
THE COUNTERPART

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

QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1 – March 31, 2002

Submitted to USAID/CAR

COUNTERPART International, Inc.

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

**36 Zhandosov Street
Almaty, Kazakhstan
Tel: 7-3272-50-19-50
Fax: 7-3272-50-19-49**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL	1
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	1
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	1
C. HUB CENTER ACTIVITY OVERVIEW	14
• Regional Overview	14
• Kazakhstan	17
• Kyrgyzstan	20
• Tajikistan	24
• Turkmenistan	27
• Uzbekistan	29
D. CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTERS OVERVIEW	33
• Kazakhstan	33
• Kyrgyzstan	40
• Tajikistan	50
• Turkmenistan	54
• Uzbekistan	58
E. FOCUS NGO OVERVIEW	70
• Kazakhstan	70
• Kyrgyzstan	73
• Tajikistan	75
• Turkmenistan	77
• Uzbekistan	81
F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	82
G. LEVERAGING	86
H. LESSONS LEARNED	87
II. SECTOR SPECIFIC SUPPORT: INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW	89
A. PROJECT PURPOSE	89
B. PROJECT IMPACTS	89
C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW	92
D. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION	103
E. LEVERAGING	107

**ATTACHMENTS
TABS FOR QUARTERLY REPORT**

1. GRANT-RELATED ACTIVITIES
2. TRAINING MATRIX

I. BROAD SECTOR SUPPORT: COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart project component is:

Increase informed citizen participation in political and economic decision-making.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

KAZAKHSTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Diabetic Support Network Increases and Strengthens its Capacity

Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (DARK), an association of non-profit organizations who provide services to people with diabetes, had been working over the past five years without sharing information among its members or providing membership services from the Almaty office. In January 2001, Counterpart conducted an assessment and analysis of *DARK*'s organizational capacity when the latter was selected as a focus NGO. With the assistance of Counterpart's OD consultants, *DARK* set out key strategic goals and developed an action plan aimed at improving communication among Association members and developing service capacity through training, consultations and provision of membership services by the Almaty office. In accordance with the action plan, 25 representatives of member-NGOs participated in Counterpart trainings in *Project Design, Team Building and Conflict Resolution*, and *Association Development*. Following the training in *Association Development*, Counterpart's OD Consultant co-facilitated a meeting of *DARK*'s hub staff and leaders of *DARK* member organizations, following which a member service information package was developed. *DARK*'s office now provides reviews and updates of country legislation, information on new medical treatments and medication for diabetes, and useful international contacts as part of a membership service package. Also, with advice of Counterpart consultants, *DARK* designed a project aimed at developing the sustainability of its members. Under this project, funded by Soros Foundation Kazakhstan, *DARK* has conducted capacity building consultations for its members in Astana, Petropavlovsk and Kokshetau. As a result, effective communication among the regional members and the Almaty office takes place on regular basis, and *DARK*'s members have become more proactive in delivering services to their beneficiaries without waiting for instructions from the Almaty office. *DARK*'s image among organizations dealing with diabetes has improved, and membership is up 25% from 16 to 20 organizations.

NGO Raised \$86,000 for Pensioner Lunch Program

In early 2001 Alla Pustorzhevskaya, a pensioner, appealed to the Astana CSSC to assist elderly people in the community in their day-to-day activities. Ms. Pustorzhevskaya, as the leader of the NGO *Pensioners Society of Astana*, attended several Counterpart trainings at the Astana CSSC including Volunteer Management, NGO Management, Financial Management and other seminars. The knowledge and skills Ms. Pustorzhevskaya acquired at these trainings helped her and her NGO to conduct a successful fundraising campaign, which attracted \$86,000 for pensioners from the Almaty Merchant Bank. The NGO has used this financing to institute a meal program for 360 of Astana's most vulnerable pensioners. The NGO will provide free lunches at the Vesta Café every other day for one year.

Volunteerism

Volunteerism Movement's Future in Ust-Kamenogorsk

The problem of volunteer development exists in many organizations in the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk because organizations lack knowledge and skills for recruiting and retaining volunteers. To address the need, Counterpart's CSSC *ZUBR* conducted a conference on "Volunteerism Movement's Future in Ust-

Kamenogorsk” in November 2001 for 80 people from 20 NGOs, 4 schools, and 3 institutes. As a result, 4 NGOs (*Bibi-Ana, Elita Plus, Home Proprietors Cooperatives’ Association, and Youth Informational Service of Kazakhstan*) and the CSSC’s four volunteers established a Volunteer Center. To date, the Center has designed a training program for volunteers, developed standards of volunteer work, and designed events for a “Day of Youth Service” to be held in April. The four NGOs involved in the Volunteer Center have lead the way for changing attitudes towards volunteers.

Social Partnership

Social Partnership Helps Single Mothers to Solve Their Problems

There were no organizations to address and solve problems of single mothers and their families in Aktobe. *SMEDA*’s volunteer, Alima Abdirova learned how to manage an NGO and advocate for socially vulnerable groups through Counterpart trainings such as *NGO & Community, NGO Management, Fundraising, Social Partnership, and Advocacy*. She established the NGO *Aru Ana* with its mission to support single mothers and their children. The NGO started its activity by organizing a seminar on the problems of single mothers. Participants included 30 women and heads of all departments of the Justice Administration. At the seminar they discussed issues devoted to women’s influence on and participation in public life, as well as ways to support women. After the seminar the Justice Administration and the Health Care Department started conducting seminars and consulting women on juridical issues. Due to the partnership with these departments, two women found jobs, one child was admitted to kindergarten, and 12 children were admitted to the rehabilitation center *Ak Bobek*.

NGOs and Government Officials Work Together

The Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan in partnership with *The Association of NGOs of Kostanai Oblast*, and a number of Counterpart grantees, conducted a Social Partnership training for regional NGOs. At this training, a special request was drafted and delivered to the Oblast Akim to create a special committee that would serve as a coordinating body between governmental authorities and NGOs. The Oblast Akim agreed to the request and created The Committee on Cooperation of Executive and Representative Branches of Power with NGOs on February 8th 2002 at the session of Oblast Maslikhat. The committee will publicize and coordinate social programs conducted in the oblast, assist NGOs in solving their problems, and provide for additional resources within the oblast budget. A program for the committee has since developed which includes work in such areas as poverty alleviation, community mobilization and the establishment of local grant committees. Counterpart’s techniques and training modules in Participatory Community Appraisal, Community Action Plan Development, and guidelines for conducting grant committees will be used within the framework of the program. The main function of this program will be awarding grants to important social projects developed by local NGOs.

Advocacy

Association of Children’s rights protection conducted advocacy campaign for Parents’ Public Funds

Limited budgeting is the problem facing the majority of Kazakstan schools and is resulting in falling educational standards. This situation forced parents of various Almaty schools to organize the group *Parents’ Public Funds*, which began financing additional classes and overtime pay for teachers. The Department of Education wanted to control those financial flows and the work of the Parents’ Public Funds and began putting pressure on school principals and arresting school accounts. In order to resolve the conflict the *Association of Children’s Rights Protection* turned to *Zhargas-Counterpart* and its partner NGO *Legal Initiative*. After trainings and consultations in *NGO and Community, Project Design, Social Partnership* and *Advocacy*, the *Association* and *Parents’ Public Funds* took the following steps:

- Conducted a conference devoted to the situation with Parents Public Funds with participation of The City Department on Education, school principals, parents and international organizations (Soros, UNICEF) in Autumn 2001.

- Negotiated with the vice-minister on Education Mr. Zhumabekov and agreed to conduct a monitoring and evaluation process of *Fund* activities by the Department on Education.
- Held a round table to discuss the solution to the conflict with the City Akimat, NGOs, media, NGO Legal Initiative, the Department on Education, school principals, parents, City Office of Public Prosecutor, and Children's Library named after Begalin in November 2001. *Zhalgas-Counterpart* and *Legal Initiative* provided legal expertise to the round table.
- After the round table The City Office of Public Prosecutor conducted verification of *Parents' Public Funds* and helped them to document all necessary papers.

As a result of this campaign, the Department on Education changed its position and now allows schools to collaborate with funds. Currently, *Parents' Public Funds* resumed their support of extra curriculum activities in 45 schools around Almaty.

Kostanai Oblast NGOs Organize Advocacy Campaign

Historically NGOs have lacked the skills and collective action to engage local officials in the Kostanai Oblast in an organized and efficient manner. To address this deficiency, *The Association of NGOs of Kostanai Oblast* conducted several trainings for NGOs from the oblast on topics such as *Advocacy*, *Social Partnership*, and *NGO & Community*. Approximately 40 NGOs participated in the trainings that not only gave participants new skills, but also gave them the opportunity to network and devise a coalition strategy. An example of this occurred in December 2001 when the Kostanai local media reported that a railroad car filled with radioactive material was stationed in Kostanai oblast. In response to this story, 40 NGOs organized a meeting and gathered signatures to demand a response from The Emergency Committee concerning this situation. On behalf of the 40 NGOs, *The Association of NGOs of Kostanai Oblast* formally requested that The Emergency Committee present detailed information on current and future radioactive material location. The Committee agreed to this request. The positive outcome of this event attracted the attention of trade unions, the Veteran council, businesses and other public institutions that expressed interest in working together to solve similar public interest dilemmas. The Association has since devised procedures of urgent notification of NGOs and their mobilization for the protection of citizen interests in the future.

Community Mobilization

PCA Methodology Leads to Business Support

The lack of financial resources led to bad conditions in the local Oncological Dispensary and weak polyclinic services. The NGO *Together Against Cancer*, which is closely working with the Dispensary, applied to the CSSC *IRIS* for help in learning about methods of attracting resources. They participated in trainings such as *Participatory Community Appraisal* and *Fundraising*. The organization, together with *IRIS*, conducted an appraisal of community members, including doctors, nurses, patients, and patients' families. Based on the problems revealed they developed a community action plan for reaching stated goals. The organization conducted a fundraising campaign among businesses and received \$591 in the form of furnishings from the Japanese IHI, and \$330 in the form of a TV-set, a video tape recorder and chairs from the company STEK. As the result the clinic has improved its material and technical base and is now organizing a video hall where popular science films on modern methods of cancer treatment, new medicines, and programs of psychological relief will be shown.

Community of Disabled People of Kostanai Protects Rights

Hard social and economic realities of today's life lead to liquidation or reduction of privileges in social sphere and they are negatively influencing the life of disadvantaged people of Kostanai city where large numbers of disabled and their families live. So far 355 Kostanai blind people have no opportunities to improve their well-being and there were not any prospects for their families. Due to participation in trainings held by *Kostanai CSSCs*, the *NGO Youth Support Association* was able to conduct participatory appraisal in the blind people's community and to develop a community action plan for solving problems.

During appraisal several problems such as lack of security when crossing the streets, expensive fares for municipal transport and lack of possibilities to get higher education for disabled children were identified. The development of the community action plan was a cause for choosing an initiative group which together with *NGO Youth Support Association and Kostanai CSSC* took actions to lobby for rights, i.e. several meetings with city maslikhat deputies and city akimat representatives were held, public hearings devoted to the issues of disadvantaged people were conducted. The result of common efforts was that the city authorities granted free of charge fare for I and II-grade groups of blind invalids in municipal transport, the buses started announcing bus stops through the radio, traffic lights began to be accompanied with voice signals. Moreover 10 blind disabled children graduated from schools were enrolled to the local university.

PCA Techniques Help Communities Improve Their Lives

Inhabitants of one dormitory deal with continual maintenance problems like messes in the courtyard, porches falling into disrepair, garbage removal, and inability to pay for public utilities. N.G. Sukhanov, a local maslikhat's deputy responsible for the region where the dormitory is located, has turned to Kostanai CSSC with the request to train initiative citizens in PCA methodology and developing a community action plan (CAP). CSSC conducted 3 PCAs and the community developed CAP based on results of these PCAs. The PCA techniques helped mobilize people and find ways of solving problems: they established a self-governing active group consisting of a dormitory supervisor, porch supervisor and floor supervisors. In addition to responsibilities for keeping cleanliness and order in the dormitory, the active group helped 4 people to arrange housing welfare (10 people are in the process of application for welfare), 1 woman to receive direct social aid (5 people are in the process of application), and 1 disabled person to change his 3rd group of disablement to the 2nd one in the Medical Labor Expert Committee, which will allow him to receive a higher disability pension.

KYRGYZSTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

More than 2,000 Inhabitants of Issyk-Kul Now Access Pure Drinking Water

In the village of *Boz-Beshik*, one of the remote settlements of Jety-Oguz Rayon in the Issyk-Kul Oblast, there was a problem with pure drinking water supply for the past nine years. 2,020 villagers were compelled to use key and irrigation ditch water at the distance of 2- 2.5 kms from the village. Mostly children suffered, since they carried water on foot to their houses. To address this problem the Public Association *Ak-Kuduk* took the initiative, but they lacked skills in project design and mobilization of the population. Participation of *Association* leaders in Counterpart trainings such as *Project Design, Fundraising, and Team Building and Conflict Resolution*, as well as follow-up consulting services provided by the Center resulted in the *Association* getting grant support from Soros Foundation worth \$3,000. Further participation in CSSC trainings and consultations allowed the *Association* to successfully implement the *SOS! Pure Drinking Water*. Moreover, the *Association* was effective at mobilizing citizens in support of its activities. The inhabitants of Orgochor village administration are looking for ways to solve problems with water supply by building an independent canal using the positive experience of the *Association*. Also it is important to note, that the grant influenced the organization *Association* itself, it gained great prestige, that was immediately reflected in election of the village monitor from among the members of the organization.

Farmers Successfully Apply Revolving Credit Mechanism

In Talas Oblast, the families, that received land shares formed small peasant farms. The farms were isolated and it was impossible for each farm to receive credit separately. As a result, they formed a union of small-scale farms and established the *Rural Consumer Cooperative (RCC)* for receiving credits. The *Union of Talas Oblast Farmers*, after participating in Counterpart training workshops, consultations and technical support, conducted educational seminars on formation of RCC. Six RCCs were formed with involvement of 72 small peasant farms: three in Talas (two in Bakai-Ata and one in Kara-Bura Rayons).

As a result the RCC was registered in the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Justice and all 72 peasant farms received credits in the sum of \$40,000 from the *Kyrgyz Agricultural Financial Corporation* in 1999. In one and a half years all members of the RCC returned 100 % of the credits and in 2001 received twice the level of credit (\$80,000) for two and a half years. Each family improved its living standard, and some farmers planned to form individual farms after completion of the second phase of crediting and to receive credit for the larger sums with the goal of expansion of economic activity and increase of profitability.

Public Association Bukamal Attracts Funds

The public association *Bukamal* was working in the Leilek Rayon for only one year, nevertheless, to date there were a lot of positive changes. The *Republican Reserve Fund* entrusted the organization to distribute wheat for the needy and the staff members of *Bukamal* provided consultative support on many issues to the population. The staff members did everything on a voluntary basis, but the organization required financial support for providing concrete assistance for a larger quantity of people. The staff members of the NGO participated in *Fundraising* and *Project Design* workshops at the CSSC. They also regularly communicated with the *Foundation for Tolerance International*. As a result the NGO, with the assistance of the CSSC, developed a project proposal *Legal School* with a total budget of \$2,529. The Soros Foundation approved \$1,890 of funding for this project. According to the project proposal the staff members will train parents and teachers on children's rights. The contribution of the organization was \$639. It was the first project of the NGO approved by donors and the financial support of the *Soros Foundation* was the largest success for this young organization so far.

Advocacy

Adoption of Kyrgyzstan Legislation "About Basics of Social Service in the Kyrgyz Republic"

The Kyrgyz Republic was without law promoting the development of social services, resulting in need for the creation of legislation for establishment of a modern system of social services for the population of the country, that was necessary for protection of vulnerable groups of population in the Republic. For coordinating development of a legislation project, an organizational committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health Care, Ministry of Labor and Social protection, Ministry of Ecology, regional departments of social protection, 5 NGOs, Bishkek Humanitarian University and a representative of the Moscow Social-Technology Institute was formed. The members of the Association of the Kyrgyz Republic Social Workers, having taken part in training workshops of Counterpart *Project Design* and *Fundraising* designed the project "About basics of social services for the population of Kyrgyz Republic". Counterpart approved the project proposal with \$4,700 in funding. The members of the Association were the initiators and the most active designers of the law draft. The commission met 5 times a year to discuss various questions. Before being submitted the law was discussed by 40 NGOs, 7 regional departments of employment and 56 regional branches of departments of Social Protection and Employment of the population. As a result the Law was adopted at the session of Jogorky Kenesh on November 19, 2001 in the second reading and was signed by the President on December 19, 2001.

Community Mobilization

Citizens Solve Bridge Problems

The village *Kuu-Maidan* with 740 households was divided into three sites: Juktu, Medrese and Kocho Bashi. A large ditch three meters wide and two and a half meters deep was formed between these sites because of the frequent mudflow from spring showers. There is a single bridge, which connects the inhabitants of the three sites. Two years ago that bridge was destroyed by the mudflows. Despite the large danger, the villagers continued to pass through the bridge or directly through that ditch in order to get to the other site of the village. It was inconvenient especially for the villagers during the frequent mudflows. In the first water project, village inhabitants were actively involved and realized they could solve problems themselves without waiting for help from the government. For the solution of the destroyed bridge problem the villagers held a meeting and decided to repair the bridge collectively. For purchase of

the necessary building materials the villagers made contributions of \$251, the contribution of the village administration was \$210. The villagers repaired the bridge within 20 days by the end of November 2001. Now the inhabitants of the three sites of Kuu-Maidan have safe passage. The solution of the problem in question with mobilization and efforts of the villagers served as an example for the neighboring villages. For instance, the villagers of the neighboring site Bashi are planning to construct a sports hall for their school themselves.

Initiative Group Aigul-Tash attracts funds

An initiative group in *Aigul-Tash* village was formed in March 2001 at the general meeting of the community to discuss community problems and possible solutions. After being trained and consulted by staff members of the Batken CSSC, two projects were designed by the initiative group and the community: one is to provide villagers with drinking water, the second is to repair a school and build a meeting hall as an extension to the school. Both projects are wrapping up, but the initiative group did not stop. They have attracted additional funds for the local school in the form of educational-methodical literature worth \$245 from the Soros Foundation. These books were necessary since parents couldn't afford to buy the required textbooks for their children. Today the members of initiative group are working on developing and designing other project ideas aimed at solving the essential problems in the village.

TAJIKISTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Fidokor Increases its Capacity in Microfinance

NGO *Fidokor* is a Counterpart target NGO and runs the CSSC in Kurghon-teppa. *Fidokor* wrote and received an NGO Support Grant from Counterpart to provide 40 small loans of \$100 each to needy families in two target communities of the Vakhsh District. *Fidokor* has disbursed 26 out of the 40 loans to needy families. This is *Fidokor's* first foray into microfinance and they are making progress in loan selection, bookkeeping and ensuring the project's sustainability. Four of *Fidokor's* members have taken trainings on microfinance organized by other institutions. Examples of loan activities include cultivation of personal plots for producing agricultural products, setting up a small bakery, and small trade (buying/selling) business. Recently Mercy Corps International offered *Fidokor* a new project which would entail managing a \$60,000 loan portfolio. Implementation of micro-finance projects was *Fidokor's* task for sustainability according to its Strategic Plan for Organizational and Service Delivery Capacity.

Volunteerism

New Approach to Volunteer Development

The volunteer movement is in its early stages of development in many areas of Tajikistan. The Khujand CSSC has launched a new approach to volunteer development, which will significantly contribute to Counterpart's Community Outreach Program. Through an announcement in local media publications, the CSSC has invited volunteers to compete for 30 positions, which include a one-month training program based on Counterpart's core training modules as well as a one-month practical internship at the Center. Upon completing the training and internship, the volunteers will be offered to local NGOs for recruitment. The training program for volunteers includes NGO and Community, Problem Identification, Volunteer Development, Project Design, Team Building, Conflict Resolution, Public Education through Media, NGO Management, and Fundraising. 30 people (mostly young people) who were selected on a competitive basis have taken the above mentioned above trainings and were assigned to different jobs in the Khujand CSSC. Four of them have already been recruited by local NGOs.

Social Partnership

Social Partnership Public Council Established in Kulob

Until recently, most local authorities in Kulob, Eastern Khatlon, have had a negative attitude towards NGOs and consider them in opposition to the Government. Since the Kulob CSSC started functioning in the city of Kulob in January 2001, the number of NGOs in this region increased from 30 to 50 and the

need for establishing a direct dialogue and positive partnership with the local government became evident. Due to the efforts of Kulob CSSC and the *Association of Journalists Social Partnership*, the first meeting of local NGOs and Kulob City's leadership was held this month. More than 50 representatives of local government, including the Mayor of Kulob, as well as representatives of local NGOs and the media participated in the meeting. The meeting resulted in establishing the Social Partnership Public Council, which is aimed at combining government and NGOs efforts in addressing the problems of the region. Representatives of both government and NGO sectors were elected to the Council. This meeting is seen as a significant event in promoting dialogue between NGOs and Government in Kulob and building a favorable environment for social partnership among the different sectors of society.

Badakhshan NGOs Initiate a Dialogue with the Governor of Oblast

Many NGOs in Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast (GBAO) had been having problems involving the local governments in their projects. NGOs *Madad* and *Bunyod*, working on community mobilization activities under the Counterpart program, were ignored when they tried to discuss implementation of their community projects with local government officials. With the assistance of the Khujand CSSC, they initiated a meeting of NGOs with the highest-level oblast officials. 20 NGO representatives, the Governor of GBAO and a number of oblast government officials participated in the meeting. The Governor noticed the increasing role and positive impact of NGOs in solving society's problems. The governor decreed that all local governments should cooperate with local NGOs. He also appointed one of his deputies as a contact person for NGOs and instructed all district level governments to collaborate with NGOs. Now NGOs in GBAO districts can freely approach government officials to discuss their issues.

Partnership, Coalition –Building and Association Development

A Coalition of NGOs Working with Communities Established in Tajikistan

Although there were a number of strong NGOs working with communities, there was no coordination or experience exchange among them. Recently seven NGOs: *Fidokor* (Kurghon-teppa), *Development Fund* (Khujand), *Fath* (Khujand), *Madad* (Khorog), *Women Center* (Kulob), *Chashma* (Shahritus) and *Nilufar* (Varzob) came together to create a Network of NGOs working with communities. The goal of the network is to coordinate activities among the NGOs working with communities and develop and implement joint programs. One of the examples of mutual cooperation between the members of the network is that *Fidokor*, through its program on training farmer associations, is planning to send twelve trainers to *Development Fund* in Khujand, which has a experience conducting trainings on Marketing and Micro financing in the agriculture sector. As a result of those trainings a module on Marketing and Micro financing will be developed. After their return, *Fidokor's* trainers along with two trainers from *Development Fund* will adopt that module to the Khatlon Province. Almost all the Network members are Counterpart's target NGOs and have received a great deal of trainings and technical assistance though the CSSCs.

Advocacy

The Human Rights Center in Sughd Defends NGO's Rights

There were a number of cases of Government officials interfering in NGOs business in many areas of Tajikistan. Recently, the Sughd Oblast Justice Department Employees illegally inspected *Fath* and withdrew their documents, including the NGO's Charter and the Grant Agreement with Eurasia Foundation, according to which Eurasia Foundation supports *Fath's* project on handicrafts development. *Fath* applied to Sughd Oblast Human Rights Center, who through its lawyer, Rawshanoy Mahkamova, fought the enormity and won the case. All the documents were returned. Moreover, *Fath* and Human Rights Center intend to make a complaint about Justice Department's illegal actions and send it to the Ministry of Justice. It was revealed that the Department's Deputy Chief was involved in crime as well. Human Rights Center was established in 2000 with the technical assistance of the Khujand CSSC. The members of the organization have participated in many of the trainings conducted by the Center.

