov, participated in a Counterpart workshop on project design, arranged by the International Scientific Society *Al Khorezmi Vamberi*. After the seminar Mr. Bekchanov decided to open a mini-farm for rabbit breeding and consulted with *Al Khorezmi Vamberi* before deciding to rent two hectares of land. He was refused by the chairman of the farmer household who referred to the resolution of the district *Khokimiyat*, which states that farmers cannot rent less than 10 hectares of land. Using skills developed through advocacy training from Counterpart, *Al Khorezmi Vamberi* submitted an economic feasibility study of the non-profitability of not renting the 10 hectares of land to the district *Khokimiyat*. Based on this study, the local authorities allowed *Bekchanboy* to rent two hectares of land. Together with *Al Khorezmi Vamberi*, *Bekchanboy* developed a business plan for the rabbit-breeding farm. As a result of *Al Khorezmi Vamberi's* skills, as acquired through Counterpart support, the farm is now successfully functioning, there is great demand for the products, and four people are employed on the farm on a full-time basis.

C. HUB CENTER ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional Overview

Evaluation of the work accomplished during the first year and planning for the second year of the program was one of the main objectives of the past quarter. Counterpart's Regional Office developed the regional workplan and supervised the development of the country specific workplans that were submitted to USAID/CAR/ODT in the middle of March for further review and approval. Counterpart has also submitted a request for additional funding for the specific activities identified during the period of the project's implementation.

This quarter was marked by intensive training activities aimed at building capacity of the staff of Hub Centers and CSSCs. The following regional training and workshops took place in this past quarter:

- In January, Elizabeth Comolli together with Janna Rysakova, Kyrgyzstan Deputy Director, delivered *OD and the Art of Consulting* training workshop to 23 program and SC staff. Participants are now supporting OD capacity-building efforts in their countries.
- Dmitry Grigoriev from the Marshak Foundation in Moscow conducted the regional workshop in *Facilitation Skills*, which was held in Almaty from January 28- February 2. The participants of this workshop were Hub Center OD and Community Outreach Program Coordinators. The main objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of the program staff in facilitating various kinds of discussions, meetings, round-tables, and interviews as well as facilitation of the OD assessment of the Support Centers and PCAs in the communities. In order to get this training to the CSSCs, a regional contest was conducted to select two contract trainers to attend this training. Elena Sabirova and Minas Meliksetov were the contract trainers selected to develop a new module on facilitation skills. This module was tested and modified in the duplication of this training event in Tashkent in February 20-23.
- Prior to the workshop in Facilitation Skills OD program coordinators had a one-day follow-up meeting with Regional OD Advisor where they shared their experiences in establishing relationships and conducting OD assessments with SCs and Focus NGOs. Other topics included:
 - ▶ Further instruction on the collaborative process of rating institutional capacity and developing Action Plans for Capacity Building and Service Delivery;
 - ▶ Creating hub center Program Coordination Teams to coordinate and monitor progress in building institutional and service delivery capacity.
- On January 27 a one day training on Community Action Plan (designed by Counterpart) for the Counterpart staff was conducted. This training was held in Almaty. Community Outreach Coordinators from each office have been trained in CAP development, which should foster the Community Outreach Programs in all the countries.
- Training in Coalition Development under the Global Training for Development Project was held in Tashkent in February 19-23. Two consultants from the Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center conducted the seminar for 30 participants from Uzbekistani NGOs and Support Centers. It was not a regional event although Contract Trainers from CAR were among the participants. The Contract Trainers developed a new module on this topic.
- From January 28 to February 2 the meeting of Community Outreach Coordinators was held in Almaty. The following issues were discussed during the meeting:
 - ▶ Exchange of information on the work done in the countries after the Bukhara PCA training.
 - ▶ Skills necessary for community outreach implementation and requirements for CSSCs.
 - ▶ Development of the vision and strategy for Volunteerism. The following vision of work with volunteers was developed during the meeting:
 - To recruit volunteers for work at SCs.
 - A group of volunteers shall be trained with SC, they will further search for, recruit and train new volunteers. The initial group should be included in Counterpart's training program.
 - The same volunteers will maintain a database with information on each volunteer, including information about his interests and availability for work with NGOs.

Intensive work has been done for the preparation of the future regional activities:

- With Dima Grigoriev, Counterpart designed a customized five-day workshop in Network Visioning plus Strategic and Business Planning for the hub and support center staff. This three-phase workshop will take place in the next quarter in all the five countries. The objectives of these workshops are:
 1. Each country (hub center and SCs) creates a shared vision of their network/association and an action plan for realizing it.
 2. Hub centers and SCs develop strategic and financial sustainability (business) plans.
 3. Hub centers (OD PCs) have an intervention to offer focus NGOs.
 4. Countries identify needs for further financial sustainability skills training, e.g., fundraising, marketing, etc. This will be valuable input to the development of the Advanced Module in Financial Sustainability (called Fundraising in the project proposal).
 5. Planning for the September regional Governance Conference was started. We outlined objectives, preliminary content, potential presenters/trainers, and next steps.
- A training request on Community Mobilization/PRA techniques was developed and submitted to GTD – PCAP training module was designed, and the materials for PCA Resource Book were collected. The goals of this training are to train NGO leaders from four countries on Community Mobilization methods/PRA techniques and to develop a PCA Resource Book that will be distributed among training participants and will be used by CSSC staff throughout the region.

On January 14-16, the regular Country Directors meeting was held to discuss program implementation. The major issues on the agenda were: the grant package for Community Action Grants; organizational development; the development of the networks; and reporting.

During a follow-up session in January, OD PCs expressed their concern that Country Directors didn't fully understand the OD capacity-building process and the work of the OD program coordinators with SCs and Focus NGOs. As a result, one day of the February Country Directors meeting was devoted to organization development theory and how Counterpart is using OD to develop the capacity of SCs and Focus NGOs.

Also during the February Country Directors meeting the role of Advisory Boards was discussed, how they are working in practice in Kyrgyzstan, and what next steps Country Directors and program staff can take to establish them in SCs.

A comprehensive system of monitoring and evaluation for OD has been outlined and is to be implemented beginning next quarter.

- **Monthly Reports** from Support Centers to hub offices. This revised report format will replace the old Monthly Reports and will focus on achievement of the Action Plans for Capacity Building and Service Delivery.
- **Quarterly Reports** from hub offices to the regional office. This revision of the old Quarterly Reports will include an analysis of the capacity-building progress of SCs and focus NGOs.
- A short **monthly review** and analysis of your OD work with SCs and focus NGOs, produced by each country's Program Coordination Team.
- **Quarterly plans** of OD activities for each country.
- A periodic **confidential survey** of SCs and focus NGOs which will provide the Regional OD Advisor with direct feedback from OD clients.

Web/Database

22,018 user sessions (English version-7,413/Russian version-14,605) have been recorded in the log file of CANGO.NET Web Site during the quarter. An average user session length was 8 minutes. Additionally, the Web Site received 282,610 hits (English version-102,143/Russian version-180,467), of which US visitors represent 35% of the hits and international users 23% of the hits. The NGO Database (NGODB), NGO Homepages, NGO Electronic Library, NGO-related news articles, Links,

Listserve and Bulletin Board are available on the Web Site. As of March 31, 171 NGO homepages in Russian and 80 NGO homepages in English are being hosted on the Web Site.

In order to better monitor and evaluate the process program implementation as well as to better report to our main donor USAID, the development of a comprehensive data collection system was started this quarter. A regional database will be supplemented by country databases. A contract was signed with outside specialists to develop the structure of the database in MS SQL program. It is anticipated that countries will start using this tool next quarter.

Kazakhstan

Activity Overview

During last quarter the Kazakhstan Office was focused on establishing of our partnership relations with CSSCs and Focus NGOs. Short-term agreements were signed with all six Support Centers starting January 1 and running through March 31. During this quarter OD assessments were completed, resulting in the development of Capacity Building Action Plans for each Center. Also, grant agreements were signed with all of our Focus NGOs.

In addition to regional trainings highlighted above, Kazakhstan staff participated in a series of internal workshops with the main goals to improve knowledge and skills in terms of Phase III implementation. At the “Impacts and Success Stories” training, staff strengthening their skills in the collection, analysis and writing of NGO impacts and success stories. During “Participatory Assessment Tools” training, staff learned how to conduct an assessment within an organization on a participatory basis. The urgency of this topic is connected with dominance of the OD component for Phase III. Further, an orientation was held for Kazakhstan staff on the Community Outreach component of Phase III.

A special session was held with all CSSCs managers in Almaty on February 12 to address concerns about the implementation of Phase III activities. The presentation covered the whole program of Phase III, highlighting potential problem areas. The presentation was structured in accordance with the main program activities of OD, Community Outreach, Training and Grants. General information also was presented with emphasis on Objectives, Indicators and the Performance Plan, which were translated into Russian and distributed to all CSSC managers. Participants were free to ask any and all questions regarding program implementation. Additionally, one-on-one consultations were held during the meeting on different topics concerning cooperation with the various CSSCs.

Organizational Development

The OD team developed an OD site visit model for CSSCs within the framework of short-term agreements, including the following components: OD assessment, scoring and developing plans separately for capacity building and for service delivering. PCs used the model in the CSSCs of Kostanai, Astana, Almaty and Aktobe. All program coordinators were involved in devising annual Capacity Building Action Plans, which became indispensable parts of the long-term agreements being finalized next quarter. Also, the PCs assisted in developing of CSSCs’ budgets for long-term agreements.

Further, the OD site visit model was used for the development of Action Plans for each of our Focus NGOs. Annual Capacity Building Action Plans were completed for three of the four Focus NGOs: Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan, The National Consumers' League of Kazakhstan and Young Leaders Association. The final Capacity Building Action Plan will be completed at the beginning of next quarter.

The OD team conducted OD meetings on monthly basis to plan their work with CSSCs and Focus NGOs, discuss specific features of each partner, and analyze the assessments. Special folders were compiled for each CSSC and Focus NGO containing items such as general information about the organization, a chronological table of Counterpart work with the partners, assessment results, plans, and progress reports.

Community Outreach Program

In this quarter main activities were carried out in the following directions:

- **Educating CSSC staff in PRA/PCA techniques:** Within the framework of Community Outreach program, a PCA/CAP workshop was held for the CSSCs and Focus NGOs on February 13-16, 2001. Participants were educated on PRA/PCA methodology and tools. The participants developed criteria for the identification of “community” in Kazakhstan, as “community” is very special within the urban environments of Kazakhstan. At the close of the workshop participants were given an opportunity to practice the skills and knowledge they learned in the workshop by conducting four PCAs in urban communities in Almaty.
- **Developing a model for PCAs to be conducted in regions:** Using the results from the PCA/CAP training, a model for PCAs was developed for Kazakhstan. According to this model the CSSCs should organize a preliminary in the target communities with NGOs, CBOs and officials to select partners interested in working with communities and conducting PCAs. The CSSC staff has a kit of documents to organize these meetings. More than 60 representatives of local NGOs, CBOs, and governmental structures might be invited at such meeting. During the meeting approximately 15-18 participants will be identified to take part in PCA training and Community Outreach program in the target community.
- **Implementing the PCA model throughout Kazakhstan:** The model was successfully applied in Astana and Semipalatinsk together with our CSSCs there. About 35 representatives of various NGOs and KSKs (household associations) were educated in PCA methods helpful in working with communities and raising public awareness for participation in the Community Outreach program. The PCA methodology was adapted for urban conditions. As a result of these workshops six PCAs were conducted and problems in communities were identified. Preliminary steps were taken to outline a plan for addressing these problems. In accordance with the Phase III work plan, similar PCAs will be conducted through the other CSSCs in Kazakhstan. Further, preparations are being made for finalizing the Community Action Grants guidelines and distribution.

Training Activity

This quarter was highlighted by launching of training program for NGOs in regions through our CSSCs. Many of the CSSCs indicated a lack of contract trainers as a potential impediment to successful implementation of the training program. To address that gap, Counterpart organized a training of trainers (TOT) on participatory training methodology for March 5-9. An experienced inter-country team of trainers including Nataliya Bakhmutova from Kazakhstan and Minas Meliksetov from Uzbekistan conducted the TOT. 17 new trainers from Astana, Kostanai, Semey, Oskemen, Aktobe, Almaty, Karaganda, Pavlodar were trained.

The hub center designed a strategy for launching the training program including a new system for determining trainer’s daily rates. The training strategy is designed to facilitate integration of the new trainers into our program. As such, experienced trainers, using on-the-job learning principles, will coach new trainers in the main Counterpart modules. A new trainer should: 1) attend at training as a participant; 2) conduct the same module as a co-trainer (with heavy monitoring from hub center and CSSCs, staff as well as experienced trainers). Based on performance at the completion of these steps the hub office will determine whether to sign a contract with the new trainer. This process of coaching and monitoring new trainers will continue into the next quarter.

Project Design and Team Building/Conflict Resolution trainings were conducted for the Focus NGO *National Diabetes Association*. Representatives from the Oblast departments also participated in this workshop. The main goal of these trainings was to provide the *Diabetes Association* with basic skills and ideas of where to get additional funds for their activities and to overcome obstacles that are a result of mismanagement. These trainings were organized by hub program coordination team and were conducted by contract trainers.

Network Development

The current network consists of the six CSSC supported by the Hub Center in Almaty. Additional Centers exist in Almaty (*Zhalgas-Counterpart*), Aktobe (*Smeda*), Semipalatinsk (*Iris*), Ust-Kamenogorsk (*Zubr*), and Kostanai (*NGO Association of Kostanai*). Counterpart is currently conducting a review of potential partner organizations to identify a seventh Support Center, as indicated in our work plan. Counterpart is considering organizations in Karaganda and Pavlodar. Two organizations from those regions were identified: In Karaganda, *EcoCenter*, which was our NGO Resource Center during Phase II, and the *Regional Training Center* established by ICMA. The assessment trip to *EcoCenter* was completed. Counterpart is in the process of collecting final information regarding a potential Pavlodar organization. The final decision will be made by the end of the next quarter.

Informal discussions about the structure of the Network and role of each Center have taken place. A formal training on strategic planning and visioning is scheduled for the beginning of next quarter. Steps are, however, already being taken to facilitate information sharing and promoting a Network. For example, materials from the resource centers of the CSSCs such as “Guideline for beginning an NGO” have been shared among Network members. Also, CSSC representatives initiated discussions on topics such as the formation of a CSSC and the selection of training participants. The creation of a CSSC mailing list also contributes to enhanced information sharing.

Kyrgyzstan

Organizational Development

In early January a country workshop was held in Bishkek at which the Kyrgyzstan OD program coordinator, Vaslat Akhmetov, presented the OD component of Phase III. He presented definitions of OD as well as procedures, tools, purposes, role, and the connection of OD with the other components of Phase III. Mr. Akhmetov shared plans for key OD activities.

Once the OD process was shared with each staff member, OD assessments of CSSCs were started using the Model of the OD process prepared by the Regional Office. In February program staff conducted a follow-up OD workshop, where strategies and procedures of OD assessments were agreed upon and a country specific report format was adapted from the regional outline.

During the reporting period, OD assessments were conducted for eight CSSCs (Kara-Balta, Jalalabad, Naryn, Kant, Karakol, Bishkek, Osh and Batken) and Capacity Building Action Plans were developed. At the end of March, Counterpart Kyrgyzstan started collecting long-term ISG proposals from CSSCs for the period covering April 2001 – April 2002.

Additional OD assessments were conducted for two of the four Focus NGOs – the Bishkek Center of Social Initiatives and the Talas Union of Farmers – and Capacity Building Action Plans were designed and finalized. Office equipment and furniture were purchased and shipped to all Focus NGOs, per the Focus Grants. Mr. Akhmetov visited the Focus NGO *Bayastan* in Naryn for an orientation meeting to learn about the organization’s activities, structures, and systems. A formal OD assessment of *Bayastan* is scheduled for the second half of April.

Community Outreach

Also presented at the country workshop in Bishkek in early January were the strategies and plans for the Community Outreach component of Phase III. Criteria were discussed for the selection of target communities. Target communities will be identified through local stakeholders’ meetings and workshops, based on the criteria as well as evidence of local initiatives and/or demand for community activities. Each Center compiled a list of local stakeholders, conducted a meeting with participation of all stakeholders and elected stakeholders committee, which would be responsible for selecting target communities and overseeing the progress in developing PCA-CAP-CAG process.

A training module, matrix and handouts on PCA were finalized. The program staff assisted CSSCs in developing work plans on CO and in selecting target communities through meeting with stakeholders (developed agenda, Stakeholders' Committee Guideline). Counterpart program staff also conducted a training on volunteerism for program staff.

The PCA workshop was conducted on January 16-18 for 16 participants from all CSSCs. Karakol CSSC hosted this workshop, on which participants were trained in conducting PCAs and made field visit to local communities. In February- March 2001, 8 CSSCs conducted 18 PCA surveys, in which about 1900 people (including 143 Tajik refugees) participated.

The Kerben Center conducted the local stakeholders' meeting on February 8, where the criteria for selection of target communities were presented. Stakeholders proposed more than six communities to choose as target ones, three communities were chosen and the decision on other three target communities will be made next quarter after additional consultations with stakeholders. The Center staff conducted PCA training for 11 volunteers on February 26-28.

Training Activity

In line with short-term agreements with Centers, contract trainers conducted 25 training workshops in NGO & Community and Project Design for NGOs and CBOs in Batken, Bishkek, Jalal-Abad, Karakol, Kant, Kara-Balta, Naryn and Osh. Experienced Counterpart contract trainers and CSSC Managers attended workshops to provide "on-the-job" coaching and to monitor quality of training. Their main observations and feedback were that the new contract trainers need ongoing support to build training skills, new contract trainers lacked skills in writing training reports and in compiling financial report on training workshops. Those findings were connected with a lack of actual experience of new trainers who just started conducting training and each CSSC started to conduct monthly meetings with contract trainers in order to discuss achievements and weaknesses of delivered training workshops, to share experience and learn from each other. CSSC Managers will pay special attention to assisting trainers in narrative and financial reporting.

Network Development

To establish long-term partnership with CSSCs, Counterpart made short-term institutional support agreements as a first step of building capacity for the CSSCs. From January 5-15, short-term agreements were signed with five CSSCs (Batken, Kant, Jalal-Abad, Osh, and Bishkek). In February agreements were signed with the other three CSSCs (Kara-Balta, Karakol, and Talas). The main aims of the agreements were to conduct in-depth OD assessments and to design capacity building plans for the Centers, inclusive of performance plans, work plans, training plans and OD plans. In addition, skills in conducting PCA (participatory community appraisal) are being transferred to Centers. At the end of March, Counterpart Kyrgyzstan started collecting long-term ISG proposals from CSSCs for April 2001- April 2002.

The program team conducted a review of potential partners in the Talas Oblast and decided to select the regional representative office of the *Coalition of NGOs for Democracy and Civil Society* as a partner for establishing and developing a CSSC in Talas. The partnership agreement was prepared and signed in the beginning of March. The program team, through consultations with the President of the *Coalition*, also decided to hire Gulmira Temirbekova, the Regional Representative of Talas Representative Office, as the CSSC Manager in Talas.

Bishkek Internet Center

During the reporting period, 94 NGO representatives from 57 NGOs have visited the Internet Center 1267 times and used the following services: Email– 38%, Internet Searches– 37%, document processing– 25%. 1,542 consultations on using Internet Center's facilities were delivered to NGOs. At the moment, there are 95 mailboxes being maintained for the Center's users, and 66 dial-up accounts. The number of E-mail accounts was significantly decreased because 128 inactive accounts were closed. This quarter, 16 new mailboxes for Center's visitors were created.