Community Mobilization

Former Militants in Badakhshan Succeed in Establishing a Farm

Successful reintegration of former militants into normal life is a critical need for a peaceful Tajik society. Reintegration is particularly important in the mountainous Badakhshan region because of the high level of unemployment among the population. When *Kalam*, Counterpart's Partner in running the Khorog CSSC, conducted a PCA workshop with the *Tusiyon* community in Badakhshan, the community members identified unemployment among the former militants as a top priority problem for their community. Over 30 young people and former militants have become street criminal chiefs and their unlawful behavior is a concern within the community. As a result of the PCA workshop, an initiative group consisting of community activists and former militants was established to develop an action plan to address the problem. It was decided to create a farm for 30 former militants in one of the pastures of *Tusiyon*. The Aga Khan Foundation provided \$2,325 in funding to support this project. 100 sheep and goats were purchased for the farm and now these 30 young people have a source of income generation. Moreover, the group is planning to collect membership dues and use the money to provide small loans for its members. So far, they have collected 700 Somoni (\$272). The community members particularly noted the impact of Counterpart's PCA workshop in achieving the above-mentioned successes.

A CBO in Isfara Obtains Official Status

The community of *Tojikon* in the *Isfara* District is located in an enclave of the territory of Kyrgyzstan. The community faces many economic problems and, in addition, tensions with the neighboring Kyrgyz communities exist. To address those problems more effectively, a group of community activists decided to acquire legal status and get registered as an NGO. According to the leader of the new NGO, called *Adolat* (Justice), Counterpart's programs, particularly Community Reconciliation and Development Program, and *Khujand* CSSC's technical assistance made their achievements possible. Counterpart has since been working with this CBO through its Partner NGO *Ittifok*. In January *Adolat* became officially registered at the Justice Department of *Sughd* Oblast. Since registering as an NGO *Adolat*, together with *Ittifok*, has mobilized *Tojikon* members in reconstructing 7.5 kilometers of water furrow to provide 3,623 people of the community with irrigation water. *Adolat* is planning to address the problem of drinking water in this community as well. The NGO members are actively participating in NGO Management trainings conducted by the *Khujand* CSSC.

A Community in Khatlon Manages to Return an Occupied Building to the School

When *Fidokor*, Counterpart's partner NGO in *Kurghon-teppa*, conducted a Problem Identification session with the community *Yap* consisting of 600 families in *Vose* District of *Khatlon* Oblast, the community members identified bad condition of study in the local secondary school as a high priority problem. The situation was caused by the fact that a farming association had occupied a part of the school with the permission of local authorities. 350 out of 800 school students were thrown out on the street. In addition, the education process in the school became difficult. Since there were not enough classrooms, students had to study in several shifts and there was no room for additional activities. During the workshop the community members created an initiative group of five most active and influential people to lobby the issue of returning the school to whom it belongs to. The initiative group applied to local authorities as well as district and oblast level governments demanding the building's return to the school. As a result, the government officials not only returned the building, but also repaired it.

TURKMENISTAN

Sustainable Civil Society Organizations

Sustainable Income-Generation Strategy works for Turkmenabat NGO

Youth Center received a license to produce herbal medicines. In a small plot of its subsidiary farmland, the NGO grows 25 different herbs that are later sold in the local market. With technical assistance by the Counterpart *Lebap* CSSC, the NGO designed and started to issue informational leaflets and a newsletter on herbs and healthcare, which are distributed through the Support Center and in local schools and

hospitals. Well-organized PR activities resulted in more than \$400 income for the NGO last year. The income gave the NGO the opportunity to start free health training courses for 30 students of the Turkmen - Turkish high school on a weekly basis. Also, the NGO started tutorial classes for 12 school drop-outs from poor families who are planning to enter local universities.

Ikar, A Friend of Teenagers

With the closing down of the Dashoguz School of Music by local authorities, hundreds of local teenagers faced the problem of how to organize their leisure-time. In order to solve this problem, *Ikar*, from Dashoguz city, developed an action plan to organize training courses for youth. With a developed action plan, the NGO received grant support from Dashoguz Eco Club to rent a training room for a year and start training courses on “Psychology of Communication” for teenagers. The participation of NGO members in Counterpart organizational development trainings such as *NGO Management* and *Volunteer Management* resulted in the recruitment of trainers and the development of five training modules, including: “Eco Tourism”, “Biodiversification of Turkmenistan”, and “English classes”. Currently, more than 50 teenagers are regularly attending training courses organized by *Ikar*.

Volunteerism

Students for the Environment

Yashyl has no experience managing a large staff. This problem arose when the NGO conducted interactive trainings for schoolchildren in Ashgabat, after which many children expressed their wish to become a member of this environment protection-oriented NGO. Members of this NGO participated in Counterpart training on *Volunteer Management*. Knowledge gained at this training allowed the NGO to develop a strategy for creating volunteer teams. As a result, *Yashyl* recruited six volunteers to work in teams on various environmental activities around the city.

NGO Volunteers in Action

Counterpart’s “Best NGO” competition winner, *Lukman-Hekim* works to protect the rights of children sick with Infantile Cerebral Paralysis (ICP). The parents of these children have difficulties with the complicated bureaucratic system to enter their children into the special school for this condition in Ashgabat city. There was no Information Center that they could consult on special school facilities for their children. After participating in a Counterpart training on *Volunteer Management* the NGO developed an action plan to recruit volunteers who are familiar with the existing problem and motivated to assist children and their families. As a result, of the implementation of the action plan, the NGO recruited three doctors who now render free consultations to parents of children sick with ICP. Also, the Department of Neurology in the Children’s Hospital of Ashgabat signed an agreement with the NGO to provide immediate, free diagnostic assistance for sick children sent by the NGO to the Hospital. As a result, sick children from six families were accepted to the specialized school for children with ICP.

Social Partnership

Chesme and the Ministry of Education Work Together

In February, Counterpart grantee *Chesme* conducted a three-day seminar for 37 schoolteachers of Ashgabat with the participation of the Ministry of Education. After the seminar, the NGO received an official request to conduct such trainings for teachers in all regions of Turkmenistan. However, the request of the Ministry was unclear. After long negotiations with the Ministry, *Chesme* developed a series of teacher refresher courses on environmental protection and submitted an implementation plan to the Ministry. Recently, the Ministry officially adopted the training implementation plan of the NGO for 50 teachers from each of five regions of Turkmenistan. As a result of the courses, teachers will introduce into the Biology and Chemistry classes new information and activities received in training.

Partnership for Expansion of NGO's Program

Most Turkmen NGOs are not registered and work in an atmosphere of distrust in which governmental organizations sometimes refuse to cooperate. Therefore, NGOs are not able to work in many new directions and areas because of lack of consent from local authorities. Using the technique and approaches on development of partnership received in the Counterpart training on *Social Partnership*, the NGO *RIF* of Turkmenbashi city issued informational brochures about itself, held a series meetings with governmental organizations, and developed a proposal for cooperation. Using its own commercial branch, *RIF* established business relations and received an official letter of cooperation from Governmental Committee of Fishery. Work has commenced on looking for Caspian Sea and coastal plots suitable for sturgeon breeding and *RIF* has developed a project on joint monitoring of the Caspian Sea and fisheries. Additionally, for 100 children in 3 Turkmenbashi schools, *RIF* carries out lectures on ecological monitoring and administers ecological practicum with excursions.

Advocacy

NGO Promoted Interests of Local Community

Regular deliveries of potable water to remote etraps of Dashoguz velayat from a water plant in Turkmenbashi etrap were a long-standing problem for the villagers. Water Users' Association *Sarygamysh* was unsuccessful in negotiation with plant management to resolve this issue. Forced by the situation, Counterpart grantee *Sarygamysh* appealed to local authorities with a complaint letter. The result of this letter was that the NGO signed an agreement with the plant to provide drinking water. The agreement covered not only regular deliveries, but deliveries in case of emergency. An example of this took place when before the New Year when both of *Sarygamysh's* water trucks broke down and the plant sent its own trucks to provide 80 tons of drinking water to 2500 people.

Successful Results Through Common Efforts

A range of Turkmen public organizations, due to their sphere of work, carry out conflict prevention without any practical or theoretical training, as no such training exists in the country. *Arkadag* applied to the Kazakh Center for Conflict Management and won an invitation to participate in training at the International Summer Conflict Management School, and Counterpart supported *Arkadag's* initiative by awarding a travel grant. After completing the training, *Arkadag* conducted 4 seminars and one round table for NGOs working on the defense of rights. As a result, these NGOs received a methodological base for conflict protection and conflict resolution which they share with their own members and use in the practice of their NGOs. From September 2001 to March 2002 more than 500 people received this knowledge and used it in everyday life. Three NGOs already report results using the new knowledge received at *Arkadag* seminars that helped them to solve internal conflict in positive and effective ways among NGO members, between consumers and sellers, as well as between clients and the Turkmen Flight Agency – Turkmenhowaelleary.

UZBEKISTAN

Volunteerism

Volunteers Can be Keys to Success

The Kokand CSSC lacked adequate staff support to handle the average 20 clients a day who came to the Center for services ranging from accessing equipment to receiving consultations. Following an OD assessment, the Center developed a strategy for recruiting volunteers. The strategy involved conferring with clients about their needs and perception of the Center's services. Once needs were clearly defined, the Center manager reached out to students at the Pedagogical Institute of Kokand to see if they were interested in volunteering. After a six-month campaign, the Center recruited six new volunteers, trained them in client management, office protocol, basic computer skills, and coordinating training logistics, and developed customized job descriptions for each of the volunteers. As a result, the Center's clients now

enjoy prompt and attentive service and with a steady stream of volunteer support, the Center can now easily handle the more than 25 clients a day it receives (a 25% increase from before).

Volunteers Help Expand Services and Create New Partners

Many NGOs feel lack of human resources in their everyday work. Counterpart's grantee and active training recipient the Creative Center *Chance*, engaged in training 30 deaf children, contacted the *Youth Center of the Red Crescent Society* to request volunteers to organize a New Year's concert for its beneficiaries. Since then eight young people from the *Youth Center* have become *Chance* volunteers. In addition to organizing various events, the volunteers play games with the children and use the Internet to access information on working with disabled children. At the volunteers' solicitation, the Central Asian Free Exchange presented the *Center* with a computer with special educational games for children. Having gained experience in work with disabled children, the *Center's* volunteers have plans to set up an independent organization called the *Youth Center for Disabled Children* and are participating in Counterpart workshops in anticipation of managing their own organization.

Media/Outreach

Samarkand NGO on Local TV

One hindrance to NGO development is the lack of awareness of their activities and role in society. Television promotion is the one medium able to most fully reach the various strata of society; however it is typically prohibitively expensive and NGOs are unable to afford promotional spots. One Journalist Luiza Makhmudova set up the information analytical center *Shark-Press* to actively advocate for NGOs' through the media. Articles and television spots prepared by Luiza Makhmudova and her team were appreciated by the administration of the independent local channel of Samarkand TV, which offered Luiza a television news program to anchor beginning in March 2002. This new program is on the air for 15 minutes two-three times a week. Luiza devoted her first show to the activity of NGOs in the Samarkand region including: news from the Samarkand Regional Society of Protection of Consumers' Rights and footage from a Counterpart PCAP round table with the Association of Craftsmen *Meros* and a local community. This broad media coverage is elevating the image of NGOs in general and *Shark-Press* in particular. *Shark-Press* is turning into the voice of Samarkand NGOs and contributes to the development of NGO sector though promoting its activity on local TV and radio. *Shark-Press* members are regular participants in Counterpart trainings. They get technical support and consultations on OD, but most importantly they get first hand information for their reports and articles.

Social Partnership

Ibadullah Narzullaev's Fund Helps Orphans

There are more than 70 orphan children in the Gijduvan district of the Bukhara region. In 2001 *Ibadullah Narzullaev's Fund* approached the local authorities with a proposal to help these orphans, but funds were not available. After consultations with the Bukhara CSSC, *Ibadullah Narzullaev's Fund* presented its ideas again to the district government in late 2001. NGOs from Gijduvan and Bukhara as well as the Khokim of Gijduvan district took part in the presentation. In January the CSSC conducted an adapted version of the seminar *NGO & Community* for representatives of governmental structures and local authorities. These two events led to the an attitudinal shift on the part of the local government with respect to the NGO sector. In early March, *Narzullaev's Fund* and the Gijduvan Khokim's Office jointly organized a round table discussion with participation of seven big private firms. As a result, the private firms donated 3000 sums for each of the 73 orphans in the district. *Narzullaev's Fund* committed itself to guardianship over the orphans and intends to continue similar actions involving governmental and business structures. In addition, the *Fund* trains orphan-boys in ceramics and girls in embroidery so that the children can develop professional skills.

Advocacy

Karakalpak regional NGO's network develops the draft of "Law on Charity "

The lack of favorable legislative base for carrying out charity activities in Uzbekistan is one of the factors constraining the sustainable development of NGOs. Thus commercial organizations and other agencies are not interested in rendering charitable aid to NGOs as there are no tax incentives to do so. Members of the Karakalpak regional NGO network *Hamkor*, which includes 42 NGOs of Karakalpakstan, worked together to develop the Law on Charity. They formed an initiative group with lawyers and support from ICNL, developed a bill, and received support from the Committee of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on democratic institutes, non-government organizations and self-governance bodies. With funding from AED and the Oliy Majlis, the initiative group held round tables and workshops to discuss the bill with representatives from legislative and executive agencies and businesses and NGOs. " It is one of isolated instances in the legislation of Uzbekistan, when the introduction of the important bill is initiated from below", - the Chairman of Oliy Majlis Committee Akmal Saidov said about the initiative of Karakalpakstan NGOs. The Committee accepted the bill and it has moved on to the next level of review.

Community Members Work Together to Address Water and Gas Problems

Counterpart gave the *Women's Center Nekuz* a grant to address the drinking water problem in the rural kishlak "Nekuz", where 7000 people live. Pumps and pipes, which had been bought through the grant, were not used for nearly five months because of interference by local authorities first because of cotton season, then because of preparation for a national referendum. *Nekuz* activists wrote an appeal to the President and to the Chairman of Women's Committee of Uzbekistan outlining their concerns. 150 kishlak women signed that letter on behalf of their families, as men feared retribution in their places of business. First the Commission established by the Rayon Khokimiyat arrived at the kishlak, then there was a higher rank commission from Oblast Khokimiyat. When the complaint of inhabitants was considered, the Commission sent by Oblast Khokimiyat ordered the local rural authority to support the project to build a water pipe. Simultaneously *Nekuz* and kishlak inhabitants lobbied the Commission for installation of gas in the kishlak. The Commission promised to settle this issue, but the community feared additional delays. Without delay, they appealed to kishlak native Abdulla Oripov, the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Uzbekistan. Mr. Oripov petitioned the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan to allocate funds for gas installation. Funds were allocated in January and the Rayon Khokimiyat organized the installation of gas in the mahalla with the help of inhabitants of the kishlak.

Community Mobilization

Samarkand NGO Oilam Works to Prevent of Drug Addiction

The increase in drug addiction and drug-related crimes is unfortunately becoming one of the fastest growing problems in Uzbekistan. In accordance with data from the Samarkand Regional Office of Internal Affairs the number of persons detained for keeping narcotics increased 2.5 times from 2000 to 2001, with an increasing number of teenagers involved in drug use. At the same time the public at large, including schoolteachers, do not have appropriate knowledge of drug addiction and its consequences. In August the *Samarkand Regional Club Oilam*, supported by Counterpart, conducted a seminar on drug prevention for thirty teachers. School officials made drug prevention a regular part of teachers' lesson plans for all children from grades five to eleven (more than 700 pupils). The teachers managed to attract the schoolchildren's attention to the problem and get them involved. One play performed by older students won first place in a Republic-wide competition. Several fifth graders informed school officials when they were offered drugs on school property, leading to the arrest of the offenders. *Oilam* members are regular participants in Counterpart trainings, access technical assistance from Counterpart, and have received funding for three different projects from Counterpart.

Samarkand NGOs Have their First Experience Distributing Humanitarian Assistance

Often humanitarian assistance distributed by governmental institutions does not reach the right people. *Ayel Center Resource for Women and Families* received 11 tons of second hand clothes from Counterpart

International. But they did not have experience in distributing humanitarian aid. Samarkand CSSC helped the *Center* conduct two round table discussions with participation of 27 NGOs, governmental institutions, and other relief organizations. They also identified organizations engaged in humanitarian activities. This list included 12 NGOs working with the most vulnerable groups of the population as well as six orphanages, boarding schools and juvenile detention centers and two retirement homes. The list also included branch offices of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan from six of the poorest rural districts of the region. *Ayel Center* made contracts with all these organizations for distribution of the humanitarian aid. On completion of the work they will submit reports and the lists of beneficiaries to the Center.

Domestic Violence Discussed Openly

The solution to the problem of domestic violence is important for women of Uzbekistan as a traditional way of life, and gender stereotypes determine them to be a minor, which infringes their rights and interests. During August, 2001 - January, 2002, a large-scale media-campaign for preventing conflicts in family was carried on in 3 cities of Uzbekistan (Samarkand, Dzhizak and Karshi) with financial support from Winrock International. Four NGOs- the trust center *Sabr* (Samarkand), the trust center *Hamdard* (Dzhizak), the trust center *Najot* and the family information consulting resource center *Kelajak* (Karshi) organized this campaign. More than 30 NGOs from all over Uzbekistan participated in it. Special attention was given to involving government officials who were responsible for finding real solutions to problems of domestic violence. Three round tables and one conference with participation of 240 people were conducted; 500 posters and 1000 brochures were issued and distributed among local people. Television studios *Mulokot* (Kokand) and *Internews* provided support for producing and demonstrating four social reels of "Domestic Violence", "Violence against Children", "Self-Burning" and "Early Marriages" at meetings, and also mini-films about consequences of domestic violence. In the future *Internews* will organize the demonstration of these reels on TV throughout Uzbekistan. The media campaign was widely covered through city newspapers and broadcast media. As a result of this campaign the cooperation of government structures with NGOs was intensified in all three regions. For example, workers of the crisis centers and the trust centers got invited as experts to *Khokimiyat* sessions and provided examples of the problems related to domestic violence. In one extreme example, one victim of domestic violence killed her children and committed suicide. District militia officers, mahalla committees and other government agencies now send victims to the crisis and trust centers. As a result, the crisis and trust centers now see twice as many women and legislation was drafted to protect women from domestic abuse.

C. HUB CENTER ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional Overview

In the past quarter one of the most important activities was the quarterly country directors' meeting, which took place in early February. During the meeting the country directors along with the regional management team discussed the results of 2001 and strategy that will be used for further implementation of the Phase III program. Jay Cooper also announced that Elizabeth Comolli is promoted to the position of the Regional Deputy Director. She will still be involved in OD activities with assistance from Janna Rysakova. Performance plans and indicators were also a main topic during the CD meeting.

Among other achievements that took place during this quarter is the successful completion of the NGO thermometer. In 2000 it was administered to only one SC in each country of the region while in 2001 all of the SCs in all five countries of Central Asia took part in the survey. The outcomes of the survey will be used for USAID internal purposes.

Organizational Development

During the quarter, Counterpart focused on strengthening the management capacity of Hub Centers with training in basic management skills, the implementation of employee policies, and the implementation of a formal performance appraisal system for employees throughout the region.

In February and March, all Counterpart managers participated in Basic Management and Performance Appraisal training. Topics included:

- The main functions and activities of a manager
- Essential management skills (human relations, technical and conceptual)
- Leadership styles and how to choose the most effective style in a given situation
- Effective time management
- Effective delegation
- The cycle of managing employee performance
- Giving performance feedback: how to coach employees to learn new skills and counsel employees to change problem behavior
- How to fill out performance appraisals and conduct performance appraisal interviews

Managers exchanged experience, engaged in interactive presentations and role playing, evaluated their management skills and selected areas for improvement, planned actions to improve their time management, and selected tasks to delegate upon return to their work places.

Following the training, managers began to conduct formal performance appraisals with their staff. At the discretion of each country, the appraisal system and basic management training may be adapted for use with Support Centers and Focus NGOs.

To further strengthen management infrastructure, comprehensive regional employee policies were finalized and are now being implemented following their adaptation to each country's legal environment.

Building on the momentum generated by last quarter's regional conference on NGO governance, a small regional working group was convened to revise Counterpart's basic Governance training module and develop a new Advanced Governance training module. These two modules were piloted in March in Tashkent, with contract trainers, Hub Center Organization Development (OD) Program Coordinators, Support Center Managers and representatives of NGOs with existing governing bodies in attendance. The final versions of the two modules will be completed in April at which point they will be used to assist Support Centers, Focus/Target NGOs, and the NGO community at large to establish and improve the

functioning of their governing bodies. OD Program Coordinators will provide follow-up consultations on governance to Support Centers and Focus/Target NGOs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E activities in the first quarter of 2002 were focused on the areas of 1) monitoring of the program implementation in all five countries of the region; 2) building further capacity of Hubs and CSSCs for community project M&E; and 3) development of a monitoring system for CAG projects using the Regional Database.

1. The review of program performance was conducted using such monitoring tools as Country Performance Plans and Performance Indicators. Upon request from the regional office, Hub Centers and CSSCs reviewed performance indicators in each country. Each country team devoted significant time and effort discussing current result and target indicators and levels of their achievement.

To assist country offices in tracking performance in a coordinated way, the concepts mentioned in the indicators were discussed during the Country Directors meeting in February 2002 and participants from Country and Regional offices contributed equally to the common understanding/definitions of crucial terms as well as identification of the means of verification for indicators. The necessary modifications to the existing program indicators were proposed to USAID to consider possible adjustments based on and justified by current program experiences.

The reviewed indicators were used in the process of developing country annual work plans thus setting direction for countries' efforts and shifting their focus from activities for activity sake to activities to achieve program results.

2. In addition to the program implementation review, a lot of work was devoted to the task of further building the capacity of the Hubs and CSSCs in M&E. Participants from all five countries attended the regional training on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, which took place in late February 2002. Since then this model of M&E was introduced in countries for monitoring and evaluation of community-based projects. This transfer of expertise in PM&E to Hubs and CSSCs includes the development of a regional training module in PM&E, consistent with the Counterpart program documents on M&E, and further adjustment of the program reporting documents to include the PM&E model. Actions taken by the regional M&E staff were aimed at assuring the quality of the regional module being designed in accordance with the original training providers' content, and its conformity with Counterpart program documents on M&E.
3. Monitoring reports from three countries for CAG projects have supplemented the Regional database, which is an important first step toward the establishment of an integrated monitoring system and more effective CAG program management. The further steps to be taken in the next quarter will be to ensure the full scope of the monitoring process is in place in all five countries for CAG projects, which are considered an important instrument of community mobilization.

Training

The major event of this quarter was the Regional Advanced Training in Governance held from March 19-22 in Tashkent. Training participants were OD Coordinators, contract-trainers, Program Managers, and representatives of NGOs with existing Governing bodies. Jamila Asanova, Senior Program Manager, Kazakhstan, Vaslat Akhmetov, OD PC, Kyrgyzstan and Minas Meliksetov, Contract-Trainer, Uzbekistan conducted the training. In this training two training modules in Governance were presented to the participants: the revised basic training module in Governance and a new module on Advanced Governance. Participants also were introduced to the outline of the Governance Resource Book. These

training and consulting materials will be developed in response to the current need from the OD staff, CSSCs and focus and target NGOs.

In preparation of the Advanced Training, a Regional Governance Working Group met from February 18-21 in Almaty. Members of the Working Group, comprised of OD program staff, contract-trainers and a CSSC manager, included: Jamila Asanova, Kazakhstan, Vaslat Akhmetov, Kyrgyzstan, Farhod Bokiev, Tajikistan, Minas Meliksetov, Uzbekistan, Vitaly Kulik, Kazakhstan, Elizabeth Comolli, Regional OD Advisor and Ulzhan Kanzhigalina, Regional Training Coordinator.

The composition of the Governance Working Group reflected different perspectives in Governance: from Counterpart program staff to CSSC and NGO staff. It was also valuable that two Group members, Vitaly and Minas were designers of the basic module in Governance and had extensive training and practical experience in this area. The Governance Working Group considered country presentations on the current situation, implementation of the Action Plans developed during the Governance Conference in November, and constraints and critical issues to be focused on in developing Governing Bodies. The Working Group revised the basic training module in Governance and drafted the training module in Advanced Governance.

Participants of the Advanced Governance Training gave recommendations on the development of the training and consulting materials. Vitaly Kulik will finalize the basic and advanced training modules and the Governance Resource Book.