Counterpart has been updating the database records. This work was divided between the hub center and the CSSCs, which are responsible for updating information on NGOs in their respective areas. Counterpart recruited a skilled volunteer to do the work in Bishkek. He made 350 phone calls, collected 96 questionnaires, and updated 221 NGO profiles. The profiles of NGOs that did not respond to phone calls or could not be found were deleted. Currently, the NGO Database contains information on 1,051 Kyrgyzstan NGO. Eight new profiles were registered with the database, and 96 NGO profiles were updated during the quarter.

Tajikistan

Security Situation

In general the situation in the country remained quiet and didn't impede the implementation of Counterpart activities, however there are still a considerable number of Afghan refugees concentrated at the border. Irrespective the appeals of international organizations to permit refugees to cross a border and enter the territory of a neighboring country, the authorities of Tajikistan will not consent.

This quarter the Hub Center continued providing qualified assistance and support to NGOs and implementing the objectives identified by Phase III Program. Following the initial OD assessment of CSSCs, a Capacity Building Action Plan was developed for each CSSC.

Counterpart Tajikistan was not able to complete formal OD assessments with all CSSCs according to the model developed at the regional level and assist CSSCs to prepare Action Plans for capacity building and service delivery by April 1 as it was anticipated by the work plan, but will meet the revised deadline of May 1.

A plan for providing NGO Support Grants and Community Action Grants was designed. The Tajikistan office decided to revise the list of Target NGOs to allow for the NGO's ability to work at the community level as a priority. NGO Support Grant solicitations will be conducted among target NGOs and other NGOs in order to attract proposals that include peace or civil society building activities in communities. Counterpart has already prepared a draft of NGO Support Grants Guidelines to be approved. With the Target NGOs and potential candidates for NGO Support Grants, PCA and CAP trainings will be conducted to acquaint them with new tools for working with communities. After receiving grants these NGOs will work with communities conducting PCA and assisting them develop CAPs in all the regions of Tajikistan. The process of selecting communities and working with them will be coordinated with the CSSCs. Based on CAPs some of those communities can develop proposals for Community Action Grants with NGO Partner's assistance and submitted to their local CSSCs. The Support Centers work with the NGOs to ensure the proposals are in line with CAG requirements and present them to the Hub Center for final approval.

In February a Director of Dushanbe CSSC was hired after which a plan on step-by step transfer of Hub Center's responsibilities in providing services to Dushanbe and surrounding area NGOs was developed. In particular, starting from May all regular trainings will be arranged and conducted by this CSSC. Dushanbe CSSC is already providing consultations and information services to local NGOs mostly through the Resource Center handed over to CSSC by Hub Center in December.

During the quarter, because of saturation of in-house and regional training events, only one country-wide meeting with CSSCs was held. At the meeting the new reporting format for CSSCs and other documents developed by the Regional Office and presented to Country Offices at the Regional Meeting of Country Directors were explained and disseminated. A big session on Community Outreach was conducted at this meeting as well as a Glossary on Community Outreach, which was prepared and distributed to the participants. CSSCs members were satisfied with the results of the meeting and direction of Counterpart programming for Tajikistan.

Within this quarter the first steps were undertaken to begin cross border activities between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Recent tension at the Tajik and Uzbek border has caused concern for citizens of both countries. The NGO sector of the two countries is in a position to promote mutual understanding among people of both countries. There have been good examples of collaboration between Tajik and Kyrgyz NGOs. As such, Counterpart has been hosting internal meetings to determine our level of involvement to promote these cross-border initiatives. USAID/Tajikistan and USAID/Uzbekistan representatives were included in conversations between Counterpart Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Country Directors. A case study based on the experience of the Tajik NGO *Ittofok* and the Kyrgyz NGO *Harmony and Tolerance* was studied. It was decided to proceed with next steps in promoting a cross border campaign between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, including NGO visits, trainings and other events, especially community outreach activities. As a first step Counterpart Tajikistan's OD Coordinator and Khojand CSSC Director are planning to visit the Kokand CSSC in Uzbekistan in April.

During this quarter the list of the active NGOs was updated. Such last revision was done in 1999. At that time the list of NGOs was consisted of 140 active organizations operating throughout the country. In the new list there are 186 active NGOs operating all across the country. Almost all of these NGOs are Counterpart's clients.

This quarter Counterpart hired Randall Olson as the new Country Director for Counterpart Tajikistan. John Barbee will leave Tajikistan on April 13 and Mr. Olson will begin working in the Tajik hub center full-time on May 23.

Network Development

At the country-wide meeting of CSSC staff and hub center staff, the issue of the future was discussed. All endorsed the idea of establishing of an association or network that would efficiently operate but there were some conflicting opinions regarding the nature of the working relationships within the network and the guiding principles of the network's operation. These issues will be discussed in depth at the training workshops on Network Visioning and Financial Sustainability, which will be facilitated by the Regional Office in May.

Turkmenistan

Community Mobilization

The Community Mobilization Program in Turkmenistan moved closer to full implementation despite several obstacles. Following a three-day PCA Orientation Training in Ashgabad, a five-day field training was held in Dashoguz with 14 participants. The participants included NGO representatives from Dashoguz, Ahal and Mary. The focus of the 4 PCA was on the housing sector in communities living in four apartment buildings within the city of Dashoguz.

After the PCA in Dashoguz, Counterpart found it necessary to take a very measured approach to working directly with communities especially in the housing sector. Although the staff held all the necessary preliminary meetings with the key local authorities and closely coordinated with lower-level housing authorities, the PCA activity attracted unanticipated attention from the local security apparatus. As a result, the PCA approach and process has been modified to suit the Turkmen situation. For instance in Dashoguz, Ashgabad staff will present the PCA results directly to hakimlik officials and negotiate the appropriate next steps before working directly with local residents on follow-up CAP development.

Also, based on the experience in Dashoguz, a modified PCA process has been developed by the Hub office to focus on working with parents and teachers in schools in need of infrastructure improvements. This modified approach will be presented to the authorities in Turkmenabad and Mary in April. Based on the results of this modified PCA, Counterpart will be able to better gauge what sectors the Support Centers in those regions may target.

Training Activity

During the last three months Counterpart Turkmenistan focused on training and retraining the contract trainers in advanced modules. In addition to regional trainings highlighted above, Counterpart assisted six contract trainers, through Global Training Department, to participate in the *Advanced Adult Training Methodology* conducted by *Golubka Training Center* in Moscow. Experienced local contract trainers trained five trainers in modules such as *NGO and Community*, *Project Design*, and *NGO Management*. Twenty people representing ten NGOs also participated in the *Participatory Community Appraisal* orientation training conducted by Counterpart program staff. Of the 24 trainings held this quarter, four were conducted in the regions on the premises of local NGOs. In addition, seven staff members were certified through TOT training in: *Art of Facilitation* and *Organizational Development* trainings conducted by the regional office. CSSC staff participated in Ashgabad Hub office training in Work Plan and Budget development.

Network Development

The Turkmenistan program's ability to achieve Phase III's goal of a network of CSSCs is linked closely to cooperation with UNHCR to fund approximately half of the annual expenses of the two newest CSSCs in Lebap and Mary. In January, UNHCR presented an agreement to continue its support of operations of these two CSSCs, enabling Counterpart to commit to the staffing of our expanded network including four of the five regions of the country.

The last remaining hurdle to the network development is the latest series of regulations announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pertaining to the activities of foreign organizations and companies in Turkmenistan. These rules have added additional bureaucratic challenges to planning events outside of the capital. Advanced notification and approval are now required by the MFA for all training activities planned in the regions, and all travel of foreigners must be planned and approved by the MFA at least 2 weeks in advance of regional travel. These restrictions come at a time when the authorities are tightening control of their borders, thus, the general security concerns of the government have resulted in more closely monitored activities of foreign organizations. Despite the proliferation of new rules, it has been our experience that the government honors the process eventually as long as we submit all the required documentation on time and accurately.

During the quarter, we received contradictory instructions from the MFA as to how to expand our network of CSSCs. We experimented with the prospect of branches and partnerships only to learn that without "registration" Counterpart was not allowed to open up a "juridical presence" in Lebap and Mary. Toward the end of the quarter, we were instructed to approach our start-ups in Lebap and Mary as we had in Dashoguz, by targeting once concrete project in collaboration with the local authorities and implementing our community outreach program in a pilot geographical setting. Thus, the end of the quarter marks inroads in relations with local authorities in Lebap and Mary, as well as positive feedback from hakimliks in Dashoguz and Ahal velayets.

Staff are now hired and trained in CSSCs in Dashoguz, Lebap and Mary, but their status with local authorities is "focal point" offices and not formal "Support Centers" as a "Center" requires a legal status in each region. Fortunately, the delays in formally outfitting our office space in the regions has not prevented us from hiring our CSSC staff, and we are, thus, only a few months behind in the implementation of our programmatic activities of the two newest CSSCs. It is critical at this point that the relationships forged with the local authorities in Mary and Lebap result in concrete, on-the-ground activities during the next three months in order to remain on target with our performance objectives in the community outreach, grant and training programs.

The staff of both Lebap and Mary Centers are directly linked to the Hub through telephone, fax, and e-mail services, greatly increasing efficient and effective communication. As a safety measure, a back-up e-mail server was installed in the Hub, which automatically stores all incoming e-mails in a commercial server located in the United States so that problems with Turkmen Telecom will not result in lost mail of NGO clients of the network.

Intensive on-the-job mentoring took place between new CSSC staff and Hub and Dashoguz CSSC staff, improving the sense of “networking” and “team dynamics” within the greater country and regional programs.

Uzbekistan

The presentation of Phase III was conducted for CSSCs in January. A package of documents providing a brief outline of the Community Outreach program for the CSSCs was also developed and presented. By the end of the presentation the staff of Support Centers had a broad picture of the program, including components of the Community Outreach strategy developed by the regional consultant Ara Nazinyan. The new reporting system was introduced to CSSC.

Since MIP and Community Outreach program are similar, a process has started to integrate both programs. Hub center staff analyzed both programs in terms of similarities and differences in components and implementation. Each program coordinator developed a plan of integration for the part she/he oversees (training, grants, etc). Next steps include discussing with the SCs a process of integration and developing a final document that will serve as a guide in the process of integration.

On March 14 Soroush Javadi and other hub center staff visited the Nukus CSSC and met with 17 representatives of Nukus NGOs. NGOs talked about the situation in Nukus and made suggestions for improving service delivery in the Nukus CSSC.

A meeting of contract trainers was held on March 19 and 20. Twenty-six participants from different regions of Uzbekistan learned more about Phase III in Uzbekistan and the training program to be implemented therein. They considered and discussed questions of the relationship between Counterpart and contract trainers, the training contract form and certification of trainers (including detailed procedures, levels and criteria of certification). *Bilim va Jamiyat*, a new training center, presented their organization and led a discussion on the training center’s Membership Statute and Ethical Code.

In addition to regional trainings highlighted in the regional report, staff of the Uzbekistan Network participated in other skill development training seminars. On March 27 Iлона Iliasova, editor of the *Initiative*, attended a one day Surkhandaria Region Women’s Development Conference organized by the Women’s Program of the Open Society Institute – Assistance Foundation – Uzbekistan (OSIAF – Uzbekistan) in Termez, Surkhandaria region. Two days later Ms. Iliasova also took part in a conference organized by Winrock International on “NGO’s role in socio-economic development in Bukhara, Navoi and Surkhandaria oblasts”. There were two interesting speeches: “NGO’s role in socio-economic development in Bukhara, Navoi and Surkhandaria oblasts” and “ The tasks of governmental and non-governmental organizations in realization of Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women” Both speeches will be included in the next issue of *Initiative*.

Counterpart together with and Global Training For Development Project, who financed the workshop, organized the *Coalition Development and Networking* workshop in mid-February. Thirty-two NGO representatives, contract trainers, and CSSC staff participated in the event.

Resource Center’s Manager, Vildana Malyan, participated in the round table discussion “Problems and Difficulties in the development of Karakalpakistan’s NGOs” conducted by “Renaissance” NGO within the framework of the project “Civic Education: NGOs Role in the Development of Democratic Processes”.

Network Development

The Uzbekistan network now contains the hub center and three CSSCs – Kokand, Nukus and Bukhara. The Tashkent Resource Center in the hub serves as a member of network and will help to start operating of Tashkent Public Education Center, our selected partner for the Tashkent region. Our partner from Urgench will join the network in April and a branch in Samarkand will join in May. The seventh CSSC, per our expected results, is currently being negotiated with USAID.

Informal discussions about the structure of the Network and role of each Center have taken place. A formal training on strategic planning and visioning is scheduled for the beginning of next quarter. Steps are, however, already being taken to facilitate information sharing and promoting a Network. For example, the following materials have been shared among Network members:

- 15 mailing lists as well as bulletins of various organizations (for instance the materials of the Center for Civil Society International, The Network of East-West Women) are processed regularly, as they arrive. These bulletins contain information on grant programs, international funds activity, probation periods, conferences and other events taking place in the world of noncommercial sector. This information is sent to CSCSs, as well as to more than 50 NGOs (taking into account the sphere of their activity).
- Three issues of the Initiative Bulletin have been issued both in typographical and electronic forms in Russian, Uzbek and English: Three issues in the Russian language for January-March 2001, two in the Uzbek language and a quarterly winter issue for 2001 in English. The circulation of the Russian issue is 500 copies, the Uzbek issue's circulation is 300 copies and the English circulation is 200 copies. The Bulletins are placed in CANGO.NET: <http://www.cango.net/kg/uz> (in English) and <http://win.cango.net/kg/uz> (in Russian). The Bulletins are mailed to 114 addresses. The list of electronic version receivers has been increased up to 50 addressees in accordance with the requests from receivers in order to facilitate the delivery.
- In January 2001 Vildana traveled to Moscow to purchase literature for the Support Centers. Total of 349 copies covering 166 different titles were obtained. The list of new books and other materials received in the first quarter of 2001 were published and distributed as a loose leaf in Bulletin No 3 (31) for March 2001.

D. CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTERS OVERVIEW

Kazakhstan

Zhalgas- Counterpart, Almaty

Activity Overview

- The rules and procedures for clients were developed and are being used.
- *Zhalgas* successfully conducted two trainings ordered by ACCELS (February), contributing to a good partnership relationship with ACCELS. ACCELS is going to pay *Zhalgas* to conduct a TOT and Fundraising seminar.
- *Zhalgas* staff provided series of consultations on OD to the NGO *Baspana*. The program manager consulted six NGOs on issues of NGO registration. One of them, the *Regional Association of Children Neurologists*, was re-registered and received national status. The accountant consulted three NGOs in non-commercial bookkeeping and accountancy.
- Several meetings were held with representatives of *Baspana*, the household association *Birzhan*, and the *Association of Children Rights Protection* on the Community Outreach program. These NGOs will participate in PCA training scheduled in May.
- With the help from NGO *Baspana*, who is dealing with poor communities, four PCAs were conducted in February 2001. Based on the results of the PCAs several community action plans are being developed.

Internal Capacity Building

- *Zhalgas* successfully purchased a building, which will enhance long term sustainability. *Zhalgas* paid 50% of total costs and became an owner of the property on 36 Zhandosov St. The SAK Group of companies, who rented 200 sq. meters in this property, are tenants of *Zhalgas*. A new contract was signed with them in March 2001.
- On January *Zhalgas*'s staff has went through the organizational development assessment with hub center staff. Within the framework of the OD assessment, strengths and weaknesses were analyzed, including the organizational chart and job descriptions. The Action Plan for Capacity Building and Service Delivery was developed for the long-term period from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002.
- In this quarter two vacant positions were announced: Program Coordinator and Program Assistant. A program coordinator was hired and new job responsibilities were developed for the Program Assistant. *Zhalgas* also signed a contract with two new volunteers who started working in February.
- The *Zhalgas* accountant attended seminar on international accounting standards in Almaty.
- To reinforce skills developed in OD assessment methodology, the *Zhalgas* director visited *Zheskazgan* to conduct preliminary assessments of local health NGOs under the USAID/OST-funded Regional Health NGO Capacity Building Initiative.

Astana Civil Society Support Center

Activity Overview

- PCA/CAP training for local Astana NGOs was conducted on March 19-21. As a result, local NGOs and communities developed Community Action Plans to solve the identified problems.
- Two mini-trainings – *Principles of Volunteerism* and *Volunteer Management* – were developed and conducted for local NGOs. These trainings gave participants ideas on how to engage the public through volunteerism and the benefits to the community, NGOs and CBOs.
- For the first time the Astana CSSC conducted a training on *Human Resource Management* for local NGOs (February). The Astana staff has extended its skills to include one more training.
- Last quarter the CSSC took part in the monthly forums of Astana NGOs.
- On March 6 the NGO *World of Women* and the Ministry of the Interior hosted a round table on *Violence in Family*. Participants included CSSC staff and local NGO and government representatives.

Internal Capacity Building

- The CSSC started to work with the hub office under the short-term grant agreement. Procedures were developed for financial monitoring and reporting in accordance with the CSSC, which is not registered.
- The CSSC introduced new rules and procedures of work with clients, the office space was reorganized and separate rooms were allocated for rendering technical services and for consulting and meeting NGO representatives. The office is now much better equipped, with additional furniture, computers, and a telephone station.
- Innovations were introduced during this quarter in delivering consulting services. The CSSC created thematic folders on major topics of NGO development, made a mailing list to disseminate information and developed procedures for making Internet inquiries. The CSSC started providing free legal counseling services through the use of volunteers.
- Teamwork was promoted to raise the efficiency of work. There are now weekly staff meetings and weekly reporting. Staff are now mobilized to collectively address the program and organization issues.
- This quarter, in accordance with OD team's recommendations, the CSSC changed its organizational chart and job descriptions. This past quarter served as a probation period for the new program assistant. Additionally, two VSO volunteers are active consultants to the CSSC on management issues. Staff, together with the VSO volunteers, developed a Performance Management Policy in order to upgrade staff performance and accomplishment of goals and tasks. Individual supervision sessions are held on Fridays to discuss the results of weekly work, any problems or difficulties, and make plans for the next reporting period.
- In February 24-26 the program coordinator Erlan Aliev took part in a seminar in Bishkek organized by the UN Volunteer Program with financial support from Soros Foundation.
- UNHCR is still an implementing partner for the Astana office, although funding support decreased from \$30,000 to \$10,000.

SMEDA CSSC, Aktobe

Activity Overview

As the *SMEDA* CSSC focuses on the support of small and medium businesses in accordance with its mission, this quarter the main goal for the CSSC was to begin making contacts and establishing partnership relations with Aktobe oblast NGOs. *SMEDA* CSSC designed a package of presentation materials in Russian and Kazakh about the CSSC. A volunteers database has been created in the Center containing information on the number of volunteers, their background, and permanent addresses. Further, *SMEDA* CSSC conducted the following events:

- Meetings with the oblast Department of Culture, Information and Public Accord to present the Center's services;
- A seminar, jointly with the *Imaton Center* and *Anti-AIDS Center*, for Aktobe mass media on "The Role of Mass Media in Raising the AIDS/HIV Prevention Effectiveness". The CSSC's goals and objectives were presented to the local community and the media during the seminar;
- Consultations on NGOs issues such as registration, taxation and technical assistance; and
- Targeting communities for PCA training to be conducted in May.