Another important regional training was the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation seminar held in collaboration with Global/AED from February 25 to March 1 in Almaty. Training participants included 24 CSSC and NGO representatives from all five CAR countries who are involved in community-based projects. Raushan Amanzhanova, Regional Community Outreach Coordinator and Altynai Kussainova, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator participated in this training. Consultants were Mieczyslaw Bak and Przemyslaw Kulawczuk, Polish American Advisory Agency, Poland. The training introduced a participatory approach to monitoring and evaluating community-based projects. Zainab Salieva, Bukhara CSSC Manager and experienced trainer will develop the training module in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.

In this quarter Counterpart continued to develop training and consulting materials to aid in program implementation. Elena Sabirova, Uzbekistan contract-trainer developed an Advocacy Resource Book with substantial input and feedback from Community Outreach Coordinators and other participants of the Regional Advanced Advocacy Training. ICNL provided support in legislative information for Advocacy Campaigns. ICNL legal consultants from Central Asian countries designed a part of the Advocacy Resource Book using excerpts from local laws, decrees and sub-normative acts that represent the legal framework for Advocacy Campaigns.

Community Outreach

Implementation of CO Program was carried out focusing on its four main and closely interrelated components – Community Mobilization, Advocacy, Social Partnership, and Volunteerism. The coordination of this work between the Regional office and countries was embodied in CO Program coordinators' monthly reports, Regional CO Program Coordinator's site visits, meetings and follow-up of regional workshops and trainings.

The CSSCs were working with assistance from the Hub Centers within the standards developed for implementation of Community Outreach Program.

In all countries the work related to conducting PCAs and developing CAPs as part of the Community Mobilization strategy has progressed in line with the implementation plan.

Success stories in Advocacy reported from the countries were based on activities seen by Counterpart as an instrumental sequence of steps, which include broad participation of people, educating them, work with media, outreach to local authorities and their involvement, and raising funds for Advocacy campaigns. As an example the Advocacy campaign undertaken by Zhalgas-Counterpart is to be mentioned. Initiated by a group of war veterans the campaign was aimed at improving existing legislation for benefits of the Afghan war veterans in one particular region in Southern Kazakhstan. Now the issue, with the assistance of the CSSC, will be tackled on a national scale.

The wide scope of activities in Social Partnership and Volunteerism has succeeded as evidenced by the number of Social Partnership conferences throughout the region and the large number of volunteer events, such as establishing partnerships. Naryn and Kerben CSSCs have reflected their activities through the Web-site of the Bishkek Volunteer Center in Kyrgyzstan. In Naryn volunteer news is aired through the local radio “Almaz”.

As community interventions revealed, the participatory approach has proven to be the crucial instrument of empowering people, enabling them to believe in their own strengths in solving local problems. At the same time it was an instrument of building capacity of local Focus NGOs and CSSCs. Necessity and the importance of the participatory approach in the complete process, including M&E, was the reason for conducting the regional training in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, which was held in February for key personnel, including CSSC managers, Focus NGO representatives, and contract trainers from all countries. The Regional Community Outreach and M&E Program Coordinators participated in the training as well with the purpose of outlining the unified module in PM&E to be disseminated among the network of Support Centers. The first public presentation will be made at the quarterly Community Outreach Workshop “Monitoring and Evaluation in Community Outreach Program” in April in Almaty.

One of the main objectives of the last quarter was developing the regional Community Outreach Program work plan for the third year. In addition to conducting regional quarterly Community Outreach workshops, CO staff are developing tools and instruments to assess the capacity of Hub Centers and CSSCs in Community Outreach Program implementation.

KAZAKHSTAN

Activity Overview

Maya Tsyganenko, Program Director, won an IREX grant to conduct research at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. In the middle of January she left Counterpart for four months. By order of Marat Aitmagambetov, Director, Jamila Asanova was appointed as a Senior Program Officer with all the appropriate responsibilities.

Due to a large amount of work on organizational development at the Hub Center in Almaty, Bibigul Salykova was temporarily (for one month) transferred to the Hub Center to serve as Organizational Development Coordinator. Timur Chalobaev was promoted from Program Assistant to Training Program Coordinator.

Askhat Bekzhanov, formerly Project Manager of the State Department-funded Promoting Refugees Integration and Adaptation Program (PRIA) was named Project Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator at Zhalgas-Counterpart Center. Nurlan Sakhanov, PRIA Project Program Coordinator/Almaty oblast, was named Organizational Development Coordinator at the Hub Center in Almaty. Bibigul Salykova, PRIA Project Program Coordinator/Akmola oblast, was named Program Coordinator of the Astana CSSC.

Marat Aitmagambetov, Country Director, participated in the “Basic Management Skills and Performance Appraisal” workshop conducted by Elizabeth Comolli. The workshop sought to strengthen management procedures in the Hub Centers. The main goal of the workshop was to teach Country Directors how to conduct employee performance appraisal as it relates to program implementation. Follow-on training targeted Senior Managers of Counterpart programs including Jamila Asanova, Senior Program Coordinator, Julia Anishchenko, Financial Manager, Askhat Bekzhanov, PRIA Project Program Manager and Alibi Jangildin, Director of Zhalgas-Counterpart-Counterpart Support Center. As a result, Senior Managers are currently conducting performance appraisals of all Counterpart staff in Kazakhstan. It is anticipated that all evaluations will be completed by mid-April.

On March 4-6, Marat Aitmagambetov, Director, participated in the conference “Social Projects Evaluation” conducted in Sochi city. He presented Counterpart’s activities in Kazakhstan, with particular emphasis on Counterpart’s abilities to monitor and evaluate community level projects. Mr. Aitmagambetov established contacts with MSI (USA), Molly Hoedjboeck of the Canadian Evaluator’s Association, Nancy Portugaez with SPLIT (Poland), and several Russian organizations specializing in monitoring and evaluation.

On March 20 Kazakhstan program staff members participated in a training on “Problem-Solving and Decision Making” conducted in Almaty by Ara Nazinyan, Regional Program Manager.

Training Activity

On January 7, for the first time in Kazakhstan, Zhalgas-Counterpart Support Center conducted a “Public Awareness Campaigns” training on a country level. The representatives of CSSCs and Focus NGOs as well as target organizations of Zhalgas-Counterpart Support Center were trained by Maya Tsyganenko, Galym Zhukupbaev and Oleg Bakhmutov. This training was conducted because the majority of Centers and Focus NGOs lack the experience in planning and conducting public information campaigns. 17 participants attended the training, which allowed participants to consider different methods and procedures for conducting public campaigns. The trainers recommended developing a manual for conducting this training on a regional basis, and will submit to the regional office a preliminary plan for drafting and developing this training.

On March 26-28 the Hub Center, in cooperation with Zhalgas-Counterpart, conducted a “Basics of Effective Governance” training for 19 representatives of CSSCs and Focus NGOs main and regional offices. The main goal of the training was to consider different variants of governing bodies of non-commercial organizations and to develop a strategy to establish them. The trainers were Vitaly Kulik, Jamila Asanova and Nurlan Sakhanov. The strategy for developing governing bodies in Kazakhstan, and indicators related to implementation were presented in the training. Several participants expressed their opinion that it too early to conduct this training at the CSSC level, but the majority considered the training a useful tool in creating governing bodies. The advanced training “Development of Effective Governing Bodies” for CSSCs and Focus NGOs is planned for the fall.

The preparation of a Center level training plan was postponed until April due to financial constraints. A general schedule of trainings will be developed only after CSSC training plans are confirmed.

Organizational Development

With the help of consultation provided by PCs from the Hub Center, all 7 CSSCs and 4 Focus NGOs prepared action plans on capacity building and service delivery. Grant agreements were signed with the following focus organizations: the Young Leaders Association, the National Consumers League of Kazakhstan, Confederation of Non-Government Organizations of Kazakhstan, Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During the detailed discussion with representatives of Focus NGOs the following results were achieved:

- Counterpart will focus on providing consultations and trainings for branches of Focus NGOs, which are very weak. This is a result of the requirement under Kazakh law that national organizations are required to have branches in all regions of the country.
- Counterpart will focus on providing trainings in facilitating skills for management of the branch offices of the Focus NGOs. This is a result of the documented weakness of staff members in facilitation skills, and the great need to be able to conduct events in an efficient manner.

A short-term agreement was signed in February with *Eco-Center*, making it Counterpart's Support Center in Karaganda. Jamila Asanova and Bibigul Salykova conducted the initial organizational development assessment. In cooperation with personnel of this organization, this past quarter Counterpart Hub staff conducted a stakeholders analysis, scored the results, and developed an 11-month work plan and budget with *Eco-Center*.

Jamila Asanova, Senior Program Coordinator, and Vitaly Kulik, Director of *ZUBR* social-corporate fund (the Ust-Kamenogorsk CSSC) took part in a session of the Regional Working Group to draft the Governance training development strategy. As a result, two training modules "Basics for Effective NGO Governance" and "Development of Effective NGO Governing Bodies" were developed. In addition, as a guide for consultants, a resource book on Governance was prepared and distributed. Jamila Asanova, as one of the trainers, conducted a TOT in March in Tashkent for employees from all five CAR countries.

Community Outreach

This quarter the following tasks were fulfilled in the development of the Community Outreach Program:

1. Consulting CSSCs on the issues of efficient fulfillment of Community Outreach Program indicators
2. Strengthening CSSCs' capacity in conducting Advocacy campaigns
3. Strengthening expertise skills of CSSC Community Outreach Projects.

1. Consulting CSSCs on efficient implementation of Community Outreach Program indicators

On January 10 there was a meeting with representatives of CSSCs to finalize the results of the Community Outreach Program for the last year and to adjust action plans on service delivery to the indicators. Poor understanding of indicator terminology was the main problem mentioned by CSSCs and definitions were clarified in this meeting.

During the quarterly meeting of representatives of CSSCs that took place on March 28, CSSCs reported on annual work results and presented plans of work with the communities for the next year. It is possible that some of the plans for work in remote areas of the country may not be accomplished due to financial reasons. CSSCs were suggested to enhance work on attracting external funds for their projects. The sources of the external funding may be local government, business, and other international donor organizations. Kostanai CSSCs, as the most experienced in this type of fundraising, shared with the other CSSC partners how to establish such cooperation.

2. Strengthening CSSCs' capacity in conducting Advocacy campaigns

Jamila Asanova and Nurlan Zhumabekov held the "Advocacy" follow up meeting on January 10. It was the first follow up meeting since the beginning of the Phase III program. The participants of the meeting considered eight examples of advocacy. CSSCs from Ust-Kamenogorsk, Almaty and Astana have already started to conduct similar meetings in order to evaluate the impact of trainings and to coordinate the efforts of NGOs in expanding civic participation in the decision-making process. From the practical point, seminar participants helped to develop an advocacy campaign plan for *Nesip*, an NGO focused on defending the rights of inhabitants of Kok-Tube village in Almaty oblast. As a result of lobbying activities by *Nesip*, the village managed to obtain Almaty oblast budget funds (about \$9800) for the reconstruction of roads in the area.

3. Strengthening expertise skills of CSSC Community Outreach Projects

To increase CSSCs' expertise in community projects, a one-day training on how to conduct a grant committee was organized for CSSC managers. Participants discussed procedures of conducting meetings, the work of the grant committee in Counterpart, and principles for the formation of a grant committee. In addition they obtained skills in the preliminary evaluation of projects prior to submitting them to a grant committee.

Eighteen project proposals were considered at two grant committee meetings held on February 12 and March 19; twelve of these project proposals were approved for financing. The rest of the proposals will be revised and resubmitted for the next grant committee meeting. The analysis of the approved project proposals indicated that CSSCs started to expand their activities to rural communities located outside the oblast capital cities. Five of the twelve projects will be implemented in rural areas. The analysis also showed a significant increase in CSSC expertise in project consideration, which resulted in the establishment of several local grant committees in advance of the country-level meeting.

Network Development

In March CSSC managers gathered at their quarterly meeting to discuss the results of cooperation between the Hub Center and the CSSCs and to discuss plans and budgets for the upcoming year. A separate topic was the discussion of the new Tax Code of Kazakhstan that came into force in January 2002. Representatives of the Tax Standards Formation Fund, Natalia Yntsen and Asya Mukhamedgalieva were invited to the meeting to make a presentation on the new Tax Code. NGO taxation issues were of particular interest to the participants.

The volume of program activities was negatively influenced by significant budget cuts for the coming year. In order to complete all of the objectives of the program the participants of the meeting came to an understanding on the importance of a fundraising strategy and the necessity to attract external funds.

The process of establishing governing bodies in all of the CSSCs will be completed by June. Initially, these bodies will serve as expert or advisory councils, which will determine the priorities for funding by Counterpart.

Zhalgas-Counterpart sent the following applications to various donor agencies requesting additional funds. The implementation of these proposed projects assumes participation of other CSSCs of the country.

- "Governing the Ethnical Diversity in the Republic of Kazakhstan," EUR 245,000 submitted to TACIS.
- "Creation of a Web-portal for Kazakhstan NGOs," \$5,000 submitted to the World Bank.
- Project on the creation of a network of monitoring and evaluation specialists, \$37,000 submitted to Eurasia Foundation.

KYRGYZSTAN

Activity Overview

On January 17-21, the training workshop on *Project Planning* was conducted for all Hub Center staff in Issyk Kul Sanitarium during the staff retreat. The Program Coordinators presented the logical framework and the seven steps of project planning to the staff.

The Senior Program Officer A. Nusupov participated in the training workshop *Monitoring and Analysis of the Poor* held by *CASE Kyrgyzstan* on February 11-20 in Bishkek. This training workshop was sponsored by the World Bank. The participants were introduced to statistical analysis of poverty using

SPSS software. Presentations on efforts by governments to fight reasons caused poverty were made by the CDF Council and National Statistical Committee.

Seven managers of the Hub Center took part in the regional training workshop in *Management Basics and Performance Appraisal* held in Bishkek on March 3-5. The training was designed to assist managers and employees work together on optimizing and improving current job performance. The Deputy Regional Director E. Comolli conducted this workshop.

The Community Outreach PC N. Satarov took part in the third round of a TOT in Advocacy conducted by NDI in March 16-18. The Training Coordinator C. Akmatova, CO PC N. Satarov, EC Project Manager A. Alymkulova, EC PC A. Doranova, EC M&E Coordinator A. Aitbaeva, and the Assistant to Grant Manager V. Esaulenko took part in a training workshop entitled “Impact Monitoring, Team work, Facilitation, Community Foundations” conducted by Counterpart Deutschland from March 18-21.

During the quarter, the following were recorded in the log file of *CANGO.NET* Web Site:

- 145,274 successful hits (English version –29,415, Russian version – 115,859) of which 31% were from the US and 44% were from outside CAR.
- 18,822 visits (English version– 6,148, Russian version – 12,674)
- 8,411 unique visitors (English version –2,055, Russian version– 6,356)

The NGO Database (NGODB), NGO Homepages, NGO Electronic Library, NGO-related news articles, links, listserves and bulletin boards are available on the Web Site. The Hub Center started to distribute information on funding opportunities to local NGOs through the NGONEWS mailing list.

Training Activity

In line with institutional agreements with CSSCs, contract trainers conducted 68 training on 19 modules for 1,316 representatives of 689 NGOs/CBOs (Attachment #2 highlights the USAID-funded trainings). The Hub Center accomplished the following within the context of providing support to CSSCs in administering training programs:

- The Training Coordinator C. Akmatova monitored the implementation of the training program by CSSCs of Jalalabad and Kerben. The Jalalabad Center faced difficulties in collecting training reports in a timely fashion as well as in improving data collection for the statistical reports in Excel format. The interventions to address the issues include intensifying coaching for contract trainers in reporting in order to have them able to submit good reports on time. The Kerben Center has only three contract trainers in place, which significantly restricts the capacity of the CSSCs to provide training seminars. The Kerben Center was advised to contract with trainers from Jalalabad before it trains new trainers.
- The CSSCs of Karakol and Jalalabad were entrusted to revise training modules in Project Design and NGO and Community respectively, in order to adapt them for CBOs and other community groups since originally they were designed for NGOs. Revised modules were sent for comments to the Hub Center, which shared them with all CSSCs for input.
- Training materials in Network Development were adapted to the local context, and a new training module was drafted. It is anticipated to have CSSCs delivering this new training module soon.
- CSSCs of Kant, Kara-Balta, Batken and Nookat started delivering training workshops in Micro Business using the trainers trained in TOT held in Bishkek in December 2001. To date the new trainers have conducted eight workshops mostly for refugees through a UNHCR-funded project.

During the field visit, the Counterpart staff revealed that CSSCs still face difficulties in writing impact stories on training activities. The Hub Center scheduled additional coaching for CSSC staff in writing success stories.

Last year OD re-assessments showed that six CSSCs have sufficient capacity in delivering six training modules against seven planned. During the quarter, the Hub made significant efforts in building local training capacities: experienced trainers from Bishkek delivered 21 training workshops together with 30 local contract trainers, who received skills in conducting new modules in an “on-the job coaching” way. Currently, each CSSC is capable of conducting training workshops in at least 7 modules.

Organizational Development

The third round of OD re-assessments is under way, and the OD PC V. Akhmetov completed OD re-assessments for CSSCs of Jalalabad, Kerben and Talas. He obtained information on their progress in terms of capacity building, and summarized and analyzed the data. The scoring data will be incorporated into the regional OD database by mid-April.

Three case management meetings were held in the Hub Center in order to assess progress in achieving programmatic goals, identify gaps, patterns and trends, and apply the learning to future OD work. All Program Coordinators (USAID, EU, and Health Programs) attended these meetings. The main trends in building organizational capacities include:

- CSSCs made certain efforts towards financial sustainability; they developed several funding proposals and submitted them to a number of donor agencies, including the Democracy Commission under US Embassy, NDI, Eurasia, IREX, ISAR, and Soros Foundation.
- CSSCs made certain progress in cultivating an organizational approach versus a project one, and better realize the needs and challenges of building their organizational capacity against concentrating efforts to complete current projects.
- Volunteers of CSSCs have increased their professional level and started to provide services to clients (consultations, training workshops, etc). For example, the volunteers of the Kara-Balta Center raised funds to provide 24 disabled children with clothes and textbooks.

The Hub Center staff made budget projections for all 11 CSSCs, inclusive of co-funding from USAID, EC, UNHCR, and Soros Foundation. Institutional Support Grants for 2002 were signed with 9 CSSCs: *Batken, Jalalabad, Kant, Kara-Balta, Karakol, Kerben, Naryn, Nookat, and Talas*. The CSSCs funded only through the EU project (Kerben and Talas) have limited training funding and training workshops are conducted only for their target communities. However, their clients also expressed the need for training assistance. These CSSCs together with Counterpart are currently seeking ways to find funding to expand the training program.

Community Outreach

A new component was introduced to the Community Outreach program by conducting a second round of participatory community appraisals (PCAs) in the same target communities focusing on developing economic activities, since it was identified as one of the highest priority issues raised by rural communities during PCAs held in 2001. The Hub Center staff designed a new training module on PCA with emphasis on developing economical activity, developed recommendations on methodology, and sent them to all CSSCs. Shortly after, the CSSC conducted 10 training PCAs for 178 facilitators with emphasis on revenue generation ideas in March 2002. The CSSCs revised CO plans in order to incorporate the second round of PCAs and as of March 31, PCAs were conducted in 21 target locations, 8 of which were conducted in the new format and three of which were conducted in the previous format (in newly selected communities of Nookat Rayon). The number of target communities increased to 62 because the Nookat Center selected six new communities in addition to the three chosen last year.

Localization of grant making and administering capacities is on the agenda. In consultations with CSSCs, the Hub Center revised CAG guidelines, drafted operational procedures for local grant committees, and developed criteria for selecting members of review boards. The documents were circulated among CSSCs for their input and finalization. It is planned that grant committees under CSSCs will be entrusted to

decide on applications using clear-cut criteria, and the Grant Review Committee under the Hub Center will be given responsibility for final approval. A two-phase awarding procedure was designed to ensure smooth and gradual transferring of skills to the local level. Local grant committees are expected to have their first meeting after the CAPs of target communities are revised next quarter. Additionally, the CO PC N. Satarov was working on guidelines for the CSSCs to conduct advocacy campaigns on a grassroots level.

Network Development

Taking into consideration a variety of interests, and the capacities of partner NGOs running CSSCs, development and nurturing of the network structure is a challenge. CSSCs and Hub staff participated in a follow-up workshop on CSSC network development in December 2001. Two different network models were discussed during the workshop: 1) non-formalized network of all 11 Centers and 2) registered association of seven members (*Bishkek Hub Center* and CSSCs of *Kara-Balta, Naryn, Jalalabad, Kerben, Nookat, and Talas*). Thus, the Hub Center has chosen twofold strategy in development a CSSC network. First the Hub will continue nurturing a network structure with mostly advisory functions, and key activities will include intra-country exchange of staff to bring together key CSSC experts with experience in particular program areas to strengthen the network members' understanding and capacity. Secondly, the Hub will take on a new activity – to register the CSSC association with a clearly defined governing structure (which will not restrict autonomy of association members) and operational board, which regularly reviews its strategic plan.

In parallel with network development activities, the Hub focused on designing operation procedures and a governing structure. The finalization of operating regulations for both models and an Association Charter is scheduled for April 4, when the CSSCs will participate in the country workshop in Participatory M&E.

National Government issued decree #20 on January 14, 2002. The decree is about licensing publishing activities in Kyrgyzstan and aimed at “prevention of undermining ideological, propagandistic activities of religious extremist centers”. The Government considers that the main information channels of religious extremist centers are propaganda leaflets and other printed matter. In order to fight religious extremist centers, the Government declared licensing of publishing activities, and registration of copying and publishing equipment. Indeed, the Decree put barriers on the existence of independent print houses, since it declares that only legal entities registered in the Ministry of Justice and having the Government's share of ownership will be eligible for printing newspapers. Therefore, the Government assumes the rights to control circulation of information. The Government also assumes the rights to close local print shops in case they “will disseminate information violating privacy of citizens, infringement of their reputation, etc”. In addition, all print media are obliged to contract only with print houses that have a governmental share. Such a provision jeopardizes the existence of really independent media in Kyrgyzstan and introduces indirect censorship.

In response, 10 CSSC throughout Kyrgyzstan conducted roundtables in late February and early March attended by 140 representatives of more than 75 NGOs, 15 representatives of governmental structures and 23 local media outlets to discuss the decree and its implementations, initiative groups were created as a result of these round tables, because most of the participant agreed that the Decree #20 restricts human rights. The initiative groups, mostly NGO leaders, wrote appeals to the different high officials: the Deputy of Jogorku Kenesh, Premier Minister, Vice-Premier Minister, President, and Constitutional Court. All statements were delivered to the addressees with signatures of NGO leaders, calling for the revocation of Decree #20, but so far there was no reply. CSSCs discussed the issue on continuing the advocacy campaign and conducting a national advocacy campaign on April 24. They elected a working group to elaborate a plan for the national campaign. According to the plan the CSSCs will conduct several round tables, press conferences, will write appeals, and send letters.

TAJIKISTAN

Security Situation

During this quarter the situation in Tajikistan remained calm and there is a general feeling that the situation is normalizing throughout the country. The UN Security Representative stated that the overall situation was safe in Tajikistan and there are presently no travel restrictions for UN staff to travel to any part of Tajikistan. There were, however, two significant robberies of International NGOs in Tajikistan. The office of French agency ACTED was robbed in Dushanbe for the amount of approximately \$50,000 and the office of the US based Global Operations and Development in Penjikent, a northeastern city near Samarkand, Uzbekistan, was robbed of about \$10,000 and their guard murdered. One of the guards who had worked at ACTED was caught with the cash, while the other robbery is still under investigation. As a result of these recent robberies the Ministry of Interior has offered to do background checks on guards working for International NGOs. The Hub Center has also responded by installing new security bars for the office.

Activity Overview

The Regional Office Organizational Development Consultant Janna Rysakova visited Counterpart Tajikistan to review the implementation of the OD component of Phase III Program with Hub Center members. The Regional Office Training Coordinator visited Counterpart Tajikistan to monitor the training program. During the visit she reviewed the process of localization and expansion of the training capacity as well as transfer of the regional advanced trainings to Hub Center and CSSCs. She also worked with the new Training Coordinator to assist her in coordinating the training program.