Internal Capacity Building

- During a site-visit in January hub center staff conducted an OD Assessment and scoring. Jointly with the CSSC staff Capacity Building Action Plan for the long-term period was developed.
- *SMEDA* provided the CSSC with facilities (office space and equipment – 5 computers, 4 printers, a copy machine, a TV set, a video-tape recorder and furniture). The CSSC procedures and rules were finalized.
- Staffing is still a key issue for the *SMEDA* CSSC. The program coordinator was changed, a program assistant was hired and four volunteers were recruited to work with the Center. Job descriptions were finalized for each staff member by March 1.

IRIS CSSC, Semipalatinsk.

Activity Overview

- A database of NGOs and initiative groups of the Semipalatinsk region was compiled (more than 50 organizations). Site visits were made to 25 Semipalatinsk NGOs for the purpose of assessing their needs. To this end the CSSC devised a questionnaire, and, based on the conducted studies, all NGO clients were divided into several groups depending on their needs.
- A meeting to present CSSC activities was held for representatives of NGOs, initiative groups and officials. The oblast newspaper *Nashe Delo* published information about CSSC activities. A booklet was designed to describe the CSSC goals and objectives.
- The CSSC started providing consulting services on legal and financial issues, as well as technical and information services.
- A database of volunteers was developed containing information on the volunteer's contact number, skills, and area of interest.
- A library was set up on the CSSC basis on the issues related to the third sector development.
- Based on questionnaire developed by the hub center the CSSC identified NGOs and communities to work with. These NGOs, along with representatives of local authorities, were invited to the meeting on the community outreach program. Those participants interested in the program were invited to the PCA training on March 28-30. Currently the Center's staff is providing assistance in the development of Community Action Plans in these target communities and NGOs.

Internal Capacity Building

The organizational structure of the CSSC has been defined. A program coordinator was hired in mid-February. Three volunteers are working for the CSSC. The schedule of work has been identified. All necessary furniture and computers have been purchased and the office has been repaired for initiation of Phase III activities.

ZUBR CSSC, Ust-Kamenogorsk

Activity Overview

- The oblast Akimat assisted the CSSC in making up a database on NGOs comprising more than 470 organizations (Eastern Kazakhstan).
- The Center provided 54 consultations, which may be thematically broken into three groups: legal, accounting-financial and organizational development. CSSC staff consulted 6 initiative groups in NGO registration and two organizations have already registered. The CSSC arranged and conducted a press conference for representatives of the oblast Akimat, head of East State University, representatives of other higher educational institutions of Ust-Kamenogorsk and NGOs.
- The Center started the process of community identification according to criteria developed by the hub center. PCA training will be conducted in May.

Internal Capacity Building

- During this quarter a Capacity Building Action Plan was developed. The Center designed the CSSC logo, brochure, business cards, letterhead, representation folder, including a description of the major CSSC activities, the list of services rendered, accomplishments and plans for the future. A CSSC presentation ceremony was held in March.
- CSSC staff conducted an assessment of staff knowledge and experience, quality of services rendered, needs in staff development, and CSSC resources.
- The CSSC also analyzed the external situation and conducted a clients' needs assessment. The CSSC developed procedures for working with clients, and a system of servicing clients according to their organizational level and needs.
- ZUBR hired three employees: a manager, a consultant and an accountant. Each of them performs his/her professional duties in accordance with the adopted contracts. The CSSC arranged three workstations for each staff members and a place for the clients as well as purchased equipment (a computer, a copy-machine, 2 printers).

NGO Association of the Kostanai Region CSSC, Kostanai

Activity Overview

- The CSSC started its operation through a partnership with the *NGO Association of the Kostanai Region*. The CSSC is fully equipped and is located in a building in the center of town that has training facilities available free-of-charge. Procedures and rules for use of equipment and space were defined. Library resources were collected and the beginnings of a resource center were started through either the purchase or donation of information materials.
- For the first time, the Kostanai CSSC conducted regular trainings in *NGO and Community and Project Design*. Further, the Kostanai CSSC began developing additional trainers.

Internal Capacity Building.

- Since 1999 Coordination Council of NGOs has operated very successfully on behalf of NGOs of Kostanai region. The coordination council has played a very important role as an expert of NGOs issues for officials. The council took part in series of key discussions concerning Youth Policy of Kostanai region, including grant distribution. The real benefit of council's activities was the promotion of the idea that NGO's should join efforts on the legal front. Stakeholders supported the idea with enthusiasm. The *NGO Association of Kostanai Region* was registered as an association of legal entities. Now the *Association* has more than 20 members. Managing Council and Board of Trustees manage the association.
- Crucial stakeholders are involved in the *Association* as a Managing Board and a Board of Trustees. The Managing Board, or Association Council as defined in a charter, consists of leaders of nine *Association* members. These nine NGOs are elected at a common association meeting in January. The Board of Trustees is established by officials of Oblast and City levels, corporate business representatives, mass media representatives and the others that assist the *Association*. Board members are non-voting, and can only make recommendations to the Council on how to move forward. The main aim of creation of the Board is to encourage ties between officials, business, mass media and NGOs' in the region.
- The hub center conducted a site-visit to make an OD assessment, including scoring and stakeholders analysis. During the visit hub staff attended a meeting of the council and the board of trustees. Counterpart used this opportunity to brief the board on the Phase III activities and learn more about the Kostanai CSSC's governing body. Various consultations were delivered, such as, hiring personnel, working with volunteers and equipping CSSCs. The performance plan for the short-term agreement was developed and approved.
- The hiring process for the CSSC was a key point because it is the first project of the *Association* funded by an international donor. The Council approved all hires on a voting basis. The CSSC currently has a staff of three supplemented by six volunteers, including a VSO volunteer.
- The *Association's* staff developed the financial sustainability plan, under which additional funds have been attracted. The fee-for-service items include cellular phone services, copying, typing and printing of documents, consulting, and seminars for business.
- The Kostanai CSSC is a special case among the rest of our partners, as it is closely tied to the model sustainable NGO as defined by Counterpart. The *Association* is real grassroots organization based on real needs and interests of stakeholders and clients.

Table of Services

Service	Zhalgas	Astana CSSC	SMEDA	IRIS	ZUBR	Kostanai CSSC
Number of visitors	99	115	40	19	40	31
Number of visits	352	221	170	25	66	43
Number of NGOs receiving services	73	68	19	15	12	17
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	9	6	14	2	9	2
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	0	4	0	0	0
Number of trainings	5	5	2	1	1	2
Number of consultations	9	35	58	15	54	14
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	209	146	10	10	3	1
Number of times copy machine was used	12	166	77	10	21	12
Number of copies	133	4141	1200	50	143	91
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	130	108	10	0	4	9
Number of PCAs conducted	4	3	0	3	0	0
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0	0	0

Kyrgyzstan**Batken CSSCs**

The Center staff developed a plan of refugee-targeted activities for 2001, taking into consideration Counterpart's approach and UNHCR's expectations. The Center conducted a stakeholders' meeting on January 26, 2001 at which participants selected six target communities located in the villages of Aigul-Tash, Oruk-Zar, Kara-Bulak, Chet-Bulak, Min-Oruk, and Chon-Gara. There are two refugee communities among targets: Chon-Gara and Oruk-Zar. The Center conducted PCA training for leaders of target communities on February 12-14. Eighteen participants obtained new knowledge and skills in conducting and facilitating PCA in fields. Two target communities of Aigul-Tash VI. and Oruk-Zar VI. went through PCA exercises. The Center assisted refugee communities in drafting five funding proposals on social infrastructure rehabilitation. On February 7-8 the CSSC organized a series of roundtables to discuss issues of Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) in Batken, Kyzyl-Kiya VI., Leilek VI., and Kadamjai VI. More than 60 representatives of civil society organizations took part in these roundtables.

Jalal-Abad CSSCs

The Volunteer Center was created at the CSSC, and the volunteers elected Ms. Umarova to be the leader of the volunteer team. On February 20, the Center staff took part in the one-day OD training workshop, aimed at transferring OD assessment skills to the staff. The Center staff developed a plan of refugee-targeted activities for 2001 covering Osh and Jalal-Abad Oblasts, taking into consideration Counterpart's approach and UNHCR's expectations. The Jalal-Abad Center conducted training on PCA for 13 participants from 12 target communities of Jalal-Abad Oblast from February 4-6. In consultation with stakeholders, the Center selected four local communities as targets.

Kant CSSCs

The Kant Center conducted a meeting of local stakeholders which resulted in the selection of five target communities located in the villages of Tuz, Krasnaya Rechka, Ivanovka, Yuryevka, and Vinogradnoe. The CSSC conducted PCA training for leaders of the target communities from February 20-26. The Center staff conducted PCAs in two target communities of the villages of Ivanovka and Krasnaya Rechka on February 27-28. Refugee communities are designing seven projects with assistance of the Center of Kant. The Center organized round tables on discussing civil society participation in CDF and NPRS in 4 of Chyi region: Djerkazar, Ivanovka, Tuz, Toktonalieva.

Kara-Balta CSSCs

The Kara-Balta Center conducted training on PCA for 24 participants from February 4-6. On February 20-22, Counterpart program staff conducted training on PCA in the Kara-Balta CSSC for 25 participants. In consultation with stakeholders, the Center selected three local communities as target ones.

Karakol CSSCs

The Karakol Center conducted PCA training for 23 leaders of six target communities from February 7-9. PCAs were conducted in four target communities of the villages of Michailovka, Karal-Dobo, Tasma, and Otradnoe. The CSSC organized round tables to discuss civil society participation in CDF and NPRS in four villages of the Issyk-Kul Oblast. Eighty-five participants attended these meetings. The main topic of discussion was how civil society organizations can contribute to the process of CDF and NPRS, and mechanisms of partnering with governments and private sector.

Naryn CSSCs

The Center conducted a meeting for nine local stakeholders on January 24. The stakeholders selected target communities in all rayons of the Oblast. The Center conducted training in PCA for 20 leaders of local NGOs and communities from January 29-30. The Center staff took part in the training on CAP held in Bishkek from March 13-16. On March 29, the Center conducted a meeting with contract trainers to discuss their contracts and a plan for building their skills to improve quality of training workshops being delivered to local NGOs/CBOs. During the quarter the Center conducted five training workshops attended by 140 representatives of 84 local civil society organizations.

Osh CSSCs

The Center conducted PCA training for eight members of two NGOs and 12 members of target communities from February 9-12, where participants gained new skills in conducting and facilitating PCA in the field. Osh staff conducted PCA in two target communities of Kuu-Maidan VI. and Kun-Elek VI. on February 14-15. During the quarter the Center conducted three training workshops attended by 50 representatives of 21 local civil society organizations. The CSSC organized round tables to discuss civil society participation in CDF and NPRS. The main topic of discussion was how civil society organizations can contribute to the process of CDF and NPRS, and mechanisms of partnering with governments.

Ms. Kalys Khasanova, the Manager of the Osh CRC, took part in *Gender and Development* seminar held in Georgia from February 19-23, where she obtained new skills and knowledge on gender issues, collected materials for conducting training, and familiarized herself with activities of women NGOs from the NIS. Mrs. Chinara Tynalieva, the Assistant of Osh CSSC was hired in January 2001 and took part in the *NGO and Community* training on February 20-21 as a first step toward building her capacity.

Table of Services

Service	Batken CSSC	Jalal-Abad CSSC	Kant CSSC	Kara-Balta CSSC	Karakol CSSCs	Naryn CSSC
Number of visitors*	85	211	221	254	83	168
Number of new visitors*	25	49	53	11	32	36
Number of NGOs receiving services	14	43	22	19	27	32
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	27	3	0	2	0
Number of trainings	2	7	3	7	3	6
Number of consultations	37	76	198	174	19	84
Number of e-mail users	1	13	3	12	72	16
Number of copy machine users	0	12	74	80	25	12
Number of phone/fax users	11	21	3	6	20	27
Number of visits	211	652	683	786	414	362
Number of PCAs conducted	1	2	3	1	4	1
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0	1	0

The Batken Center did not provide E-mail and copy machine support as their E-mail connection and copy machine were out of order. Statistics for CSSCs of Bishkek, Osh, Kerben, and Talas are incomplete since they just started to collect information in a proper way.

Tajikistan

Dushanbe CSSC

- The Dushanbe CSSC continued providing information services to NGOs in the Dushanbe area. After appointing a Director the CSSC's activities have been much improved. A schedule of providing consultations was designed and the list of NGOs and potential clients in the Dushanbe area was developed. The Dushanbe CSSC took active part in selecting target NGOs from Dushanbe and surrounding areas. They visited a number of active NGOs and identified six NGOs to be target NGOs according to Phase III Program. The Dushanbe CSSC was actively involved in arranging and conducting regular trainings in Dushanbe. It is planned to assign the implementation of entire Training Program for Dushanbe to this CSSC.
- The Resource Center was replenished with new books and publications about NGOs and Civil Society in general.
- The Dushanbe CSSC signed an agreement with the *Association of Zaltzburg Seminar Alumni*, which established a Center in Dushanbe to provide services to NGOs with grant support from the Democracy Foundation under the US Embassy, to organize weekly round table discussions on various topics. They have already conducted discussions on the topics "NGO Legislation" and "NGOs and the Mass Media".
- For provision of more quality services, the Dushanbe CSSC needs additional human resources. With hub center assistance the Dushanbe CSSC developed job descriptions and is currently recruiting the following positions: CSSC Director Assistant/Training Manager, Accountant/Grants Manager and Information Technology Manager.
- At the same time some steps were made for localization and registration of this Center as a local NGO. A Charter is being currently prepared and the candidates for the Board of Directors are identified.

Khojand CSSC

- The Khojand CSSC revised the list of target NGOs, focusing on NGOs working with communities from Sugd Oblast. The NGO *Ittifok*, implementing and participating in many other projects, was taken away from the list. NGOs *Irshodot* and *Esuman* were added to a reserve list. Both organizations meet the requirements of target NGOs and have experience working with communities near the border.
- Khojand CSSC has issued a new Informational Bulletin, modifying its design, format and content.
- Within the last period four people expressed a desire to volunteer at the Center. These individuals will be recommended to other NGOs.
- At last November's conference "Social Partnership for Development" the Social Partnership Coordination Committee/Board was criticized for being passive. Since then, the activities of the Committee have noticeably improved. The Committee, which consists of representatives from NGOs, government and businesses, now meets every month to discuss common issues and come up with initiatives and actions to address those issues. The Khojand CSSC coordinates the activity of this Committee.
- The Khojand CSSC conducted six regular trainings for NGOs operating in the Sugd Oblast. In addition two trainings on *NGO and Community* were conducted in Kanibodom and Mastchob districts upon request from NGOs and groups. A TOT on *Problem Identification* was conducted for trainers from Khojand and other districts.
- The Khojand CSSC continues to provide services to other international organizations by spreading information about their programs among NGOs and finding partners for them. During the quarter the Center arranged meetings for NGOs with UNICEF, Canadian Fund, ISAR and IREX to inform NGOs about these programs.

Khorog CSSC

- The Khorog CSSC is one of two centers operating as partners. NGO *Kalam* is the Khorog partner. *Kalam* has increased its own capacity to provide services to local NGOs as the hub center assisted them this quarter with purchasing additional equipment (a PC, Xerox machine, printer and scanner) for NGOs members to use at their convenience. Access to computers and other office equipment remains a problem for most citizens in GBAO. One of the *Kalam's* ideas is to open a copying workshop under the Center to provide copying services to NGOs and other individuals and ensure its future sustainability by providing fee-based services.
- Within its institutional structure *Kalam* plans to establish a division on Mass Media Relations through a grant from the Democracy Fund under US Embassy. The project proposal has been submitted to the Democracy Fund and is currently being reviewed. The project also includes the publishing of a newspaper that will cover NGO activities in GBAO.
- The Khorog CSSC actively participated in identifying target NGOs from Badakhshan that have solid experience working with communities: *Didor*, *Madad*, *Vald*, *Tusien* and *Jamoat*.
- Based on local NGOs needs the Khorog CSSC conducted five regular training workshops on the following topics: *NGO and Community*, *NGO Management*, *Project Design*, *Fundraising* and *NGO and Environment*.

Kurgan-Teppa CSSC

- The most important event in the Kurgan-Teppa CSSC was that Counterpart decided to sign a contract with NGO *Fidokor* to run the Kurgan-Teppa CSSC, which was previously functioning as a branch Center. The Director of *Fidokor*, Dilbar Khalilova became the Director of the Kurgan-Teppa CSSC. The decision was influenced by *Fidokor's* experience in organizing and conducting trainings, their good relations with other organizations, their proven capacity and human resources and the good image of this organization throughout the Khatlon oblast. *Fidokor* was a target NGO in Phase II and was an implementing partner for the USAID and UNHCR joint project on Tolerance Education and Conflict Transformation Program in Khatlon. *Fidokor* has issued a brochure about Khatlon NGOs.

- Following the signing of a contract, *Fidokor's* capacity was assessed by Counterpart's OD team and necessary recommendations were made to improve the organizational and service delivery capacities. The recommendations include hiring additional staff, particularly specialists on grant administration, training management and consultants on NGO issues. The Former Director of CSSC was appointed to the position of Deputy Director.
- The Center continued providing services to NGOs including informational service and trainings, including a TOT on *Problem Identification* and seven regular trainings. Ten volunteer initiatives were conducted jointly with the Public Volunteer Initiative Center. The Kurgan-Teppa CSSC arranged a meeting with NGOs for ISAR to announce its grant program and negotiated with CADA regarding a possible provision of computers for Center to use.

Kulob CSSC

- During this quarter the Kulob CSSC spent much time and energy improving office operations, since the region is affected by shortages in power and communications. The Kulob CSSC found new premises with better electric service, installed a PC and other equipment, and delivered services to NGOs. A generator was also installed in the office. An agreement was reached with the local telephone station to expand service to the Center.
- This quarter a Resource Center Manager was employed, which has raised the profile of the NGO in the community. Over a short period of time, the Center has become a place for NGOs to meet and initiatives to be started to raise the role of NGOs in Kulob. On February 8 NGOs initiated the creation of an NGO Club in Kulob, which has already met twice at the Center. At present the members of the NGO Club are preparing for the activity "Stop Drugs Trafficking".
- During the quarter the Kulob CSSC conducted 14 training workshops, mostly in remote areas where many of these trainings have never been conducted before.