A special meeting was conducted with all the Program Coordinators on the program indicators for the Phase III Project. All of the indicators were reviewed and recommendations for minor changes were sent to the Regional Office. In addition, at least one Program Coordinator was assigned to each indicator, so everyone now clearly knows their responsibility in fulfilling the program indicators. Currently, Counterpart Tajikistan is following in its activity based on the revised indicators. This quarter the Hub Center program staff members worked to develop the work plan for the remaining year. Based on the program indicators each coordinator developed a work plan for a particular component of the program. The draft of the consolidated work plan was sent to the Regional Office.

A new PR brochure and success stories about the activities of Counterpart Tajikistan were updated and developed this quarter to show prospective donors the scope of our in-country activities. Much of that information was posted on our new web site, located at www.counterpart-tj.org.

The Social Partnership Conference, a conference bringing together top government officials, including the President, and local NGOs, was postponed till June 2002. The purpose of the Conference is to assist top government officials to understand the importance of the NGO sector in addressing the social and economic problems of the society. Also, the Conference will seek to establish better cooperation between NGOs and government structures in addressing social issues. The CSSCs, the Hub Center and a representative from the Presidential Office have established a committee that is responsible to help prepare for the Conference.

The recent decrease in the NGO registration fee has resulted in a dramatic increase of the number of local NGOs in Tajikistan. In 2001, over 300 new NGOs were registered and Counterpart is now in the process of updating its list of active NGOs in Tajikistan. To meet the organizational needs of these new NGOs Counterpart, in partnership with AED, has started to conduct a series of training workshops through the CSSCs in all parts of the country. Counterpart will pay trainers fees while AED will cover all other costs

of the training workshops. Approximately 100 participants from over 50 NGOs from five regions of Tajikistan will participate in training. Counterpart is planning to submit another training request to AED to help support NGOs with training in Counterpart's advanced training modules.

Counterpart Tajikistan's Country Director participated in a Central Asian Consultation in Izmir, Turkey (Feb.24-March 2). About 280 people attended the consultation and well over 50 organizations were represented there, including a US Government Counsel from Helsinki Commission. The country director participated in a Partnership Development workshop, a session on Community Development and two sessions on Human Rights and Religious Liberty in Central Asia. There was interest in Counterpart's NGO training programs, especially for Afghanistan. The UNOCHA Representative in Tajikistan has also encouraged Counterpart to start its NGO training activities in Badakhshan, Afghanistan, using Counterpart's contract trainers.

Staff Changes at the Hub Center

Counterpart Tajikistan Hub Center has hired, through open competition, Farishtamo Ofaridaeva as the new Training Coordinator. Previously she worked as a Monitoring Specialist at UNWFP in the Kurghan Teppa Region and she has experience working with local NGOs.

The former Grant Manager, Elena Mamadnazarova, is now working as the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator. This is a new position, but it is seen as important one during the final year of the Phase III Project. She will assist the OD Coordinator in conducting OD activities with the CSSCs. The Community Outreach Coordinator, who had been in OD team before, will now be able to focus on Community Outreach activities.

An advertisement for Senior Program Coordinator was placed in the local papers in March and the interviewing process has started.

The Country Director updated all employee contracts and job descriptions for Hub Center employees, twenty-two in all.

Staff Development and Regional Trainings

Elena Mamadnazarova, the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Ibragim Tsvetkov, one of Counterpart's Contract Trainers and the CSSC Directors from Dushanbe, Kurghon-Teppa and Khujand attended the Regional Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in Almaty (Feb.25-March 1).

Counterpart Tajikistan Deputy Director, Farhod Bokiev, the Financial Manager, Lola Asrorova, the Office Manager, Bakhtiyor Faiziev, the OD Coordinator, Zaro Kurbanbekova and the CRD Program Coordinator, Lola Nazarova, participated in the Basic Management and Performance Appraisal Workshop in Bishkek (March 3-5). All Hub Center employees who have worked for Counterpart for more than six months will be evaluated using this methodology.

The Counterpart OD Coordinator, Zaro Kurbanbekova, the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Elena Mamadnazarova, the Dushanbe CSSC Training Coordinator Elena Chastukhina, and one of Counterpart's contract Trainers, Alisher Rahmonberdiev, participated in the Regional Advanced Governance TOT in Tashkent (March-18-21).

Nargis Azizova, the Grant Manager, and Farishtamo Ofaridaeva, the Training Coordinator, attended a Project Evaluation Workshop in Dushanbe, which was conducted by the *Golubka* Center from Russia. AED, the Soros Foundation and the Swiss Development Agency funded the training. The workshop covered issues of definition of evaluation, tools and methods of conducting evaluation, evaluation timeframes, evaluation cycle, and reporting on evaluation.

Organizational Development

The annual budget for the Hub Center was developed in cooperation with the Regional Financial Officer. Also, a financial control environment and risk assessment checklist was completed by the Country Director and Financial Officer and sent to the Regional Office.

This quarter the third round of Organizational Development (OD) interventions was conducted with CSSCs in Dushanbe, Kurghon-Teppa, Khujand and Kulob. According to the CSSCs this round of OD sessions was very helpful, because the Support Centers were able to give a self-assessment as to what stage of development they have attained based on pre-established criteria. The Support Centers suggested new ideas that would assist them in building their capacity and increasing their ability to improve in their service deliveries to local NGOs. These initiatives were added to their revised Action Plans.

Two OD Case Management meetings were held this quarter. The Program Coordinators briefed the management staff on their trips to the Support Centers and reported on how much progress the Support Centers had made in their efforts to localize and become financially sustainable. The reports also made mention of the many challenges the CSSCs face as they attempt to improve their institutional structures and as they seek to increase their capacity to deliver better services to local NGOs. Some of those challenges focused on questions on how to develop a governance structure, how to support staff development, and how to provide fee-based services. Each Program Coordinator has planned specific actions to address these questions and to assist the Support Centers with their individual challenges.

The Counterpart Grant Coordinator worked with each CSSC to assist them in developing the annual budget for the remaining year. After finalizing the budgets new partnership agreements for the remaining period will be signed with each CSSC.

The Financial Officer continued providing consultations to the CSSCs on financial regulations. The Financial Officer will pass on copies of the Hub Center's *Cash and Internal Controls and Purchasing Policy* to the Support Centers as soon as they are translated into Russian. Each Center will adapt these documents for their offices and develop their own internal financial control policy. The Financial Officer will visit each Center to assist them in designing these policies.

Community Outreach

Counterpart's partners and target NGOs continued conducting Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA) activities in their target communities. During this quarter a total of 33 PCAs were conducted, and this resulted in developing 26 Community Action Plans (CAP).

The Counterpart Community Outreach Coordinator visited the Kulob and the Kurghon-Teppa CSSCs and conducted a small training session on PCA reporting since their current PCA reports do not contain enough information about how PCAs were conducted. After the sessions these two Support Centers have significantly improved the quality of their reporting.

The Counterpart Community Outreach Coordinator visited the Dushanbe and Kurghon-Teppa Support Centers to assist them in developing a mechanism for working with volunteers. As a result of this activity each of the Support Center developed a written manual on volunteer management.

The previous efforts of Counterpart's staff members to assist the CSSCs and partner NGOs in carrying out advocacy campaigns brought tangible results. Two advocacy campaigns have already been launched at the community level by the target NGO *Nilufar* and NGO *Fidokor* with great success. The NGO *Nilufar*, for example, helped to obtain the release of a social rights activist who had been wrongly

imprisoned for organizing a peaceful community protest. Two government workers were fined and fired for their role in imprisoning the activist.

In addition to the six Community Action Grants (CAG) that were started in various communities throughout Tajikistan during this quarter, Counterpart approved a number of new community development proposals. The Grant Review Committee, consisting of eight representatives from USAID, Eurasia Foundation, Mercy Corps, Democracy Fund and Counterpart, held a meeting in March and reviewed 13 proposals. The Committee approved 11 of them totaling \$33,017. (For the full list of approved grants see Attachment 1.)

The new module on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation was reviewed and discussed among the program staff members. It was decided to add some materials on monitoring and evaluation to the existing module. The module will be finalized after the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, CO Coordinator and Grant Manager attend the Regional Workshop on Community Outreach in Almaty in April. One of the topics of the workshop will be the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of community projects.

Network Development

Because of the large number of country and regional level trainings only one meeting with the CSSCs was held this quarter. Counterpart invited a lawyer to this meeting to conduct a session on NGO taxation. The issue of tax payment was a major concern for many CSSCs recently. The lawyer introduced the latest Government of Tajikistan legislation on taxes in regard to NGOs and clarified questions raised by the participants. Also, a number of program issues such as reporting requirements, annual budgets and partnership agreements, and plans for new and advanced training seminars were discussed during the meeting.

The major issue of discussion at the meeting was the future of the Civil Society Support Center Network. The Kulob CSSC introduced a draft Charter for the Network that it had developed. The charter proposed creating an Association of CSSCs, giving it a legal status. The Support Centers discussed the proposal and most agreed that they would not support the creation of an association at this time but a Network functioning on the basis of joint agreement. However, all the Centers agreed to study the charter and send their feedback to the Kulob Center so that their comments may be added to the Network Manual.

The Support Centers also discussed the possible governance structure of the Network. They all agreed that it would have a governing body, a coordination council, which would include representatives of the CSSCs and Hub Center.

Among the future joint projects of the Network, the Khujand CSSC suggested publishing a Network Newsletter. All the CSSCs asked the Hub Center to assist them with purchasing the necessary equipment for publishing the newsletter.

TURKMENISTAN

Activity Overview

During this quarter, the Hub Center solicited candidates for a CSSC institutional grant in Balkan velayat. Prior to the solicitation, a Hub Center team consisting of Community Outreach and Organizational Development Coordinators visited the capital city Balkanabat and Turkmenbashi city of the region to assess the location for a SC. The location was identified as Turkmenbashi city taking into consideration set up criteria such as the number of local NGOs, geographical accessibility, access to Internet, etc. As a result of solicitation, the Hub received six letters of interest from local NGOs. Four were selected for further assessment and interviews. The new CSSC is anticipated to be operational by the end of May.

In order to promote the process of localization of the Counterpart Turkmenistan CSSC network, a Country Profile public relations document was developed with the assistance of the Regional Office. Additionally, Counterpart revised performance indicators and the country workplan for the third year of the cooperative agreement and submitted these to the Regional Office.

In March, for the first time, Counterpart Turkmenistan opened an official bank account at the Ashgabat branch of the Pakistan State Bank.

Soroush Javadi, Director of Counterpart Uzbekistan, and Ara Nazinyan, Regional Program Manager visited Turkmenistan. Soroush Javadi spent time with senior staff members advising on program implementation and conducted a presentation on the CSSC selection process conducted in Uzbekistan. Ara Nazinyan reviewed the implementation of the Community Outreach program, worked with the Acting Country Director and Program Manager on revising job descriptions for the newly created position of Grant M&E Coordinator and advised on the revision of the organizational structure of the office. He also conducted a workshop on developing a Logical Framework for program staff.

In January, Regional Director Jay Cooper visited Turkmenistan, advising the Acting Country Director on program implementation and operational activities. During his visit meetings were held with the Khakim of Lebap velayat to exchange ideas on Counterpart Lebap CSSC activities. The Khakim welcomed ongoing Counterpart community outreach activities in the region.

In the last quarter, the Ashgabat Resource Center and Training Program Manager Aina Dovodova left Counterpart for a new job and Counterpart Turkmenistan advertised separately for the positions of Ashgabat CSSC Manager and Training Program Coordinator. In February, Makhym Orazmukhammedova was hired as Training Program Coordinator. By the end of April, the Ashgabat CSSC Manager position will be filled. The organizational chart for the existing country programs was revised and submitted to the Regional Office. It will be finalized in April.

Hub center staff members Irina Dedova, Enesh Tureshova, Mered Annamukhamedov participated in regional training "Basic Management and Performance Appraisal", which was held in Bishkek from March 3-5, 2002. OD Manager Ata Ataev participated in the Regional Training in Advanced Governance on March 19-22 in Tashkent.

Lebap and Dashoguz CSSCs staff members Mars Khasanov and Gyzylgul Bayrieva attended the regional training on "Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation" held in Almaty on February 25 through March 1, organized with GTD support.