Table of Services

Service	Dushanbe	Khojand	Khorog	Kurgan-Teppa	Kulob
Number of visitors	256	160	253	97	85
Number of visits	336	581	838	171	125
Number of NGOs receiving services	55	72	82	64	38
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	34	14	12	7	35
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	1	4	13	0
Number of trainings	0	7	6	7	14
Number of consultations	115	88	82	53	60
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	7	32	133	18	15
Number of times copy machine was used	47	179	145	85	15
Number of copies	823	956	7,447	3,361	177
Number of Phone/Fax was used	0	64	219	132	15
Number of PCAs conducted	0	0	0	0	0
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0	0

Turkmenistan

Ashgabad Resource Center

Activity Overview

- Two more NGOs have been provided with e-mail/internet access during the quarter.
- Four additional listserves have been subscribed to as the result of information requested most by NGOs. The topics are scholarships/fellowships and volunteerism.
- A new security system was set up to protect Counterpart's LAN from external hacking, to limit the spam traffic, and to limit multiple login access to Internet.
- Accounting software has been installed to generate statistics of Internet use/mostly visited web sites. This enables RC Manager to analyze the most popular information sources of NGOs in order to better assist them with information. NGOs prefer to visit Russian search engines to download the documentation and software. English search engines are mostly used for getting the information about possible donors and scholarships/fellowships.
- The Mary and Lebap CSSC staff were trained by the Ashgabad RC Manager in such issues as consultations with visitors, and informational and technical service provision. During training Mary and Lebap contact persons learned how to identify initiative groups and NGOs among visitors using Counterpart criteria, how to set up systems to manage use of the RC equipment, how to assisting training program, and how to use data base and reporting formats.
- The RC Manager assisted the Outreach team to identify NGOs with community-focused missions in order to develop a community outreach training pool in the Ahal region. Currently the NGOs working in Ahal are almost exclusively Ashgabad-based.
- Counterpart was invited by the Bezmain Hakim to discuss the potential of launching a community outreach program in his city. He requested that Counterpart plan a series of training sessions and outreach activities to generate the involvement of interest groups in projects related to the local government's current priorities in the educational, health and environment sectors.
- Two issues of Vesti were published and circulated this quarter in an effort to publicize Counterpart's program and attract new organizations to our office. In addition, Vesti contains the contributions of articles from NGO representatives, thus improving their PR skills and enhancing the images of their organizations.

Internal Capacity Building

- The RC Manager has been assisted by the PC team to conduct consultations with NGO members regarding general questions, as well as more developed consultations linked with project design.
- Two volunteers were brought on board in the RC to assist the RC Manager with internet searches and technology related assistance to NGOs and the management of library resources.
- The role of the RC Manager and Intern has expanded to include the day-to-day administrative and logistical management of the training program. The Training PC has gradually transferred this role in an effort to build capacity within the RC as it is anticipated that the Ashgabad RC will eventually transition into a CSSC.

Dashoguz CSSC

Activity Overview

- During this period of time there were 154 visitors, e-mail, Internet searches and seeking consultation.
- Four PCAs were conducted with residents of apartment buildings identified by the local hakimliks. Along with the Training and Outreach team from the hub, the following steps were taken: 1) A meeting with hakim of Dashoguz City to discuss the plans to hold a PCA activity; 2) PCA orientation training held for NGOs in hub center by Training and Outreach Specialist and Dashoguz CSSC manager; 3) Meeting with representatives of ZHEUs (Municipal Service Organization) to identify apartment buildings to be assessed during PCA activity; 4) Preliminary/preparation meetings with Community members; 5) PCA activity in four apartment buildings.
- Three NGO Discussion Clubs were held, leading to a Round Table with representatives of OCSE, Dashoguz NGOs, Ministries of Nature Protection and local authorities of Dashoguz region. As a

result of this effort, a hazardous trash dump on the outskirts of the city was closed down.

- Through the Discussion club, information related to new donor grant programs was distributed and CCT staff assisted two NGOs to receive grants from Canadian Development Agency CIDA.
- Staff participated in a round table on the Aaurkhaus Convention sponsored by OSCE and hosted by a local NGO
- The Support Center staff represented Counterpart at the Tagta Farmers' exhibition organized by GTZ
- The staff presented its work to the staff of the Dashoguz Agricultural Water Works on possible collaboration in rural agricultural communities
- The Center introduced a system of recruiting and bringing on volunteers. So far four volunteers are working regular hours and logged 31 hours in March

Internal Capacity Building

- Consultations were given by the OD program coordinator on how organize meetings for NGOs and donors representatives located in Dashoguz – including how to develop agendas, invitation forms and complete list of participants.
- For a deeper understanding of the strategic goals of Phase III, the program team prepared an informational package related to CSSC management and translated it into Russian.
- Hub programming team consulted with CSSC staff to develop a Budget for next year (April 2001 – March 2002).
- Staff were trained by the grant manager and grant assistant in financial reporting in accordance with institutional grant requirements.
- The hub programming team provided comments to improve and revise the grant application submitted by CSSC to the Know How Fund for a volunteer clearinghouse.
- The grant manager trained the CSSC team in impact writing

Mary CSSC

Activity Overview

- From January 5-8 Mary CSSC staff visited Dashoguz CSSC for on-the-job training and to develop skills in practical field work with communities. The Mary team also spent over three weeks in training in the Ashgabad office and attending Counterpart trainings in order to better understand the goals of the program. The team also received follow-up orientation from the UNHCR office that is partially funding operations of the Mary CSSCs.
- Training in *NGO and Community* was conducted in Mary in February for 15 participants. The CSSC staff participated as follow-up trainers. After the training, Mary CSSC staff was invited for two follow-up meetings with the CBO *Ilkinjiler*. It is likely that this community will serve as the location for an upcoming PCA activity.
- Despite the challenges of officially opening the CSSC in Mary, the Support Center staff held two outreach meetings in cooperation with Winrock this quarter. The first meeting was in Bairam Ali where the staff conducted a problem identification activity with a group of farmers that Winrock is planning to work with. At another meeting the staff presented Counterpart's work to a group of female farmers working with Winrock.
- In consultation with the SCCS staff in Mary, the hub center developed a modified community outreach approach and staff training plan for working with communities. The plan will be initiated in April based on the results of meetings with local hyakimlyk. To initiate the process of working directly with communities, Counterpart's approach in Mary will focus on working with groups of parents and teachers at local schools in the area of school infrastructure improvements.
- Although the office is not officially open to the public this quarter, due to new regulations regarding branches of international organizations in the regions, the CSSC team in Mary was able to provide informal consultations to approximately 30 NGOs and initiative groups interested in information on NGO activities. Many of the consultations included questions on charters and governance structures.

Internal Capacity Building

- Over the last three months, the staff participated in: 1) PCA field training in Dashoguz; and 2) Site visit to the Water Users' Association Project in Dashoguz to observe their community outreach methods.
- For a deeper understanding of the strategic goals of Phase III, the CSSC team received a special package of documents and instructions related to CSSC work, which will serve as a basic manual.
- Mary staff were included in the training carried out by GM, OD Specialist, and FM on developing a budget for the Dashoguz CSSC for 2001-2002. Based on Dashoguz CSSC's example of work plan and budget, the Mary staff developed their own work plan and budget for next year.
- Mary and Turkmenabat staff participated in hub office workshop "The role of program staff in providing technical assistance for NGOs". During this workshop, revised job descriptions were developed based on the specific context of working in each region.

Lebap CSSC

Activity Overview

- The hub center conducted most of the ongoing training and TA to Lebap NGOs this quarter as the Lebap team only came on board in February and March.
- Three trainings were planned this quarter for Lebap, however a new government regulation requiring advanced approval from the MFA for trainings outside of Ashgabad required the staff to cancel two trainings unexpectedly. Thus, only one training session on *NGO and Community* was carried-out this quarter for 16 groups. The demand for training, however, is high and local authorities have requested that the CSSC team submit 6-month training plans in order to facilitate the process in the future. Despite the cancellation of training, we shifted the strategy and invited the Lebap participants to participate in the same training in Ashgabad. As a result of this networking, the NGO *Merjen* from Lebap learned of a UNFPA grant program and subsequently received a small grant to conduct training and seminars in Lebap on reproductive health themes.
- Following joint site-visits with hub center staff, the CSSC team returned to Lebap to conduct site monitoring visits with three grantees: *Amul*, *Dostluk* and *Merdjen*.
- CSSC Manager organized a roundtable of local NGOs at the request of the American Embassy USIA Representative, Michelle Ulrich
- In consultation with the CSSC staff in Turkmenabad, the hub center developed a modified community outreach approach and staff training plan for working with communities. The plan will be initiated in April based on the results of meetings with local hyakimlyk. To initiate the process of working directly with communities, Counterpart's approach in Turkmenabad will focus on working with groups of parents and teachers at local schools in the area of school infrastructure improvements.
- Ongoing meetings were also held with the UNHCR Representative, in light of the fact that UNHCR is contributing significantly to the financing of the Lebap CSSCs. Thus, the revised strategy includes taking a more geographically focused approach to PCAs and working in conjunction with the regional Hakim to identify appropriate communities which to target. It is likely that the first programmatic community outreach activities will involve a replication of water and sanitation-focused community programming experience in the Dashoguz region. The Hakim has targeted the Darganata etrap of Lebap as a location for a community outreach program in Lebap. If all goes well, the activities will be launched in April-May.

Internal Capacity Building

- This Quarter, the staff of the Lebap CSSC was hired and went through an intensive orientation and training process in Ashgabad and Dashoguz offices of Counterpart, and in UNHCR Ashgabad.
- For a deeper understanding of the strategic goals of Phase III, the CSSC team received a special package of documents and instructions related to CSSC work that will serve as a basic manual.
- Lebap staff was included in the training carried out by GM, OD Specialist, and FM on developing a budget for the Dashoguz CSSC for 2001-2002. Based on Dashoguz CSSC's example of work plan and budget, the Mary staff developed its own work plan and budget for next year.

- Lebap staff participated in a hub office workshop “The role of program staff in providing technical assistance for NGOs”. During this workshop, revised job descriptions were developed based on the specific context of working in each region.

Table of Services

Service	Ashgabad Resource Center	Dashoguz CSSC	Mary CSSC	Lebap CSSC
Number of visitors	140	70	0	0
Number of visits	241	154	0	0
Number of NGOs receiving services	121	13	11	23
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	3	4	8	5
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	1	7	0	0
Number of trainings	18	5	1	1
Number of consultations	76	84	1	15
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	51	6	0	0
Number of times copy machine was used	59	119	0	0
Number of copies	550	3348	0	0
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	7	61	0	0
Number of PCAs conducted	0	4	0	0
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0	0

Uzbekistan

Kokand

- The Kokand Support Center was established in 1998 with support of CC and UNHCR. During the past three years Kokand Support Center has achieved very positive results with the day-to-day assistance of Counterpart. Currently, the Center employs two staff members – a Manager and a Program Assistant. Recruitment for a third staff member is planned to meet the increasing demand for center’s services.
- As a first step in the organizational development of the Center, a short-term agreement was signed with the Kokand Support Center in January 2001 and an in-depth assessment of the center was carried out. As a result an Action Plan for Capacity-Building and Service Delivery of the Kokand CSSC was developed in mid March and will be implemented from April 2001.
- On January 25 a group of trainees from various regions of Uzbekistan met with staff of Kokand CSSC. Winrock International financed this visit. The purpose of the trainees' visit to Kokand was familiarization with the activity of NGOs there and exchange of experience in order to help them set up organizations of their own.
- On February 8 a meeting with David Hoffman and Jennifer Brick of USAID took place. The issues discussed included ways of the third sector's development in Fergana Valley and, in particular, in Kokand, the CSSC's members views on how to make the Center sustainable, and the prospects of opening new Centers in other towns of Fergana Valley.
- On February 10 Peter Nikolaus, Head of UNHCR Office in Uzbekistan, and Isabelle Mihoubi, Regional Legal Adviser visited the Center and met with the staff. The purpose of the visit was to see the work of the CSSC and meet with the Chairperson of the *Business Women’s Association* in Kokand.
- On February 16 the Hon. John Edward Herbst, US Ambassador to Uzbekistan, visited the Center and met with staff. The purpose of the visit was to get acquainted with CSSC's activity in Fergana Valley, the of third sector's development in Kokand and in Fergana Valley, in general, as well as prospects for NGOs development in this region. The Ambassador was provided with the list of NGOs in Fergana Valley receiving the Center’s services. At present the list contains 51 NGOs.
- On March 3 Mr. Umarkhanov together with Counterpart coordinators from Tashkent visited NGOs in Andijan and Namangan with the purpose of identifying host organizations for possible mini Support Centers in these towns.

- Support Center staff, together with Counterpart consultants on OD, discussed the following issues: results and analysis of OP activity in November 2000 and January 2001; the new structure of the Kokand CSSC if the decision is made to set up "mini centers"; and preparing an action plan for capacity building and service delivery for the next 6 months.

Nukus

- The Nukus CSSC was established as a Branch of CC and UNHCR in Karakalpakstan in 1997. At the time there were very few NGOs in the region. Over the past four years, the Center has been supporting the development of NGOs in the region through provision of a range of services such as training, consultation, and technical service. During this time the Nukus CSSC has been building its capacity and expertise with the support of hub center. They have a very impressive record of achievements and a positive image in the region working with local NGOs, government and the community. Because of efforts of this SC the number of NGOs has been greatly increased during this period.
- Currently, Nukus CSSC employs three people: a Manager, an MIP Coordinator and a Program Assistant. The OD assessment that was conducted March 27-29 demonstrated that the staff are committed to change and becoming a strong and sustainable organization. This change will be achieved through implementing an Action Plan for Capacity-Building developed as a result of the assessment.
- Tashkent Resource Center's Manager, Vildana Malyan, visited the Nukus CSSC in order to identify their information resource needs. Office manager Svetlana Kolokolnikova visited the Center to assess the needs for furniture and equipment. The Center needs to move to a larger and more appropriate space. She also visited a number of buildings to assess their suitability as the Center's new premises but none were appropriate.
- January 10, 2001: Jennifer Brick, USAID, Jack McKoen and Khalida Anarbaeva from Internews visited the Nukus Center. The Center Manager, Palmurza Khodjabekov, informed the guests of the Center's activities. The issue of independent mass media in Karakalpakstan was discussed. It was agreed that it was necessary to study the experience of ALC TV Company in Khorezm.
- The Supports Center involves volunteers in helping the initiative groups and NGOs develop project proposals, prepare statutes/regulations, make reports to tax inspection, and facilitate meetings.
- March 19-20 Mr. Khojabekov, together with five contract trainers from Nukus, participated in a meeting in Tashkent to discuss issues related to setting up the training organization *Bilim va Jamiyat*.
- March 22-23 Mr. Khojabekov took part in ABA's seminar in Tashkent "NGOs' more active participation in taking decisions regarding the environmental situation in Uzbekistan".
- Since March 2001, after visit of Soroush Javadi and hub center staff the CSSC has started holding meetings with members of 6-7 organizations with the purpose of studying and analyzing their needs. I. Gabunov from the NGO *Gamkhorlik Concern* noted that the CSSC was doing well in covering the countryside of the Republic. The participants also mentioned the following needs of NGOs:
 - ▶ A training program on law for easy reference of basic legislative understanding, since NGOs often face problems that can be solved through knowledge of the legislation;
 - ▶ Updating the list of NGOs in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, publishing and distributing it among the NGOs; and
 - ▶ Training the NGO *Khamkor* in *NGO Management and Coalition Building*.

Bukhara

- Bukhara Information and Culture Center (BICC) was partnered with Counterpart in February 2000. This NGO has been helping Counterpart with arranging different events (training workshops, conferences, roundtables) in Bukhara and was considered to be a strong partner.
- Currently, the Center employs six people of whom two are involved in Support Center activities in BICC. A commitment to change by the staff was made during the in-depth OD assessment conducted in 12-14 March. BICC will work toward the goals and tasks set in the Action Plan for the forthcoming six months in order to develop their capacity and become a strong and sustainable NGO in the region
- February 19-23 Okil Khayatov took part in the seminar on *Coalition Building* in Tashkent. On February 28 he discussed plans and reports on the work of CSSCs.
- January 16 a meeting was held with Ms. Gareeva, President of the *Association of Private Tourist Firms* to consider the *Association's* organizational development. The discussions resulted in a decision to conduct an assessment of the *Association's* organizational development needs and to prepare a plan of action on strategic planning and development of the *Association*. The plan will be completed by the beginning of next quarter.
- February 6 a meeting with the representative of the International Federation of Red Cross, John J. (Skip) von Kaernel was held. Following the meeting the Center helped the International Federation of Red Cross select candidates for monitoring the distribution of humanitarian assistance to patients with tuberculosis. Two persons were recruited for a period of 6 months.
- 15 consultations on preparing grant applications were provided following the announcement of an Open Society Institute-Uzbekistan grant competition. On February 28 a meeting was held with Alexander Djumaev, Arts and Culture Program Coordinator of OSI-Uzbekistan. As a result 12 project proposals from NGOs were sent to OSI-Uzbekistan.
- In February the Center prepared the conference "Woman, Family, Business" which was attended by 95 participants representing state structures, NGOs from Uzbekistan and other CIS countries, mass media, and international organizations.
- An ecological action took place on March 26. 150 trees and flowers were planted on the Medical Institute. This activity drew the attention of all the students and personnel of the Institute.
- In January the Center and the Focus NGO *Association of Pediatricians* had a meeting with a group of students from Bukhara Medical Institute. The initiative group set up a Club of Young Medics. Every Friday the Center conducts trainings for the members of the Club.
- BICC, together with the *Association of Pediatricians*, actively cooperates with the *Club of Young Medics*. They represent a group of young initiative people. It is planned that the members of this Club will be involved in the voluntary movement of the *Association of Pediatricians* as well as in the work with community.
- March 4 BICC organized a meeting for NGOs with agricultural specialists from California. Five NGOs took part in the meeting, including the *Association of Pediatricians*.

Urgench, Khorezm Oblast

- There was NGO Partner assessment in Urgench, Khorezm Oblast in the first week of January 2001. As a result of this assessment one NGO, *International Scientific Society (Al Khorezmy-Vambery)* was selected as a Partner CSSC in Khorezm. The results of scoring showed that this NGO met most of criteria of NGO Partner.
- *Al Khorezmy-Vambery* has a solid mission, nine years experience working as an NGO, and has established good relationships with the local government, NGOs and businesses. The NGO is located in the center of city, which is accessible for NGOs, has good space and equipment. *Al Khorezmy-Vambery* also has good experience working with international organizations and providing services to NGOs. This NGO could establish close relations with German foundation that granted renovation of historical monuments in Khiva.
- A budget was developed together with the leader of the NGO and an initial agreement for three months was signed. The hub Center Office Manager visited Urgench and helped the NGO identify suitable office accommodation for the Center. She also assessed the needs for equipment and furniture.

Tashkent, Tashkent Oblast

- There was NGO Partner assessment in Tashkent in 15-22 February. As a result of this assessment the *Tashkent Public Education Center* was selected as a partner CSSC in the Tashkent Oblast. NGO *TPEC* has a solid mission, which is close to Counterpart's mission. *TPEC* has good experience working with international organizations, such as OSI/Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, and OSCE. *TPEC* employs people with strong skills and there is a team of trainers and volunteers working in the NGO. *TPEC* has established close relationships with OSI/SF and is now running four different programs on civic education. The education program of the NGO was tested in many schools of Uzbekistan and was very successful. NGO has good premises/office that are accessible for clients.
- The budget of Institutional Grant is being developed and the short-term agreement will be signed in April.

Samarkand, Samarkand Oblast

After announcing the RFP to find partners in Samarkand, Counterpart received 12 letters of interest from Samarkand NGOs. Based on the selection criteria, two NGOs – Center *Ayol* and Club *Oyilam* – were short-listed as possible candidates to be a partner Support Center. After further analysis, neither organization met the criteria for being a partner organization. The main reason for this is that there are factions of NGOs and no single NGO seemed to be able to command the support of a majority of others. It was decided to establish an independent branch in Samarkand. At present we have announced two positions for the CSSC: a Manager and a Coordinator. Resumes have been collected and we are in the process of reviewing them.

Table of Services

Service	Kokand	Nukus	Bukhara	Tashkent
Number of visitors	192	203	172	310
Number of visits	474	439	302	753
Number of NGOs receiving services	116	34	58	203
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	-	8	36	-
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	6	1	10	-
Number of trainings				10
Number of consultations	66	76	78	106
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	257	115	173	563
Number of times copy machine was used	181	157	151	129
Number of copies	1989	2234	2745	1265
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	143	131	216	129
Number of PCAs conducted	-	-	-	-
Number of CAPs developed	-	-	-	-
Library	15		33	75

E. FOCUS/TARGET NGO OVERVIEW

Kazakhstan

Young Leaders Association

Activity Overview

- On March 23-28 the *Association* organized a conference under the leadership program with financial support from the HIVOS Foundation. 250 Schoolchildren and teachers from 12 regions of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan participated.
- The *Association* organizes student self-government and summer camp programs for school boards across the Republic. UN Model contests have been held in all regions of Kazakhstan.
- The *Association* is actively engaged in ecological education. The partnership program "Charyn Canyon" is being developed jointly with ecological NGOs "Tau", "Green Salvation" and ISAR.
- The *Association* cooperates with state agencies and international organizations and disseminates its technologies and know-how. It organized lectures on the topics "Use of New Methodologies and Technologies of Work with the Youth", "Student Self-Government in School" at the Republican In-Service Teacher Training Institute. At the invitation of IFES the Association trainers conducted training "The Art of Presentation" for the participants of the Human Rights Olympiad.

Internal Capacity Building

- During the last quarter the Association of Young Leaders re-registered as a national organization and obtained a temporary certificate for 1 year. Within this period the organization is to register nine regional branches. Its Astana, Temirtau, Shymkent, Semipalatinsk and Aktobe branches are already undergoing registration.
- In February OD scoring was conducted for the *Association*, including full staff interviews.
- A meeting of 30 representatives of the *Association* was conducted on Strategic Planning on February 4-6. This meeting was funded by Counterpart, and facilitated by Dmitry Grigoriev from the Moscow Marshak Foundation. The meeting agenda included such topics as: vision and mission of the *Association*; analysis of stakeholders; and strategies of activities. The organizational structure was also analyzed. Meeting participants emphasized project development and implementation. Young members of the organization get more and more actively involved in its work. Strategic planning priorities were as follows, search for new initiatives and new directions to overcome obstacles and adjust to changes in the environment.
- Eight members of the *Association* were invited to take part in the *Project Design* training organized by *Zhalgas*. Two *Association* trainers from Almaty and Astana were trained during the training methodology TOT and have already started conducting seminars themselves. Two organization trainers took part in PRA training organized by Counterpart.

National Diabetic Association

Activity Overview

- This year the Association marked its 5th anniversary by holding a press conference attended by mass media, the public, and international and other partnership organizations. In January the *Association* President spoke about diabetes on KTK TV channel. The *Association* is well known among NGOs and has a very stable image. Its staff is often invited as experts to take part in various round table discussions and various meetings on the public sector development, such as:
 - ▶ "Problems of initiating and establishing the institute of social workers in Kazakhstan", organized by Soros-Kazakhstan Foundation
 - ▶ "Improvement of the position of women over 40", organized by the Almaty Women's Information Center
 - ▶ "Granting credits to the Republic of Kazakhstan, fighting poverty", organized by the Asian Bank of Development
 - ▶ "Problems of the public sector development in Kazakhstan", participated by the RK Government, organized by Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan in Astana.

- While working with the Government, the Association assessed the needs in diabetic medicines and the resultant calculations were submitted to the Public Health Care Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- Humanitarian aid in the form of medicine worth more than US\$6500 was distributed among regional diabetic NGOs.

Internal Capacity Building

- A general meeting dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the *Association* was held in February with representatives from regional diabetic NGOs and pharmaceutical companies. At this meeting the *Association's* Board discussed current and future activities for 2001.
- In February the hub center program coordinators assessed the activities of the *Association*. The assessment focused on its strengths and weaknesses, its organizational structure. Staff were interviewed, scoring was conducted, and a capacity building annual plan was developed. Because of the current needs, priority was given to work with regional branches for the purpose of assessing their needs and promoting their organizational development. Training in *Project Design* and *Conflict Resolution* was organized for 25 representatives of the *Association's* regional branches.

National Consumers' League of Kazakhstan

Activity Overview

- 72 city and regional organizations engaged in protection of consumer rights applied to the *League* the past quarter. An additional 29 citizens came up with an initiative to set up a consumer rights' protection NGO. The *League* provided legal information to support them. The League employees designed a package of documents, which may be useful to individuals wishing to establish such organizations. The *League* operates a "hotline" through which it responded to 712 inquiries on social issues.
- The *League* cooperates closely with mass media. When marking International Consumer's Day, some popular TV and radio programs broadcast information on consumer education and a press conference and talk show were held. The web site www.samal.kz/consumer was launched in February. The *League* appealed to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for introduction of the subject "Fundamentals of Consumer Knowledge" in the higher and specialized secondary institutions. In February the *League* received a letter from the State National University notifying it of the introduction of the course "Legal protection of consumer interests".
- With financial support from Soros-Kazakhstan the *League* published Volume#2 of the Consumer's Encyclopedia.
- On February 22-23 a seminar was conducted for consumer NGOs to raise the effectiveness of their activities. At the request of ISAR-Atyrau, the *League* personnel developed and conducted a seminar "Legal aspects of non-commercial organizations".
- Svetlana Shamsutdinova, President of *League*, was involved in designing the Counterpart seminar "Budgeting. Internal Control. Reporting to donors".

Internal Capacity Building

- The organizational development of the *League* was assessed. This assessment consisted of interviewing the *League* personnel, evaluating its strengths and weaknesses, and scoring.
- The organization has drafted a strategic development plan. It develops monthly plans of actions. It is expanding the network of representative offices across the Republic. Volunteers from among law school students work for the organization. The organization maintains close ties with the students of the Higher Law School *Adilet*. Many of them have had internships with the NGO. Currently the *League* is designing its annual Capacity Building plan.

Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek Center For Social Initiatives, Bishkek

The NGO proactively collaborates with local governments in conducting meetings, roundtables, and delivering legal consultations to groups of internal migrants residing in the suburbs of Bishkek. The NGO members delivered the first series of legal consultations in the new residential district *Kok-Jar*, and identified that most migrants do not pay attention to residential registration with local government, which hinders the process of getting full access to social services and registration of real estate. A significant number of clients were interested in consultations having to do with access to credits, welfare payments, and getting humanitarian aid, as many migrants expect “handouts” and, in some instances, are not interested in aid beyond the scope of humanitarian relief. This is very typical and understandable given the situation surrounding this vulnerable population. The NGO members will take this into account to plan other project activities to avoid “dependant” expectations of migrants.

Talas Oblast Farmers' Union, Talas

During the reporting period 233 farmers visited the office and received assistance in completing paperwork to apply for credits, to develop business plans, and to receive consultations on agricultural matters. On January 18, the General Assembly of Farmers’ Union was held in Talas, attended by 26 delegates throughout the Oblast. Participants adopted the annual report of the executive staff, re-elected the Advisory Board and five Standing Committees. According to the project plan, the NGO members installed information stands in the villages of Talas Rayon.

Bayastan, Naryn

In January, the support center for children with disabilities was established, through which informational support on children’s rights is provided. The NGO members issued two newsletters on children rights and circulated them among parents and schoolteachers. They also conducted a survey of children’s rights in the school #2 to identify the level of awareness of children, schoolteachers and parents on child’s rights. The survey revealed a lack of awareness on the part of adults of the “Convention on Children’s Rights”. In order to address the issue, NGO members produced and disseminated handbooks entitled “Notes for Parents” and “Notes for Teachers”, which brief readers on children’s rights.

Chintamani, Tash-Komur Town, Jalalabad Oblast

The NGO renovated the office, collected materials on environmental matters and produced 3 issues of the newsletter *Voice of Nature*, which were circulated among schools. The NGO members assisted the school #4 in renovating the Nature Museum. Volunteers of the NGO conducted sanitary spot-check in public transport and designed 4 tourist routs for the children in outskirts of Tash-Komur.

Tajikistan

This quarter the list of target NGOs was revised because of the decision to select NGOs with the experience in working with communities. Counterpart is retaining the following criteria provide services in one of five sectors 1) rule of law, 2) human rights, 3) independent media, 4) conflict resolution, and 5) income generation/small business development, it was stressed that all those services should be delivered at the community level. CSSCs provided the hub center with the candidates for the target list. The hub center is in the process of finalizing the list.

Turkmenistan

1. **My Rights** carried out consultations for consumers on how to complain when a shop sells faulty merchandise and when vendors at the markets manipulate the scales to reflect a heavier weight for produce. The NGO also provided 10 lectures in schools to inform the children about consumer’s rights as reflected in the national legislation. This organization was consulted in how to organize a round table on “NGO experience and mindset in consumers right protection” to be held in mid-April. *My Rights* will begin the OD process and has identified members of their constituency that will participate in the stakeholder assessment.

2. **Civic Dignity** focused on a fundraising plan and submitted a proposal to CIDA for additional office equipment in the amount of \$1,100. The proposal was approved and with the new equipment the NGO is gathering material on civic education and planning to publish a new booklet in the coming months. The Resource Center Manager assisted *Civic Dignity* in the preparation of a proposal for funding from Global to attend the Advanced TOT on Training Methodology at Golubka Training Center in Moscow.
3. **Arma** also received additional equipment from CIDA totaling \$1440. *Arma* provided free consultations to 40 pensioners on how to calculate pensions and changes in pension amounts. In cooperation with Red Crescent *Arma* organized a group of 30 pensioners who were trained in “emergency preparedness”. *Arma* will begin the OD process and has identified members of their constituency that will participate in the stakeholder assessment. In preliminary meetings with members the NGO identified the areas such as financial sustainability, human resources, and constituency development as priorities.
4. **Turkmen Junior Achievement** has increased membership by forming a student volunteer club that now consists of 70 students who have chosen their own leadership and office space. Five members of this organization also participated in Pragma’s training –“Marketing, Financial Management and Planning.” *Turkmen Junior Achievement* will begin the OD process and has identified members of their constituency that will participate in the stakeholder assessment. With informational support of the RC Manager, they submitted an application to the Global Training program and 1 member of this organization participated in the Advanced TOT in Adult Methodology at Golubka Training Center in Moscow.
5. **Association of Journalists for Social Partnership** went through an internal organizational restructuring process and elected a new director. They developed a workplan to strengthen their relationship with velayet branches and published two newsletters on Social Partnership themes that were distributed among NGOs, government and international organizations. For the past 6 months this organization has had structural problems, as two of its leaders immigrated to Moscow. The OD Coordinator has given a series of consultations to the NGO resulting in: a) revised Charter; b) creation of new organizational chart; and c) election of new leadership. The NGO will begin the OD process and has identified members of its constituency that will participate in the stakeholder assessment. Preliminary assessments indicate human resources, management, and governance and areas of weakness.
6. **Keik Okara** partnered with UNHCR to conduct a stakeholder analysis in Lebap region. They interviewed local authorities, refugees, and local NGOs to determine the most appropriate distribution points for 17 types of medical equipment that were procured by UNHCR for the region. Two members increased their skills to work with target communities through participation in PCA training and field exercises in Dashoguz. Three members also participated in an 8-day KPC survey training in the framework of the MCH project. At Counterpart’s recommendation, one member participated in the UNHCR Working Group on Refugee Integration, Repatriation and Resettlement meeting in Baku.
7. **Association of Family Physicians** moved to a new office space for increased access by members and improved communications. Now the organization has office space and a telephone line provided by Health House 11 and can install e-mail and Internet access.
8. **Ecological school of Farmers** provided consultations to 20 farming families in Ahal velayat (Magtumguly village) on the topic of biologically safe methods of combating agricultural pests. Two members increased their skills to work with target communities through participation in PCA training and field exercises in Dashoguz.
9. **Uchgun** successfully finished the sub project “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene” supported by UNICEF for Turkmenbashi and Kunya Urgench etraps. During implementation of this project *Uchgun* conducted 49 trainings for 800 people, including schoolchildren, parents, and teachers. Two members participated in an 8-day KPC training conducted by MCH project coordinators and a consultant from India.

10. **Sarygamysh (Water Users Association)** - was registered at the Registration Chamber of Dashoguz city as *Sarygamysh* cooperative. This organization identified 3 new villages requesting assistance to form water committees that can join the association. With support from the Dashoguz CSSC, *Sarygamysh* was awarded a grant totaling \$1950 by CIDA to maintain operation of their mini-grant fund to expand the number of villages that build community cisterns to store clean drinking water. Two members increased their skills to work with target communities through participation in PCA training and field exercises in Dashoguz.
11. **Dostluk** encountered obstacles this quarter related to their provision of courses without registration. As a result, *Dostluk* established partnership relations with the local Department of Education enabling them to continue to carry out English, Turkmen, French languages and computer courses. Lebap CSSC staff helped the NGO organize a meeting for alumni of US educational programs in Turkmenabat city and at the request of USIA. They discussed the possibility of exchanging experiences between Turkmen and American teachers.
12. **Amul** cooperated with the hyakimlyk's Department of Social Welfare to demonstrate their public education video about NGOs working with the disabled. The main goal of this activity was to promote the involvement of school children in activities to help the disabled and discourage negative stereotypes and behavior towards people with disabilities. The hub center OD Specialist consulted with the NGO on the design of their newsletters and reviewed the quality and content of their public service videos. The PC team also assisted the NGO to improve public relations with the local Social Services Authorities.

Uzbekistan

Center Umidvorlik

- With the support from Counterpart under the project "Creating an Information-Consultation Center" (CICC) the *Center* conducted 1) a 3-day seminar on "Training on methodology for adult auditorium" (25 people), 2) three 2-day trainings for the mahalla residents and representatives of related NGOs of Tashkent, the Tashkent region and other cities of Uzbekistan on "Raising civil conscience of the mahalla residents" (65 people), and 3) a round table on "Presentation of the CICC project for representatives of state structures (district and city khokimiyats), NGOs and mahalla representatives (25 people).
- Individual consultations were held 5 hours a week by a lawyer (115 people consulted), a psychologist (60 people consulted), and a sociologist (40 families consulted).
- Participation in seminars, conferences, exhibitions include: 1) the Counterpart training *Women's Network* held in February; 2) the TACIS sponsored seminar of the French Paralytic Association *Parent-Specialist-Child Partnership* in April; 3) the Counterpart seminar *Joint evaluation of local community needs and development of action plan* in Osh in April; and 4) a speech directly broadcast in March on the radio program *We did not learn this* informing the public at large about the Center's activities.
- The Center has successfully found donors to support various projects. These include: 1) Open Society Institute/Soros Foundation support of a project for women victims of domestic violence; 2) German Embassy support for a project to conduct a sewing workshop for rehabilitation of invalids and creation of possibility of earning income for their families; 3) local resources for a "Musical salon" for 15 children with speech disabilities to visit twice a week; and 4) fee-for-service income to repair the façade of the building of Culture House *Gulshan* and to provide material support to a family with a disabled child who were victims of a fire.

Pediatrician Association of the Bukhara region

- On January 19 the *Pediatrician Association of the Bukhara region* signed a Focus Grant agreement with Counterpart to develop a network in two regions of Uzbekistan. Within this program three seminars for leaders and activists of the *Association* were conducted on NGO management, human resources management and volunteer development. Additionally round tables were held with representatives of state structures (regional health board and khokimiyat) and health NGOs.

- The Conference “Woman, family and business” supported by Global and OSI was held from 28 February to 2 March in Bukhara. Organizers of this event included the *Association*, the regional Khokimiyat, the regional women’s Committee, the regional trade union council, BICC, and the Bukhara regional branch of the association *Tadbirkor Ayel*. 115 participants took part, of them 24 international organizations, 18 national organizations and 44 regional organizations. As a result of the conference, a book of reports and papers was published in three languages (Uzbek, Russian and English). The conference results were published in the following media: the newspapers *Bukhoronoma*, *Tashkentskaya Pravda*, *Pravda Vostoka*, *Bukhara Vestnik* and in Counterpart’s Information Bulletin *Initiative*.

International Rehabilitation Center “Umid” (IRC)

- As a Counterpart Focus NGO, the following activities were supported: 1) Social-legal rooms were opened and are functioning in rural districts: A social-legal room in the mahalla *Nayman* in the Urgut district was officially opened with the participation and full support of representatives of state boards, mahalla committee, mass media, and mahalla residents. Plans are under way for similar rooms in the Djambay and Kashkadariya districts; 2) Two 1-day seminars were conducted on “IRC Activities” at which participants discussed trafficking of women, prostitution, economic independence; 3) a one 1-day seminar on the “Role of NGO in the development of civil society”; 4) Four separate round tables were conducted with khokimiyat staff, legal boards, mahalla committees, and mass media; 5) 12 volunteers were trained at Counterpart seminars and seven trainers were prepared.
- IRC consulted about 400 women, rehabilitated 82 people and operated on 52.
- One publication in the newspaper *Oila va Jamiat* was prepared and three articles in local newspapers. Two speeches were made on “Radio Freedom” and two topics were submitted to local TV.
- In addition, for the period under report the following guests visited IRC: the director of Management School at Harvard University, representatives of the American Association of Lawyers, representatives of British crisis centers, representatives of religious centers located in Uzbekistan, representatives of legal boards of Samarkand, representatives of Phraminspection of the Health Ministry of Uzbekistan, as well as Jennifer Brick and Elnora Muratova.

Fergana Regional Center for Social and Legal Support of Women and Teenagers *Ishonch*

- Under the Focus grant supported by Counterpart “Creation and support of non-governmental and non-commercial organizations in rural areas of the Fergana region like crisis centers”, seven seminars were conducted in the Kuva, Fergana, Tashlak, and Yazyavan districts and Kuvasay town on “Women-raising her self-appraisal” using Winrock International’s “Authorized education” methodology.
- Under the project “Trust-telephone “Uzbekoyim”, we got 110 calls, including 58 psychological, 17 legal, 13 gynecological, 13 drug-addiction, and 13 silent calls.
- Under the project “Healthy women-healthy generations” funded by Abt “ZdravPlus”, 12 seminars on reproductive health and reproductive rights, and correct breastfeeding for anemic women were conducted. The book *Khammabon tibbiyet kullanmasi* by David Werner was distributed to participants.
- Under the project “Water is Life, Stage 1”, 2100 m of pipes with large diameter were ordered and delivered. Now a trench is being constructed jointly with the community.
- The workers of the Center “Ishonch” took an active part in the following actions: 1) The March conference in Bukhara organized by OSI/Soros and Global on *Women’s problem, family and business*; 2) Consultations of national NGOs organized by the International organizations Save the Children and the UNICEF in March; The Global seminar in Osh on *Training Travel to prevent SID*; 3) Counterpart and Abt seminars on volunteer movements and the creation of coalitions and networks; 4) seminars of the Kokand Support Center at the Center *Ishonch*; and 5) organizing and conducting the conference of Oliy Majlis, sponsored by Winrock International and Global under the project “Role of non-governmental and non-commercial organizations in social-economic development” which was held in Fergana on February 15-16.

Kokand Branch of Businesswomen Association.

- On January 13, the general meeting of Businesswomen Association's members was conducted. The results of the activity for the year 2000 and objectives for the year 2001 were discussed. The strategic action plan for the year 2001 was asserted. On March 27 the meeting of directors of Businesswomen Association took place. Four planning questions were discussed and corresponding solutions were identified.
- On January 10-13 the *Association's* Program Director, Executive Director and Director of the Center *Oila va bolalar* visited *Chashmai Khayet* Center in Khojand, Tajikistan to visit their "Family in the new millennium" project.
- On January 18 the presentation on supplying Makhalla #1 with drinking water was made. The initiator was the Women Center *Makhlaroym*. The representatives of the Khokimiyat, Counterpart, and NGOs were present. In March, a series of three-stage seminars entitled "From the Strong State to the Strong Civil Society" were conducted for representatives from 60 Mahalla Committees of Kokand.
- In early February a two-week investigation of PRA methods was conducted with the purpose of studying the situation with vulnerable children in Bagdad, Besharik, Dangari, Buvaydi, Furkat, Uchkuryuk rayons.
- In March seminars entitled "On the way to the non-violence" were held in Besharik and Bagdad rayons took place. Also in March the *Association* hosted a business club to celebrate Women's Day and also hosted the first Forum of Women NGOs and discussed "The role of women in family".
- *Association* members participated in a number of conferences and seminars this past quarter, including: 1) The "Women's Voices" conference in January to develop a strategy for women NGOs; 2) in late January, a training seminar for representatives of Tashkent, Jizak, Surkhandarya, Kharezmi, Namangan Oblast NGOs; and 3) in mid-March, a round table with participation of local authorities, law-enforcement agencies, American Jurist Associations, OSI/Soros in Uzbekistan, Winrock International and OSCE to discuss human rights protection and cooperative problem solving.
- The *Association* hosted several international guests, including: 1) a business meeting with the executive director of the OSI/Uzbekistan Alen Deletrose to learn more about OSI's future programming; 2) an introductory meeting with the Ambassador of the United States John Herbst in the Centre *Makhlaroym*; and 3) a business meeting Lorel Botts, the counselor of the Embassy of the United States on economic and politic questions.

F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Kazakhstan

- A proposal was submitted to the EU to strengthen our existing Support Centers through enhanced exchange and communication development. That is a regional project submitted by *Zhalgas*-Counterpart and the BICC in partnership with Counterpart-Germany.
- Kazakhstan assisted PRAGMA Corporation in collecting of information concerning business associations in Kazakhstan. Counterpart is currently considering joint training activities focused on Small and Medium Enterprises development.
- Counterpart discussed possibilities with ICMA to join efforts and resources in developing a Regional Training Center in Pavlodar.
- Kazakhstan program staff and the country director were invited, based on their expertise on NGO development, to participate in Grant Selection Committees for UNICEF, Peace Corps and Abt Associates.
- Counterpart Kazakhstan and the VSO agreed on a partnership arrangement with our CSSCs in Astana and Kostanai. There are two volunteers working with the Astana Center, one full-time. VSO has expressed a willingness to extend this program country wide.
- Counterpart hosted a meeting with Ms. Modek from MASHAV, the Israel Center for International Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to give MASHAV information about South Kazakhstan, NGOs working in the region, and Counterpart's experience there.
- USIA again called upon Counterpart to make recommendations of NGO representatives to participate in exchange programs to the United States.

Kyrgyzstan

- Supported by IOM funding, Counterpart conducted a number of country-wide events to raise awareness of human trafficking, including: 1) identifying main actors; 2) analyzing available domestic and international data on trafficking; 3) preparing the first workshop on those issues to (March); 4) conducting a series of meetings with representatives of government entities, international organizations and NGOs; 5) conducting three roundtables with participation of NGOs, media, government both in Bishkek and Osh.
- With World Bank support, Counterpart conducted a series of 40 round tables to develop a matrix of stakeholders (administration, political representatives, private sector, NGOs, other civil society, media) and to define their roles/responsibilities and contribution to the process of implementation of CDF and NPRS.
- Country Director Mr. Kasybekov presented the community mobilization program to Peace Corps Volunteers on January 16; he met with Anna Garbutt from INTRAC to brief her on Counterpart activities in Kyrgyzstan; and he participated in a Gender in Development Grant Committee meeting for NGOs working in social spheres.
- On February 17, A. Nusupov took part in a round table hosted by the President of Kyrgyzstan. Parliament Deputies, Governors, Ministers, representatives of NGOs, media and political parties took part in the meeting devoted to the issues of consolidation of all sectors for sustainable development. The participants decided to hold such meetings on a regular basis and created supervisory board to oversee implementation of recommendations made by the participants.
- On February 27-28, A. Nusupov took part in Information and Computer Technology (ICT) Summit organized by UNDP and the Kyrgyz Government. He made a presentation on "NGO Capacity Building and Internet" during the breakout session "Partnership in ICT development". Three recommendations from this presentation are to be incorporated into the final ICT Summit document.
- In March Counterpart met with UNHCR program officers to learn more about their expectations of Counterpart projects. Participants discussed the project components and compiled a draft plan for 2001 activities.

Tajikistan

- This quarter two meetings of Donor Organizations were held at Counterpart's Office. Each meeting was attended by 8-9 donor organizations. Participants shared information about their grant programs and grants given to NGOs, discussed common problems, and discussed ways for improving information and experience exchange. Many donor organizations expressed interest in Counterpart's training program, especially trainings on Project Design and Fundraising. Quarterly meetings of donor organizations had been arranged on a regular basis since 1998 upon Counterpart's initiative. Since 1999 such meetings have been conducted every other month. It was decided that these meetings should occur on a monthly basis. Counterpart also attended regular Security Briefings on current political and security issues.
- Counterpart met with the new CEO of AKF to orient him to Counterpart's program and explore possibilities of cooperation and support in the Khorog CSSC. Counterpart also met with representative of Seatec International regarding Counterpart's involvement in recruiting team members for Seatec's new project in Tajikistan and future cooperation.
- Counterpart met with USAID/Tajikistan Director Mike Harvey regarding the NGO Poverty Assessment and Cross Boarder activities.
- Counterpart met with the new Director of Internews in Tajikistan and discussed the possibility of future collaboration. To that end, Counterpart met with AED GTD to coordinate NGO training activities they are funding and with the International Federation of Red Cross about their employees training needs.
- Counterpart met with the ISAR Central Asia Program Manager Gulnara Zhlmaganbetova to inform her of donor organizations meetings. Also, through the Kurgan-Teppa CSSC facilitated meetings for her with NGOs in Khatlon Oblast so she could introduce ISAR's grant program. Further, the Khojand CSSC assisted the Canadian Fund's representative to meet with Khojand NGOs and introduce their grant program.
- Farhod Bokiev participated in the Selection Panel of the MCI Civil Society Program.
- Counterpart met with the CADA Director regarding implementation of their work and potential collaboration. The Kurgan-Teppa CSSC followed up that meeting to discuss the potential of providing the CSSC with computers for NGO clients to use.
- Kulob CSSC and World Food Program Office in Kulob held a joint Social Partnership event, including representatives of local NGOs, government, business, international NGOs and media.

Turkmenistan

- UNDP Environmental Program Representative visited Counterpart to discuss coordination for training NGOs on Internet resources and website design. USIA Officer, Michelle Ulrich was provided with a consultation on current status of Internet technology development in Turkmenistan. She also was advised on where and how to obtain the leased line and how to install a system similar to Counterpart's
- OSCE used the Counterpart webpage to identify ecological NGOs for participation in round tables and working groups meetings held in Ashgabad and Dashoguz on the Aarhus Convention. Following the round tables, Counterpart coordinated with OSCE to send NGOs to training on small business development in CAR. As a result, several NGOs have developed a proposal for the creation of Local Ecological Committees base on the principal of equal representation of government, business and civic sectors.
- ABA/CEELI requested Counterpart assistance in conducting an Internet demonstration during a conference on women's legal rights and asked for Counterpart training in website design for their country program as well as target NGOs.
- UNHCR coordinated with Counterpart to send NGOs working with refugees to a regional training on Emergency Preparedness in Bishkek. UNESCO's representative office in Kazakhstan coordinated with the RC Manager to identify target NGOs in the fields of education, advocacy, human rights.
- USAID Natural Resource Management Project partnered with Counterpart to invite NGOs to a workshop on website creation for Turkmen oil and gas sector specialists and their colleagues from local NGOs.

- Shell’s Turkmenistan representative contacted Counterpart to help them identify NGOs and develop projects with the themes of “Sustainable Communities” and “Sustainable Environment” beginning in September. There are discussions for Counterpart to also manage the Shell Fund grant program

Uzbekistan

- On March, 10 Ria Holcak, the Director of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Program and Ian Hamilton, the Director of Programs from Canadian Human Rights Foundation (CHRF) visited the hub office to discuss possible areas for cooperation.
- On March, 30 Country Director, Soroush Javadi, and Program Director, Dina Mukhamadieva, met with the Director of Peace Corps Lawrence Leahy and training officer Ann Hartman. Peace Corps requested Counterpart’s support in developing a Special Olympics Committee in Uzbekistan. Further discussions with the Peace Corps revealed the possibility for six NGO Development volunteers from Peace Corps to come Uzbekistan in November. Mr. Javadi and Ms. Hartman agreed that placing the volunteers in the CSSCs would greatly contribute to the organizational development of both the CSSC and NGOs.
- In February and March program coordinator Bobur Turdyev and Ms. Mukhamadieva participated in three meetings devoted to the selection of two NGO candidates to participate in the UN General Assembly Special Session in New York under the Global Movement for Children. One of the NGOs selected was the Focus NGO BWA/Kokand.
- Ms. Mukhamadieva met with OSI program coordinator Sultanov Jumanazar to explore possible areas of cooperation. Mr. Jumanazar expressed OSIs interest in funding projects that support the development of a network of CSSCs.
- A number of international organizations were provided with information: 1) JICA received a list of international organizations operating in Uzbekistan have been sent to JICA; 2) information on the activities of women-led NGOs was sent to Clara Isabaeva with USAID/Almaty; 3) information about five organizations in Uzbekistan working in the sphere of civil education was provided to UNESCO/Almaty; 4) select sections of the NGO database were shared with the Asian Development Bank as requested.
- Office manager Svetlana Kolokolnikova conducted a briefing in Nukus at the request of Dr. Nizam with Counterpart’s Child Survival program. Ms. Kolokolnikova covered included the status of employees of an international organization and the documentations needed for employment through the MFA. She also briefed the organization’s secretary on different aspects of administration/office management matters and consulted the accountant on the documentation needed for accreditation.
- On March 23, Center’s Manager, Mr. Umarchanov, met with Patrick Dieterich in PRAGMA's Fergana Office. They exchanged information on programs being implemented as well as plans for further work in Fergana Valley. Mr. Umarchanov suggested that Mr. Dieterich take part in the monthly networking meetings of international organizations to make other contacts.
- On January 25, February 22 and March 23 the CSSC participated in the monthly meetings of the Network of International Organizations in Fergana Valley, initiated by the CSSC.
- At a January 25 meeting Mark McEuen, the Director of "ZdravPlus" in Uzbekistan presented the program aims and objectives. Participants agreed to exchange information and to use a common mailing list and webpage for exchange of information. Further, Abt Associates from Fergana should participate in PCA surveys, and joint projects should be developed and TOT for trainers from Fergana Valley's medical NGOs should be conducted.

G. LEVERAGING

Kazakhstan

- \$5,705.80 from AED GTD in mid-March for training services
- \$50 from the migration agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the CSSC Astana for training space rental in February
- \$613 from ACCELS to CSSC *Zhargas*-Counterpart for training services in February

Kyrgyzstan

- In January 2001, UNHCR signed an agreement with Counterpart for \$45,000 for implementation of the 12-month project to promote integration for Tajik refugees by building a network and/or issue-based coalitions of local organizations and developing community-based programs. The project seeks to target 10 communities in Batken, Chui, Jalalabad and Osh Oblasts. The project is being implemented through four CSSC (Batken, Jalala-Abad, Kant and Kara-Balta) which will receive complementary USAID and EU funds.
- In January IOM earmarked \$29,939 to implement a five-month project to raise awareness of the dangerous and inhumane conditions and treatment faced by trafficked migrants, and to develop anti-trafficking programming.
- In February, Counterpart was received \$19,119 from the World Bank to implement a three-month project to ensure NGO participation in the CDF/NRSP.

Tajikistan

- The hub center developed a project proposal and signed a contract with UNHCR in the amount of \$30,000 for NGO Support in 2001. The money will be directed to support Counterpart's training program. Also a set of meetings with UNHCR was held to discuss ways of expediting funds transfer to Counterpart in future.

Turkmenistan

\$29,601 has been leveraged this quarter through:

- \$22,000 from UNHCR to cover half of the costs of the Lebap and Mary CSSCs in 2001.
- \$1900 from CIDA to *Saragymysh WUA* to distribute mini-grants for local communities to build community water storage cisterns.
- \$3510 from CIDA to *Agrokhimik* to help build an irrigation system.
- \$2071 for six trainers to attend "Advanced Adult Training Methodology at Golubka Training Center in Moscow - (training fee, accommodation, visas)
- \$120 in-kind for use of premises by five NGOs hosting training outside of Ashgabad.

H. LESSONS LEARNED

Kazakhstan

- In the last quarter we trained a new group of people from different cities who are supposed to work as a team of trainers. This push should expand our basic training program throughout the country. While the number of trainings has increased, the quality of training must be monitored more closely, as many trainers are new. Since many of our Centers are also new, a centralized system of M&E had to be developed in order to address this issue. We introduced a probationary period of trainings and developed a multi-stage motivation system for trainers that should encourage new trainers to improve their skills and knowledge in the short time.
- Due to huge territory of our country the cost of effectively monitoring our program is still too high. We are looking for some different options on how to reduce expenses without affecting our ability to meet our anticipated results. We reallocated funds to the travel section of our budget to allow for more frequent visits to Support Centers by our program staff.

Tajikistan

- Concerning conducting OD assessments and other kinds of OD interventions with CSSCs it has been noted that there was a need to improve the planning and coordination between all PCs. It was decided to develop the internal calendar of events making it more clear and indicating interrelations of each activity to others. Also it was decided to have two OD teams to accelerate the process and back each other when needed.

Turkmenistan

- When government officials have experience visiting the US and meeting with development agencies, they are more open to our programs. This was evidenced in meetings with the Hakim of Lebap velayet who expressed that “I understand the goals and reasons for your program because USAID sent me to the United States and I understand why programs like yours are important, even though the investments is small”.
- Working in each region to develop a CSSC is unique in each location. In Turkmenistan it is necessary now to receive pre-authorization for activities from the Central government (MFA). Once Central permission is granted, the need to cultivate relationships between CSSC team, Hub and local authorities poses an additional step that was previously assumed to be resolved once the Central authorities approved activities. This new awareness will assist us to develop our programs in the regions.
- The amount of human and time resources required to effectively carry-out a complete OD assessment and planning process is much more complicated and intensive than was anticipated. This has to be reviewed, discussed, and modified in order to be effective and to achieve a truly integrated OD team dynamic and result.
- Establishing institutional grants with branches is challenging because the staff does not have experience with planning and financial management as a grantee. CSSCs developed as partnerships eliminate this obstacle as the staff has experience working as grantees. The branch CSSCs that only include 2 staff members also have the additional disadvantage of their limited size, therefore all reporting requirements are very difficult to manage.
- If an NGO office is located in a government building, it is absolutely necessary that they receive an official letter from the organizations providing the office space as in-kind in order to avoid being manipulated in the future.

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

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the ICNL project component is:

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

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

Kazakhstan

The President signed the Long-Awaited NGO Law

January 2001, the president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbaev, signed into law legislation on non-commercial organizations. The new Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Non-Commercial Organizations" (the NCO Law) is one of the few laws of Kazakhstan that was initiated by Parliament. The genesis of the law was in 1998 with the ICNL facilitated creation of an unofficial working group of lawyers, NGOs and parliamentarians. The drafting process of the NCO Law was initiated in 1999 by a group of deputies and submitted to the lower chamber of Parliament January 2000. The drafting of the NCO Law was an open and transparent legislative activity.

The Law on Non-Commercial Organizations creates a more developed and detailed environment for non-commercial organizations in Kazakhstan. Before the adoption of the NCO Law a few provisions in the Civil Code and some specific laws such as the 1996 Law on Public Associations, 1996 Law on Political Parties, and the 1993 Law on Trade Unions primarily regulated specific areas of non-commercial activity.

Of particular note in the new NCO Law are exemplary provisions that ICNL championed which define non-commercial organizations in terms of goals rather than types of activity, prevents the misuse of property or funds of a non-commercial organization upon liquidation, and adequately details conflict of interest rules that non-commercial organizations must follow in order to prevent misappropriation of property or funds by management.

There are not any provisions in the NCO Law that will necessitate NGO's or non-commercial organizations to re-register or amend their bylaws. The NCO Law may be described as a "framework act" governing non-commercial organizations rather than a law creating a new regulative regime. The NCO Law, in addition to the Civil Code, clearly defines and differentiates foundations from public associations and describes various types of foundations. Foundations were regulated by a few provisions of the Civil Code before the adoption of the NCO law. With the advent of the new law foundations are better regulated due to provisions that prohibit self-dealing and inclusion of specific conflict of interest provisions that were proposed by ICNL.

The Draft Tax Code has been approved by the Majilis

The lower chamber of Parliament, the Majilis, approved the draft Tax Code on March 16, 2001, and sent it to the Senate. ICNL highlighted problems with the initial draft tax code through public hearings. After persistent and arduous efforts by ICNL the drafters were persuaded that that the draft tax code as written did not clearly exempt non-commercial organizations engaged in economic activities dedicated to the social sphere. As a result, Article 126 was modified to include the preferential language.

Kyrgyzstan

Seminar on NGO legislation Implementation

The roundtable on implementation of NGO legislation held on March 19 in Bishkek was a resounding success. The seminar was sponsored by ICNL at the formal invitation of the Chair of the Committee on Public Associations and Information Policy of the Legislative Assembly. More than forty NGOs attended this event that was broadcast on several television channels of the evening news. NGOs used this excellent opportunity not only to argue their position with the government, but also to demonstrate that the freedoms associated with civil society are expanding.

An official from the Ministry of Justice listened as NGOs voiced their concerns regarding the treatment they at times received by the government. While the debate indicated that the previous problems with the registration process were ameliorated since the adoption of the 1999 NGO Law, issues of taxation of NGOs were of significant concern. The moderator, Deputy Karabekov, expressed his strong desire to continue working with ICNL and went further by indicating that his Committee will continue to defeat any attempts by the government to amend the NGO law to eliminate the progressive provision allowing for unregistered non-commercial organizations. Another participant, Deputy Japarov, Chair of the Committee on Taxes, Customs Duties and Collections has requested that ICNL compile its previously submitted suggested amendments to the Tax Code that will improve the fiscal and regulatory environment of NGOs.

Tajikistan

ICNL Opened Discussion on the Draft Law on Registration of Legal Entities

As it was reported in the previous quarterly report, another important achievement in Tajikistan is that the government has initiated a new Law on Registration of Legal Entities. ICNL has been distributing the draft law to all interested persons asking for comments. This is an important issue for all legal entities, including non-commercial organizations, since this new law will establish a single registration procedure for all legal persons operating in the Republic of Tajikistan. ICNL prepared a detailed commentary to help the drafters to improve the draft. On March 26, ICNL held a roundtable for government drafters on issues of registration of legal entities and there was an article-by-article discussion of the draft law. As a result of this roundtable, the drafters were persuaded by several of the recommendations regarding how to make the draft more progressive.

Uzbekistan

ICNL is Officially a Member of an Expert Group within Parliament

An ICNL representative in Uzbekistan has been officially included into the Parliament's expert group working with the Committee on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Self-Governance Bodies. The major scope of activity of this Committee is to develop NGO legislation. At the moment ICNL together with the members of the Committee and the expert group are working on drafting a new Law on Public Associations and Law on Foundations. ICNL provided the Committee at its request with comments to the draft of the new version of the Law on Public Associations. ICNL also provided the Committee at its request with materials and research that will help the Committee to start working on drafting the Law on Foundations.

ICNL continues to work on the implementation of the NGO Law. ICNL is in the final stage of publishing a commentary to the NGO Law, which contains a comprehensive interpretation of the provisions of the new law. Several governmental institutions contributed to its preparation. These contributions will provide the commentary semi-official status and allow it to be used as manual for government officials carrying out registration and supervision of NGOs. The commentary will be broadly distributed among NGOs to educate them about their rights according to the new law. NGOs will greatly benefit by having access to the commentary and in turn this will lead to more effective implementation of the law.

ICNL as a member of the expert group is actively involved in the monitoring of the practical implementation of NGO laws in all regions of Uzbekistan and is currently working on creating a series of seminars and roundtables throughout the country on implementation of the law.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Kazakhstan

NGO law: ICNL was hard at work publicizing information about the new NCO law. A key to effective implementation is spreading information about the provisions of the new law to as many NGOs and concerned individuals as possible. The benefits of the new provisions were presented by ICNL at several forums as well as disseminated through various publications such as “Sustainable Development” and “Kazakhstan Echo Truth.” ICNL met with the US Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Richard Jones, and discussed the relevant provisions. The Ambassador is well versed with the laws that impact civil society in Kazakhstan.

Draft Tax Code: In the approved version of the draft Tax Code, Majilismen stated that certain economic activities of organizations working in the social sphere are exempt from corporate income tax. Also, these organizations according to the current version of the Tax Code will pay the reduced rate of land tax and property tax of 0.1%. The definition of “grant” was also slightly modified. Now, foreign, non-governmental, charitable organizations and foundations are included into a list of grantors, with the proviso that the government determines this list. This means that the approved organizations will need to be listed in the government records. ICNL met with Majilisman Kosarev. It was a fortunate coincidence that his committee was considering draft Tax Code provisions on humanitarian aid and grants at the time of ICNL’s meeting. ICNL discussed its recommendations to the draft tax code regarding the definitions of “grant” and “humanitarian assistance” and on the tax exemption of economic activities of certain social sphere non-commercial organizations. Mr. Kosarev agreed to support ICNL’s recommendations.

Draft Law on Institutions: After several unsuccessful attempts by Parliament (both chambers) to discuss the Draft Law on Institutions, the government recently recalled the draft. It is unknown whether the government will be changing the draft and resubmitting it to Parliament or simply reject the draft. If the government were to submit it again, it would be during the next session only.

Concept of State Social Order: In February, ICNL had a meeting with a representative of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord, Mr. Koshkenov, and he reiterated the willingness of the Ministry to work on state procurement issues. The Confederation of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organization (CNOK) held an NGO conference with wide participation of governmental, parliamentary officials and NGOs March 27-28, 2001. The principal topics of the conference were: 1) devising a concept for NGO sector development; 2) devising a concept for the development of state social orders (procurement); 3) an ethics code for NGOs. CNOK received strong support from the government on all issues. The decision was made to begin the preparation for drafting a law on state-social orders tentatively planned for submission to the government at the end of this year. ICNL has been working together with CNOK on this concept as well as other issues raised at the conference.

New Code on Administrative Violations: A new Code of Administrative Violations was adopted January 30, 2001 and officially published February 13, 2001. The new code establishes stricter provisions than existed in the old code. Article 374 states that if the directors or members of a public association violate the Law on Public Associations, or the goals and objectives as determined by the bylaws are exceeded, after written notice, the governing body can be fined up to \$105.00. Repeated violations within one year can lead to a suspension of activities for up to six months. Article 375 of the code lists activities that are a violation of the Law on Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations, such as participating in the activities of a political party. Penalties include warning or fining the directors and the legal entity, or suspension of activities of a religious association for up to six months.

Kyrgyzstan

ICNL Continues Working on Implementation Issues: Several local NGOs have experienced some difficulties from the government while attempting to implement the NGO law. ICNL and the Association of Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan agreed to start commenting on the NGO law provisions. These comments will assist governmental officials as well as NGOs in interpreting the law correctly. In addition, there are inconsistencies in the NGO law and the Rules on Registration of Legal Entities issued by the Ministry of Justice in terms of the registration of NGOs. The NGO law provides a single registration procedure for NGOs while the Rules require registration on a territorial basis (registering an NGO in each oblast in which it wishes to operate). ICNL's partner is continuing to consult with several NGOs on registration issues and to collect information and appropriate materials. Consideration is being given to the preparation of a guidebook for NGOs and governmental officials on NGO registration issues. This information will be placed on a local NGO website in the near future. ICNL's partner has been engaged in follow-up work from the March 19th roundtable and the recommendations it generated. As part of that follow up ICNL's partner had a meeting with Deputy Karabekov and other Parliamentary staff members. They decided to create a working group under Karabekov's committee that will be working on legislative amendments and recommendations concerning activities of NGOs and issues related to taxation. Also, ICNL's partner has been working on a legislative review of current taxes that NGOs need to pay in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, ICNL is in the process of preparing comments and suggestions on the improvement of the existing tax legislation.

Tajikistan

Draft Law on Registration of Legal Entities: On March 26, 2001 in Dushanbe a successful roundtable was conducted entitled "The Legal Aspects of the Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan: Problems and Perspectives." A focus of the roundtable was the draft Law on State Registration of Legal Entities." Muatar moderated the full-day event which included the Deputy Minister of Justice, as well as those who participated in the drafting of the proposed legislation, the Director of the Registration Department and the Chief Expert from the Ministry of Justice. The NGOs who attended the roundtable had the opportunity to express their concerns and offer their recommendations. The Ministry of Justice officials were rather gracious in the presence of comments that were quite critical of some of the provisions included in the draft. Vadim Nee gave an informative presentation and elaborated on ICNL's comments to the draft. Gerald Lorentz spoke about good international practices regarding registering non-governmental organizations and focused on what the purpose of registration ought to be. Each article of the draft was discussed, analyzed and recommendations were proposed. The officials from the Ministry of Justice personally thanked ICNL and Muatar for conducting the roundtable. In addition, they expressed a desire for an on-going dialogue and discussion with ICNL and others. The results of the roundtable were concrete and will likely be followed by another roundtable when the draft is introduced into Parliament. An article appeared in "Asia Plus" describing the event. One of the progressive changes that arose shortly after the roundtable and is a product of ICNL's long-standing efforts is the proposed reduction of registration fees by a resolution of the government. For local NGOs the proposed reduction would be from \$160 to \$25 to \$50, depending on the status of an NGO. This is an achievement that ICNL is proud to have stimulated, and ICNL will continue to further negotiate and develop the provisions of the draft law. Also, OSCE followed up on ICNL's roundtable and held another discussion among international organizations, local NGOs and government officials on the issue of registration. OSCE agreed to support the recommendations of ICNL concerning improvements to the draft law.

Cooperation: Muatar Khaidarova, a local ICNL partner, has been actively cooperating with local NGOs and government representatives on social partnership issues. They have been working on the concept of the cooperation of NGOs with the government. This work will lead to the development of new legislation regulating issues of social procurement for NGOs as well as establish a general basis for the cooperation of the government and NGOs.

Turkmenistan

ICNL Is Actively Working to Reinvigorate Previous Efforts and Establish A Constructive Dialogue With the Government and Local NGOs: ICNL remains constructively engaged in an environment where many organizations have given up. To gauge the current possibilities ICNL recently met with UNHCR, UNDP, Tacis, OSCE, ABA/CEELI, two officials from the Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan and the British Ambassador. ABA/CEELI proposed conducting and paying for a seminar on the topic of registration in cooperation with ICNL. ICNL interviewed several candidates for a possible part-time partner position. In addition, USAID is looking forward to receiving our proposal to form a working group, through funding by Counterpart, with a local NGO. The working group, with ongoing monitoring and assistance by ICNL, would assess the current legislative environment and possibly propose a draft NGO law. Also, based on the matrix previously developed by ICNL (a comparative document on provisions of Civil Code and Public Associations law in terms of registration and activities of NGOs) ICNL is contemplating issuing a booklet that would serve as a handy guide for NGOs and, ideally, for others as well, including state-sector organizations, illustrating the formal requirements and procedures for registration in Turkmenistan. ICNL is contacting OSCE, UNDP and UNHCR in order to more concretely explore areas for possible cooperation on this or other fronts.

Uzbekistan

Publication of a Brochure on NGO Law Implementation: Based on ICNL's work and research conducted by the National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan on implementation of the Law on Non-Commercial Non-Governmental Organizations, a complete commentary to this law has been written. This commentary will be published using grant money awarded by the Soros Foundation/Uzbekistan to ICNL. The most important purpose of this commentary is making implementation of the Law more effective. The commentary contains comprehensive and mostly progressive interpretations of the Law's provisions. Several government agencies contributed to its preparation. This gave the commentary semi-official status and thereby allowed it to serve as a manual for local government officials carrying out registration and supervision of NGOs. It is expected that the commentary, which is being translated into Uzbek and English, will be available for distribution in late April.

New Laws on Several Organizational-Legal Forms of NGOs are on the Agenda of Parliament: The Committee on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Self-Governance Bodies of the Oliy Majilis has been drafting amendments to the Public Associations Law. A new draft Law on Foundations is also on the agenda of the committee. In reality the amendments to the Public Association law turned into an entirely new law that repeats the Law on Non-Commercial Organizations. This draft has been submitted to ICNL for its legal opinion and recommendations. The committee also requested ICNL to provide it with model laws and laws from various countries regulating the activity of foundations. ICNL will be conducting training on legal regulation of foundations for governmental and Parliamentary drafters at their request.

D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION

Regional

US and International Organizations: ICNL has been closely cooperating with the Counterpart International and its in-country offices. All ICNL activities have also been coordinated with the USAID regional and in-country offices. Cooperation has included such activities as presentations to Counterpart and the NGOs it supports and submissions of articles to a Counterpart publication that addresses questions posed by NGOs. ICNL has been maintaining cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Barents group; GTD; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TACIS, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP. On a regular basis ICNL is updating other USAID grantees on developments in the NGO legislation around the region and on its activities and plans.

Kazakhstan

NGOs: Vadim Nee, ICNL's main partner and NGO legal expert; Valentina Sivrukova, President of NGO umbrella organization -- Confederation of Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan, Sholpan Baibolova, Tax Culture Formation Foundation; the Shymkent Association of Attorneys; Kuralai Karakulova, 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; Legal Development of Kazakhstan; "Pokoleniye" Pensioners NGO; Roman Podoprigora, "Adilet" Higher School of Law.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments: Zharmakhan Tujakbai, Speaker of the Majilis; Oralbai Abdykarimov, Speaker of Senate; Sergey Zhalybin, Majilisman; Irak K. Elekeev, Head of the Majilis Office; Sabyr A. Kasimov, Deputy; Ermek Zhumabaev, 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; Shymkent Lawyers Association.

Kyrgyzstan

US and International Organizations: ICNL has been closely cooperating with Counterpart International and its in-country offices. All ICNL activities have been coordinated with the USAID regional and in-country offices. ICNL has been maintaining cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Barents group; GTD; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, the World Bank, TACIS, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP. On a regular basis ICNL is updating other USAID grantees on developments on the NGO legislation around the region and on its activities and plans.

NGOs: Yuri Khvan, ICNL's legal partner, Mirgul Smanalieva, Kyrgyz lawyer, the Vice-President of the Association Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan and ICNL's local partner; Irina Ryzhykh, NGO - Chamber of Tax Consultants; 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; deputies Alisher Sabirov, Kabai Karabekov, Akylbek Japarov, Oksana Malevannaya, Andrei Loboda, Alefina Pronenko and other deputies of the Parliament; Pamir Shentaev, Department of Education in the Kyrgyzstan Parliament.

Tajikistan

US and International Organizations: Muatar Khaidarova, ICNL's local partner and a widely respected lawyer and well-known NGO activist, has been closely working with government officials on issues of registration of legal entities. In addition, international organizations operating in Tajikistan regularly seek Muatar's advice on legal issues. As a result, ICNL's partner has been regularly invited to various international and domestic conferences and workshops to speak on the issues concerning NGO legislation. Muatar is recognized as a professional lawyer and a very well known NGO activist.

NGOs: Muatar Khaidarova, ICNL's partner and Chairman of Society and Law; Fund for Support of Civil Initiatives; Youth Ecological School; Olij 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

NGOs: Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan; Brian Gill, ABA/CEELI, The International Planned Parenthood Foundation; Bess Brown, OSCE project; Jens Wandel, Resident Representative of UNDP in Turkmenistan; Francoise Muller Lauritzen of the UNHCR mission group; Fraser Wilson, British Ambassador; Gerd-Michael Triller, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Michael Wilson, of TACIS.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments: Dr. Yolbars A. Kepbanov, Director of the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, Abram Mogilevsky, Scientific Secretary of the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights.

Uzbekistan

US and International Organizations: ICNL Partner, Dinara Mirzakarimova, established many useful contacts with various international organizations operating in Uzbekistan that will lead to many possibilities of organizing joint events. Among these organizations are ABA/CEELI, UNDP, Soros Foundation, Eurasia and many others. Many groups and organizations have an active interest in ICNL's legislative project. OSI is currently funding publication of comments to the Law on Non-Commercial Organizations. ICNL is planning a joint pilot project with the Eurasia Foundation and a local NGO, the Center for the Study of Legal Problems, on drafting the Law on Public Foundations. The main goal of the project is to develop the concept and a draft law on public foundations. The project will also include roundtable discussions with all major stakeholders, such as governmental officials, media representatives, and local NGOs. The proposal will be submitted to the Eurasia Foundation. The role of ICNL is to act as a technical and informational partner in the process. The objective of the project will be a draft law on public foundations, which will be submitted to ICNL and the Institute of Monitoring for comments and review. The Institute of Monitoring will attach a recommendation letter and submit it to the Presidential Apparatus and Cabinet of Ministers. They in turn will forward it to Ministry of Justice for consideration. Ministry of Justice will submit it to Oliy Majlis. This is the traditional process for submission of a new law to the Oliy Majlis. ICNL and the Institute of Monitoring will monitor the process to make sure that the adopted law contains most of the provisions developed by Center and ICNL.

NGOs: Dinara Mirzakarimova, Uzbek lawyer (ICNL’s main partner); Itkin Yuri Markavich, Chairman of the Association of Accountants and Auditors; Gulnara Dosumova, Head of the NGO “Renessans”, in Nukus, Karpakalpakstan Region, Uzbekistan; Shamil Asyanov, Chairman of the Law NGO “Center for Study of Legal Problems in Republic of Uzbekistan”; Ilkhom Karimov, Chairman of the Board, NGO “Tashkent Business Club”; Ravshan Khakimov, Chairman of Law NGO “Uzbek Association of International Law”; Akhtam Shymardanov, Head of the NGO “Chirchik dare”; Tadjikhon Saidikramova, Director of NGO “Association of Business women of Uzbekistan”.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments: Akmai Saidov, Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Committee of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on Democratic Institutes, NGO and Self-Governing Bodies and Director of the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Shavkat Galiakbarov, Head of the Department on International Cooperation of National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan; Jalloliddin Abdusatarov, head of the NGO Bureau, Ministry of Justice; Talgat Beerketov, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Justice; Akhtam Toursunov, Director, and Gasanov Mikhail Yusupovich, Deputy-Director of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Oliy Majlis (Parliament); Sayera Rashidova, the Authorized Person for Human Rights (Ombudsman); Rustam Bakhramov, Head of the Department on of tax methodology improvement, State Tax Committee of Uzbekistan.

E. LEVERAGING

OSI Assistance Foundation in Uzbekistan awarded a grant of \$4,160 to ICNL for the publication of a Brochure on comments to the NGO law. The purpose of the comments is to assist with the implementation of the law. Several Uzbek government institutions are contributing to these comments. This will provide comments with a semi-official status and increase their influence with government officials in charge of the implementation of the law. These comments will also contain an analysis of the current implementation of the law.

GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Kazakhstan

Nuclear Tests Victims Union “IRIS” - \$ 7,373.00. East Kazakhstan oblast, Semipalatinsk. Activities supported by the grant funds are to establish a creative partnership between NGO and Counterpart Consortium Kazakhstan as well as to conduct Organizational Development assessment with scoring and develop Capacity Building and Service Delivery Annual Plan to prolong our cooperation on the basis of long-term agreement. These grant funds are to equip a CSSC and open it for clients to deliver a range of services, including 1 training, 3 PCAs, consultations (educational, informational and technical) and technical assistance.

Consulting Center ZUBR – \$ 7,520.00. East-Kazakhstan oblast, Ust-Kamenogorsk. Activities supported by the grant funds are to establish a creative partnership between NGO and Counterpart Consortium Kazakhstan as well as to conduct Organizational Development assessment with scoring and develop Capacity Building and Service Delivery Annual Plan to prolong our cooperation on the basis of long-term agreement. These grant funds are to equip a CSSC and open it for clients to deliver a range of services, including 2 training, consultations (legal and accounting) and technical assistance.

Entrepreneurship Development Agency SMEDA - \$ 8,120.00. Aktobe oblast, Aktobe. Activities supported by the grant funds are to establish a creative partnership between NGO and Counterpart Consortium Kazakhstan as well as to conduct Organizational Development assessment with scoring and develop Capacity Building and Service Delivery Annual Plan to prolong our cooperation on the basis of long-term agreement. These grant funds are to equip a CSSC and open it for clients to deliver a range of services, including 2 training, consultations (legal and informational) and technical assistance.

NGO Association of Kostanai oblast - \$ 10,170.00. Kostanai oblast, Kostanai. Activities supported by the grant funds are to establish a creative partnership between NGO and Counterpart Consortium Kazakhstan as well as to conduct Organizational Development assessment with scoring and develop Capacity Building and Service Delivery Annual Plan to prolong our cooperation on the basis of long-term agreement. These grant funds are to rent and equip a CSSC and open it for clients to deliver a range of services, including 2 training, consultations (informational and accounting) and technical assistance.

Association of nongovernmental organizations Zhalgas Counterpart - \$ 11,984.69. Almaty. Activities supported by the grant funds are to establish a creative partnership between NGO and Counterpart Consortium Kazakhstan as well as to conduct Organizational Development assessment with scoring and develop Capacity Building and Service Delivery Annual Plan to prolong our cooperation on the basis of long-term agreement. These grant funds are to equip a CSSC and open it for clients to deliver a range of services, including 5 training, consultations (informational, legal and accounting) and technical assistance.

Association of nongovernmental organizations Zhalgas Counterpart - \$ 25,031.01. Almaty. Purchase of a permanent working location.

Association of nongovernmental organizations Zhalgas Counterpart - \$ 2,036.66. Almaty. This grant supported PCA/PRA training in Almaty and training on Facilitation skills in Tashkent.

Astana Civil Society Support Center - \$ 13,338.78. Astana. Activities supported by the grant funds are to establish a creative partnership between NGO and Counterpart Consortium Kazakhstan as well as to conduct Organizational Development assessment with scoring and develop Capacity Building and Service Delivery Annual Plan to prolong our cooperation on the basis of long-term agreement. These grant funds are to equip a CSSC and open it for clients to deliver a range of services, including 6 training, consultations (informational, organizational development, legal and accounting) and technical assistance.

Kyrgyzstan

CSSC Institutional Grants

Osh Resource Center of Interbilim, Osh. \$3157.00 to provide NGOs, CBOs, and communities of Osh Oblast with technical assistance, inclusive of delivering consultations, coaching, 3 training workshops, round tables and information support within 3 months through Osh CSSC. Short-term agreement was made to establish creative partnership between Osh Resource Center Interbilim and Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan, to conduct organizational development assessment, and design capacity building plan, which will be used as a basis to develop long-term proposal for an institutional grant. Grant funds intended to cover administrative costs and programmatic expenses. The project was co-financed with EU funds.

Bishkek Interbilim, Bishkek. \$4595.40 to provide NGOs, CBOs, and communities of Bishkek with technical assistance, inclusive of delivering consultations, coaching, 3 training workshops, round tables and information support within 3 months through Bishkek CSSC. Short-term agreement was made to establish creative partnership between Resource Center Interbilim and Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan, to conduct organizational development assessment and to design capacity building plan, based on which the CSSC will develop long-term proposal for an institutional grant. Grant funds covered administrative and programmatic costs.

Foundation For Tolerance International Batken, Batken. \$3816.60 to provide NGOs, CBOs, and communities of Batken Oblast with technical assistance, inclusive of delivering consultations, coaching, 3 training workshops, round tables and information support within 3 months through Batken CSSC. Short-term agreement was made to establish creative partnership between Foundation For Tolerance International and Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan, to conduct organizational development assessment and to design capacity building plan, based on which the CSSC will develop long-term proposal for an institutional grant. Grant funds covered administrative and programmatic costs. The project was co-financed with EU funds.

Jalal-Abad NGO SC, Jalal-Abad. \$5372.30 to provide NGOs, CBOs, and communities in Jalal-Abad oblast with technical assistance, inclusive of delivering consultations, coaching, 3 training workshops, round tables and information support within 3 months through Jalal-Abad CSSC. Short-term agreement was made to establish creative partnership between Jalal-Abad NGO SC and Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan, to conduct organizational development assessment and to design capacity building plan, which will be used by the CSSC to develop long-term proposal for an institutional grant. Project was co-financed by UNHCR.

ISC Consulting, Kara-Balta. \$2403.65 to provide NGOs, CBOs, and communities of Western Chui Oblast with technical assistance, inclusive of delivering consultations, coaching, 3 training workshops, round tables and information support within 3 months through Kara-Balta CSSC. Short-term agreement was made to establish creative partnership between ISC Consulting and Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan, to conduct organizational development assessment and to design capacity building plan, which will be used by the CSSC to develop long-term proposal for an institutional grant. Project was co-financed by UNHCR.

Alga, Kant. \$1171.53 to provide NGOs, CBOs, and communities of Eastern Chui Oblast with technical assistance, inclusive of delivering consultations, coaching, 3 training workshops, round tables and information support within 3 months through Kant CSSC. Short-term agreement was made to establish creative partnership between Alga and Counterpart Consortium Kyrgyzstan, to conduct organizational development assessment and to design capacity building plan, which will be used by the CSSC to develop long-term proposal for Institutional grant. Project was co-financed by UNHCR and EU.

CPF Grants

137 projects from all Oblasts of the country were submitted to the second CPF review; deadline for submitting proposals was November 2, 2000. 10 projects were rejected in pre-screening process, the CPF members reviewed 127 projects, and 29 projects were approved at the grant review meeting held on February 28, 2001, total awarded sum was \$66,439.00. Thus, 64 projects totaling \$125,129 were approved under the CPF grant program.

Turkmenistan

CSSC Institutional Grants

Three Institutional grants were awarded to Civil Society Support Centers in Dashoguz, Mary and Lebap this quarter:

- \$12,422 for institutional grant TU2001-004 for *Mary SC* to implement the Program of Civil Society and NGO Development in the Central Asia region, and with UNHCR to develop the capacity of local NGOs and associations dealing with refugees, and to assist refugees to develop income generation activities for refugees.
- \$11,936 for institutional grant TU2001-005 for *Lebap SC* to implement the Program of Civil Society and NGO Development in the Central Asia region, and with UNHCR to develop the capacity of local NGOs and associations dealing with refugees, and to assist refugees to develop income generation activities for refugees.
- \$19,994 for institutional grant TU2001-006 for *Dashoguz SC* to implement the Program of Civil Society and NGO Development in the Central Asia region, based on: OD assessment; capacity building plan development; and development of an action plan.

The Grant Manager and OD Specialist carried out conflict mediation between grantee *Green Team* (Project #TU99-031) and the Turkmen State University where their office was located. University authorities attempted to confiscate their equipment and use it for University purposes, based on a misunderstanding that the equipment was university property. The equipment was temporarily returned to the Counterpart office until the NGO resolved the issue of where they would move their office. Counterpart added the additional condition that a contract with the new landlord would be submitted to Counterpart with the explicit agreement that the equipment belonged to the NGO and would not be claimed by the landlord. The NGO successfully concluded a contract with National Institute of Sport and Tourism of Turkmenistan and the equipment is now effectively being used in their new premises.

Uzbekistan

CSSC Institutional Grants

On January 11, 2001 three short-term agreements have been signed. Total amount of approved agreements is \$8,033.00. These agreements are signed under assessment and planning period to develop a partnership plan between NGO and Counterpart Consortium UZBEKISTAN within the framework of the Program of Civil Society and NGO Development in the Central Asian Region. During this quarter two branches of Nukus and Kokand Support Centers together with the partner Bukhara Informational and Cultural Center provided 9 main services and work on Makhalla Initiative Program as well. In these three months in-depth organizational development assessments have been conducted. Budgets for long term agreements are being drafted on the basis of the support centers' capacity building and service delivery action plans.

Focus Grants

Focus Grant Agreements were signed on January 19, 2001. During the reception organized to mark the event, the Hon. John Edward Herbst, US Ambassador to Uzbekistan awarded the agreements to Focus NGO representatives. USAID representatives in Uzbekistan were also present. During the free discussion the focus NGOs had the opportunity to introduce their projects and two years strategic plans to the ambassador. Total amount of approved agreements is \$51,301.11. They are

- **Fergana Regional Center of Social-Legal Support of Women and Teenagers "ISHONCH".** \$11,949.00 was awarded for creation of non-governmental non-commercial organizations in the Fergana region like crisis centers to work among people to improve legal education, prevent different diseases and other negative cases in the society, and to raise women's status.
- **Umidvorlik – Center for the support of disabled children and their families, Tashkent.** \$10,034.00 was awarded to establish an informational-consultative center for families with disabled members in order to render them psychological and legal support for further adaptation and integration into society.
- **Kokand Branch of the Uzbekistan Business Women's Association "Tadbirkor Ayol".** \$9,118.11 was granted for the education of members of self-governed organizations and rural communities in Kokand city and 8 regions of Fergana oblast for two programs: 1) Promotion of democratic reforms is the guarantee of creating a strong civil society; and 2) Promotion of conditions for creation of financial and organizational sustainability of those organizations.
- **UMID, International Rehabilitation Center, Samarkand.** \$9,960.00 was awarded to create a network of consulting rooms of social legal support in Samarkand, Kashkadarya, Navoi and Djizak provinces.
- **Avitsenna, Association of Pediatricians, Bukhara.** \$10,240.00 was awarded for development of a network of branches of the association of pediatricians in two regions of Uzbekistan - Bukhara and Navoi - in order to involve people in health education, to improve their quality of life, and to render medical services.

TRAINING MATRIX

Kazakhstan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	NGO & Community	7	103	130	42	88
2.	NGO Management	2	32	37	17	20
3.	Project Design	2	34	50	15	35
4.	Public Education through the Media	1	15	21	7	14
5.	Human Resource Management	1	14	18	5	13
6.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	2	32	45	11	34
7.	Constituency Building	1	13	21	7	14
8.	Training of Trainers (TOT)	1	15	17	10	7
9.	Press Conference	1	14	20	6	14
	Total	18	272	359	120	239
Kyrgyzstan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	NGO & Community	13	198	279	132	147
2.	Project Design	12	157	205	93	102
3.	Fundraising	1	15	22	14	8
4.	Volunteer Management	2	24	32	11	21
	Total	28	394	538	250	278
Tajikistan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	NGO & Community	22	243	384	176	208
2.	NGO Management	7	75	119	64	55
3.	Project Design	10	122	166	94	72
4.	Strategic Planning	4	50	67	27	40
5.	Public Education through the Media	1	8	11	2	9
6.	Fundraising	3	39	49	16	33
7.	Association Development	1	10	14	6	8
8.	Advocacy	1	8	12	7	5
9.	Human Resource Management	1	15	16	6	10
10.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	15	16	8	8
11.	Social Partnership	1	10	16	8	8
	Total	52	595	870	414	456

Turkmenistan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	NGO & Community	8	60	113	51	62
2.	NGO Management	4	38	44	15	29
3.	Project Design	3	24	41	10	31
4.	Fundraising	1	13	13	5	8
5.	Association Development	1	9	12	6	6
6.	Efficient Governance of NGO	1	5	8	1	7
7.	Participatory Community Appraisal	1	10	20	7	13
8.	Newsletters development	1	7	10	2	8
9.	Use of Information Resources Internet	1	7	10	5	5
10.	TTAP	3	4	35	9	26
	Total	24	177	306	111	195
Uzbekistan						
#	Module	# of workshops	# of NGOs	# of Participants	# of Men	# of Women
1.	NGO & Community	2	35	45	15	30
2.	Project Design	1	13	16	3	13
3.	Public Education through the Media	1	15	19	4	15
4.	Fundraising	2	31	39	12	27
5.	Advocacy	1	15	19	4	15
6.	Team Building/Conflict Resolution	1	16	21	5	16
7.	NGO and Community (adapted)	1	3	16	1	15
8.	Volunteer Management	1	15	21	5	16
	Total	10	143	196	49	147

WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

WATER USER'S ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS

Project Activities

January was the final month of the Water Users' Association Project. The Water User's Association, now called Sary Gymush, is now an independent, registered local organization. The emphasis in the last four weeks of the WUA project was on handing off the internal daily operations to local staff. In addition, the management of the overall 14,034 member association was transferred to the 9 person Management Board and Director. Below is a brief overview of the last month of the project; a comprehensive final report will follow.

WUA Management Board Orientation

The orientation process of the Management Board members initiated last quarter gave way to more substantive discussion and decision making by the group and project staff this quarter. The discussions focused mostly on finalizing the documents for registration and budgeting issues. With the end of the project in sight, the deputy director in close consultation with Management Board members determined staffing needs beyond the end of the project including hiring a part-time mechanic, accountant and two additional drivers. Existing staff also anticipated a severe cut in salary but still felt that the additional staff should be hired to cover operational needs of the association. It will be two or three months before the organization's income and expenditure flows stabilize as the fourth truck was still not fully operational by the end of January. At that point the director and Management Board will be able to develop a realistic budget and estimate operating costs.

General Meeting of the Association

There was General Meeting this quarter for the Association. At this meeting the members of the Management Board and the staff were equally active in providing information on issues of membership, budgeting, next steps for the organization after the project closed, explaining the drivers' schedules and codes of conduct, and relations with the water plant. Several people stood and expressed gratitude (some in the form of poems) to Counterpart Consortium and USAID for the dedication and support they experienced over the course of the project.

Registration of the Association

Towards the end of the project, a lawyer was hired to finalize all of the registration documents and shepherd the documents through the Registration Chamber of Dashoguz and Ashgabad. The project staff decided it would be preferable to hire a lawyer to handle this process rather than try to walk the documents through themselves because of the unpredictability of registration procedures for cooperatives and businesses¹.

Relations with local authorities

In early January, the project director and staff met with both the local hyakim and deputy hyakim of Turkmenbashi etrap. At the end of the last quarter, the hyakim and many of the local archins were changed following the disappointing cotton harvest. The meeting with the hyakim focused on introducing the project to this relative outsider who hails from Dashoguz city and to gauge the new political climate for the soon to be independent organization. The meeting went very positively and the hyakim was openly supportive of Counterpart Consortium's work on the water users' project as well as under the UNICEF project. In fact, he even shared with us the renovations he has made to his personal bathroom

¹ As a epilogue to element of the project's localization, the organization, now named "Sary Gymush" received official registration in late March as an "Хозяйственное Общество" (hazaistveneye obshestva) which is the equivalent of a cooperative. Such registration gives juridical status, a stamp and rights to open a bank account. The "water users' cooperative" is registered at the Registration Chamber of Dashoguz, Velayet, which is under the Central Registration Chamber of Turkmenistan which is under SAFI (State Agency of Foreign Investment)

and office to show solidarity with us in our commitment to improve the living and sanitation conditions of the residents Turkmenbashi etrap. The staff requested that it be made clear in the meeting that the expat director and Counterpart/USAID still have a significant role in the further development of the water users' organization as they fear total "independence" might make them vulnerable to co-opting by local authorities. During ensuing visits to the project site, the expat director makes a point of visiting local authorities to keep them abreast of Counterpart Consortium's work with the water users' organization and other projects in the etrap.

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 (a concrete, aboveground cistern) serves as a basic building block activity of the community organizing efforts under the WUA project. Presently the total number of people actually receiving water through participating in the project is 14,034. During the quarter, there was 1 "Project" meeting², with 43 delegates attending.

Community Meetings and Consultations

During the quarter, the WUA project staff carried out 12 full community meetings and approximately 21 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, 12 NGO-related consultations took place at the WUA office between October and December.

New and Existing Water Committees

Over the three months, 1 new community invited the WUA staff to present our activities; and 1 new water committee was formed, through open election, by community members. Under the project 46 water committees have been formed in participating communities. At present 37 water committees actively participate in "Project" meetings and their communities drink water under the project. The remaining 9 committees have stalled at an early stage of the process showing little interest in moving ahead or are waiting for available mini-grant funds to move ahead with serdop construction.

Mini-grants

Mini-grants were not awarded during January because the mini-grant fund was closed at the end of 2000³. In all 131 serdops were built under the mini-grant program which made it possible for 14,034 residents of Turkmenbashi etrap or approximately 13% of the entire population of the etrap to receive a safe and regular supply of drinking water.

² "Project" meetings serve as a general meeting for the members of the water committees and water users to assemble. Such a forum will eventually become the general meetings of the cooperative now that it is registered as an independent entity.

³ As epilogue to the mini-grant program, in February the local water users' organization, "Sary Gymush", gave two mini grants for 6 serdops using the money that previous grantees returned to the serdop mini-grant fund. This inter-village transfer of resource has become the mechanism for continuing the mini-grant program and demonstrates the commitment of the organization to increase its services and members to secure sustainability.

Follow-up Steps with the former WUA project

Counterpart Consortium Turkmenistan and the staff and Management Board of the former WUA project which is now named Sary Gymush have definite plans for future cooperation:

1. Sary Gymush is a target NGO under Phase III for capacity building and strengthening their community outreach activities;
2. Two staff members participated in the PCA orientation and field training and there are plans to hold two PCAPs in the etrap in the coming months;
3. Sary Gymush is presently developing a project proposal to submit to Counterpart Consortium to serve as an informational point and community outreach organization activity participating in the PCAP process with initiative groups in local villages
4. Sary Gymush worked with the CSSC staff in Dashoguz to submit a project proposal to CIDA and receive \$1900 to continue the revolving cistern fund for the next 3 months. Currently the Counterpart staff is providing consultations to the Sary Gymush staff and assisting them to develop a fundraising plan for the organization.
5. Sary Gymush community outreach workers will transfer their skills in community mobilization to NGO representatives and Support Center staff as the office and etrap will be the location of practical field exercises and training under the Community outreach program.

LEGAL MATERIALS PROVIDED BY ICNL

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

General Articles and Information

- The Checklist for NPO laws
- *The World Bank's Handbook on Good Practices for Laws Relating to Non-commercial Organizations* – **Please, note that the revised and updated edition of the Handbook is available at ICNL's website at www.icnl.org**
- 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
- *Self-regulation in Non-Commercial Sector*. Cathy Shea, ICNL, 2000
- *Commentary to the Draft Tax Code by Vadim Nee*, *Legal Reform in Kazakhstan magazine*, *Interlegal*. August 2000
- *The Regulation of the NGO in Central Asia: Current Reforms and Ongoing Problems*, The Harvard Asia Quarterly, Summer 2000
- *Field Report: Kazakhstan Takes Step in Fiscal Reform for NGOs*, The Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, Central Asia/Caucasus Analyst, February 2, 2000
- *Field Report: Kyrgyzstan Adopts Most Progressive NGO Law in NIS*, The Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, Central Asia/Caucasus Analyst, January 19, 2000
- *President Signs Long-Awaited NGO Law: "On Non-Commercial Organizations"*
- The Globe (Central Asian regional newspaper), November 2, 1999
- *New Law in Uzbekistan: Law on Non-governmental, Non-commercial Organizations*, The Times of Central Asia, May 20, 1999
- Richard Remias also writes various country-reports on legislative reforms in Central Asia available at <http://www.icnl.org> and in the International Journal for Not-for-Profit Law (IJNL)

Taxation Issues

- *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)

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

Social Partnership

- Comparative Analysis and laws on Social Partnership issues. Caroline Newman, ICNL, 2000

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

Foundations

- Estonian Law on Non-Commercial Organizations (drafted with assistance from ICNL)
- Translation of the *Comparative Review of Laws on Foundations*, article by Tymen J. van der Ploeg, *Voluntas*, International Journal of Voluntary and Non-Profit Organizations, 6/3
- Slovenian Law on Foundations, 1985
- Slovakian Law on Foundations, 1996
- Finnish Law on Foundations, 1930
- Polish Law on Foundations, 1984
- Russian Draft Law on Foundation

Project Specific Analyses

- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan NGO Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Tax Code
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Analysis of Cultural Associations Law
- ICNL List--Problems with Kazakhstan Legislation
- ICNL Analysis of Kazakhstan Draft Charity Law
- ICNL Commentary and Proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code (1)
- ICNL Commentary and Proposals on Kyrgyz Tax Code (2)
- ICNL Analysis and Recommendations to Kyrgyzstan Law on NGOs (ongoing with more than 8 different versions)
- ICNL Analysis of Kyrgyzstan Charity Draft Law (Summer 1999)
- ICNL Analysis of Adopted Kyrgyzstan Charity Law (Spring 2000)
- ICNL Suggested Provisions to Kyrgyzstan NGO Draft Law
- ICNL Recommendations to Uzbekistan Draft NGO Law (on-going with more than 8 different versions – Fall 1998 to Summer 1999)
- ICNL Analysis of Uzbekistan Tax Code (Summer 1998)
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Draft Law on Public Associations
- ICNL Recommendations to Tajikistan Civil Code
- ICNL Commentary to Turkmenistan Civil Code (Winter 1998-99)
- ICNL Comments to Draft Tax Code Kazakhstan (1)
- ICNL Comments to Draft Tax Code Kazakhstan (2)
- ICNL Comments to Draft Tax Code Kazakhstan (3)
- ICNL Analysis: Tax Changes of December 10, 1999
- ICNL Comments to Adopted NGO Law Kazakhstan (1)
- ICNL Comments to Adopted NGO Law Kazakhstan (2)
- ICNL Analysis of Proposed Humanitarian Aid Law, Kyrgyzstan