Resource Center Assistant Denis Bantysh participated in a three-day workshop in February conducted by Ecological Fund of Turkmenistan and a Cultural Conference conducted by Ukraine Embassy in Turkmenistan on March 5.

From March 4-7 the Dashoguz CSSC manager participated in the Third Regional Conference on Local Resource Mobilization, which took place in Agra (India). This conference was organized by Resource Alliance (UK).

Training Activity

Conducted this quarter were 24 training seminars for 361 participants from 216 NGOs. Out of 24 trainings 12 were conducted in Lebap and Dashoguz velayats. Four of the trainings were conducted in Turkmen language. (See Attachment #2)

The Training of Trainers (TOT) module was translated into Turkmen and conducted in Ashgabat for 15 NGOs, with 6 participants from Lebap, 4 from Dashoguz, and a total of 18 participants. The training was conducted to make more trainers available for conducting trainings in velayats.

PCA training was conducted by Counterpart Turkmenistan staff in Dashoguz velayat, Akdepe etrap.

A training program questionnaire was created and distributed to all NGOs to measure needs for the future creation of a training timetable. The results will be available in April.

Organizational Development

In March the third OD assessment for Dashoguz and Lebap CSSCs was conducted by the Program Manager and Organizational Development Coordinator. A range of meetings with NGOs, partners, governmental, and international organizations was conducted. Additionally, a questionnaire evaluating the CSSC's services was distributed to clients, a review of reports and documentation was carried out, and a sustainable organization scoring table was filled out by CSSC and Hub Center staff.

A volunteers' discussion meeting was organized for the volunteer team of the Ashgabat Resource Center to outline the goal and mission of Counterpart Turkmenistan volunteer team and to develop a workplan for volunteers. Discussed were methods for formalizing the volunteer relationship with Counterpart as well as the motivation of volunteers.

During the reporting period there were conducted three case management meetings for timely response to identified problems of CSSCs and target NGOs.

Community Outreach

For the second time in Turkmenistan a full 8-day Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA) training was conducted in Akdepe etrap of Dashoguz for 14 Turkmen speaking NGO members of Akhal, Dashoguz and Ashgabat city. As a result of the training activities, access to clean drinking water was identified in three villages of Akdepe etrap as a community priority problem. The stakeholders analysis conducted during the PCA training demonstrated the full support of the local authorities for community action plans. After the training the Dashoguz CSSC was officially invited by the local authorities and the local community to assist villagers to develop a Community Action Plan and proposal for a Counterpart Community Action Grant.

Network Development

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan CSSC network communication and exchange of ideas on the feasibility of a cross-border Counterpart CSSC network led to concrete action this quarter. As a result, on January 26 the Dashoguz CSSC manager participated in the Community Action Grant (CAG) committee meeting conducted by the Khorezm CSSC of Uzbekistan. On March 4-5 a delegation of Khorezm's CSSC and NGO s visited Dashoguz Velayat. During the visit, Khorezm CSSC and NGO members participated in the NGO Discussion Club activity of Dashoguz CSSC. Also during the visit, members of Dashoguz CSSC's Discussion Club and the Khorezm NGOs visited Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz where the local NGO "Sarygamysh" invited them to the water users' community meeting.

UZBEKISTAN

Activity Overview

At the beginning of January a short story on Counterpart's activity in Uzbekistan was presented in the local TV news.

In January the NGO Thermometer survey was conducted. 70 Uzbekistan NGOs was involved in this process.

Beginning from March 2002 a Deputy/Communication Director was hired. As the result of long lasting selection of applicants Manager of Samarkand CSSC was finally invited for this position. Now the structure of the Counterpart in Uzbekistan includes a team of three top managers – Program, Financial/Administrative and Communication.

Staff Development

February 4-9, 2002 – there was a special training on *Effective Leadership* conducted in Tashkent countryside. This training was conducted by Moscow Training Center GOLUBKA. The whole Counterpart and its Network staff as well as one representative from our partner Training Center “*Bilim va jamiyat*” participated in the training. This training was conducted with the purpose of development of leadership qualities, increasing the level of management expertise of participants, and receiving skills of Team Management.

February 25-March 1, 2002 – Regional training on *Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects* was conducted in Almaty. Bukhara CSSC Manager - Zaynab Salieva, Kokand CSSC Coordinator - Dmitriy Kvan, Nukus CSSC Coordinator – Sergey Sultanov, Urgench CSSC Coordinator – Umid Latipov and *Umidvorlik* (Focus NGO) representative participated in this training.

February 28-29, 2002 – Special adapted training on *Project Design* for 5 CSSC and 6 hub-office staff was conducted in Tashkent.

March 19-22, 2002 – Regional training for trainers and Consultants on *Development of the Governing Body* was conducted in Tashkent. Hub-office OD Specialist – Akmal Roustamov, deputy Director – Azam Babkhodjaev, Nukus CSSC Manager – Sara Imbarova, Tashkent CSSC Manager – Shukhrat Abdullaev and Samarkand CSSC Coordinator – Eldor Amirkulov participated in the training.

During the quarter Counterpart Uzbekistan’s staff participated in the trainings conducted for NGOs according to individual plans of personal development.

February 20-22, 2002 – program staff team conducted training on *Monitoring and Evaluation for Soros Foundation (OSI)* staff as it was agreed when *OSI* supported participation of three program coordinators in Monitoring and Evaluation School in Novosibirsk, Russia. 18 *OSI* people participated in this training.

Invited by Zaynab Solieva, manager of Bukhara CSSC, on February 25-26 Ilona Ilyasova had a business-trip to Bukhara with the purpose to visit *Vabkent Handicraft Center* and participate in a seminar on domestic violence. This seminar was organized by Crisis Center “*Oydin*” for men in Chandir village of Alatskiy rayon of Bukhara oblast where is the highest indicator of suicide among women in all Alatskiy rayon. Ilona had also a meeting with leader and members of Club “*Orzu*”, working for disabled people. Materials from the visit were used in *Iniativa* newsletter. This visit was the first experience of the editor arranged with CSSC.

The Bulletin “Initiative”

As a hard copy and an electronic copy, 3 issues of the bulletin “Initiative” for January-March 2001 in Russian were prepared and published. 3 issues for January-March 2001 are published in Uzbek language and one issue – for Winter 2002 – in English. The number of copies is 550 in Russian, 300 in Uzbek and 200 in English.

All issues of the bulletins were placed at CANGO.NET: <http://www.cango.net/kg/uz> (in English) and <http://win.cango.net/kg/uz> (in Russian).

The published bulletins were mailed to 130 addresses. The mailing list for the bulletin in an electronic format increased to 96 addresses (in December it was 73 electronic addresses). The remaining copies were distributed by CSSCs during visits to NGOs, consultations, seminars, and conferences.

Cango.NET

The database “Uzbekistan NGOs” was corrected. Non-functioning initiative groups were excluded and new NGOs were included. For April 1, 2002 in the database there are 601 NGOs and initiative groups

The final conference “Women’s Rights in Independent Uzbekistan” took place in hotel “Afrasiab” (Samarkand) on January 29, 2002. The conference is the final step of the project “Media-campaign on Prevention of Domestic Violence” implemented in Samarkand, Djizak and Karshi with support from *Winrock International-Ukraine*. Being one of the project’s coordinators, Ilona Ilyasova made presentation of the outcomes of the media campaign.

Training Activity

January 21-25, 2002 – Training for Trainers on *Methodology of training adult auditory* was conducted in Urgench. 11 people were trained including 8 potential trainers of Nukus and Urgench CSSCs. Manual on *Project Design* was translated into Uzbek language. A draft manual on *Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects* was prepared. Comments from other Central Asian countries were received. Work on finalizing of the Manual is going on.

Organizational Development

At the end of January 2002, a mock audit was conducted with Urgench Support Center. Mock Audit instruments are to be used in the OD program as well.

OD re-assessments with Focus NGOs – Business Women Association of Kokand-city, Umid of Samarkand-city and Umidvorlik of Tashkent-city were conducted.

Evaluations of projects implemented by Counterpart’s Focus NGOs were conducted during the quarter.

During the Quarter two Case Management Meetings were conducted – one on January 15 (6 CSSCs, 5 Focus NGOs and 6 Health NGOs were reviewed), another one was on March 13 (5 CSSCs were reviewed).

Community Outreach

The primary activity this quarter was monitoring CAGs already funded under Phase III. Please see Attachment #1 for a breakdown of monitoring findings.

Network Development

A new organization to be the Tashkent Support Center was identified – the NGO *Social Research Agency FACT*. Their mission is to: *Actively participate in Civil Society development through teaching communities, social groups and institutions to increase their involvement in the process of decision-making at different levels*. Orientation was conducted for the CSSC at the end of the quarter.

Two Support Centers in Kokand and Nukus were registered in the Ministry of Justice and now are considered as our partners.

79 books on trainings were purchased and distributed among CSSCs for their Resource Centers. All the CSSCs, as well as target NGOs, were regularly provided with information about new competitions, grants, etc., as well as detailed information from Internet and other sources.

As the result of training on *Effective Leadership* conducted for Counterpart and the Network of CSSCs staff on February 4-9, 2002 monthly reports of all CSSCs are collected in the Hub Center and sent to all CSSCs, making the whole staff aware of activity of the Network and resulting in an increase in the quality of reports.

Documents defining mission and the structure of the Network, governing bodies and the process of decision-making are developed and will be presented at the April Network Meeting.

A preliminary list of potential donors for the Network was defined.

D. CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT CENTERS OVERVIEW

KAZAKHSTAN

1. *Zhalgas-Counterpart, Almaty oblast, Almaty*

Internal Capacity Building

- Program coordinator of Counterpart Kazakhstan Nurlan Zhumabekov, in cooperation with PC Galym Zhukupbaev, revised the PCAP training module. A version of this training module was sent to other CSSCs in Kazakhstan for it to be conducted in the same format nation-wide.
- The CSSC director and assistant received training "Public Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns", held jointly with the Hub Center from January 7 through January 8; Galym Zhukupbaev was one of the trainers.
- A new accountant, Galina Zhanabaeva, was hired.
- The Hub Center OD consultant Nurlan Sakhanov conducted an assessment of the Zhalgas-Counterpart activities.
- NGO *Baspana* ordered and paid Zhalgas-Counterpart for facilitation services and OD assessment.
- Galym Zhukupbaev took part in the TOT "Monitoring & Evaluation" organized by UNDP, CASDIN, and the World Bank on February 5-6.
- Alibi Jangildin started an OD assessment ordered by the NGO *Alem-Komek*, a Focus NGO of the Zhalgas-Counterpart Support Center. A contract was signed and a plan for consulting this NGO on OD issues was developed.
- From February 11-15 trainers Sagyngaly Elkeev and Andrey Andreev conducted "NGO Management" and "Team Building" training for the Aral region NGOs under partnership agreement between UNDP and Zhalgas-Counterpart Support Center.

Community Outreach

- During the last quarter the CSSC developed mechanisms for working with communities, including their selection, training, participatory appraisal, development and screening of project proposals, and monitoring of projects implementation. Currently Zhalgas-Counterpart is administering five CAG-funded projects.
- The CSSC started conducting trainings for its volunteers. Some of the trained volunteers, such as Askar Kaliev, Aizhan Arkabaeva and Daniil Glumov started working with clients of the Center. Volunteer Askar Kaliev received training in "Participatory Community Appraisal and Development of a Community Action Plan", which allowed him to assist PC Galym Zhukupbaev to conduct several participatory community appraisals.
- In February Zhalgas-Counterpart conducted a PCAP training for NGOs and several initiative groups from Shymkent, Kapchagai, Kaskelen and Aksu-Zhabagly district of South Kazakhstan interested in acquiring skills of participatory community appraisals.
- Some ideas that came out of the PCAPs resulted in four project proposals being approved for funding: 1) Association of Farmers *Azamat* for construction of a machinery plant; 2) *Center of Women's Initiatives* "Manufacturing of Souvenir Ceramics; 3) *Nadezhda's* project entitled "Community"; and 4) "Construction of a Greenhouse Complex" submitted by *Akbota*. Grant agreements on implementation of these projects are now being prepared.
- Grant agreements were signed with:
 - < *Union of Rural Women of Talgar District*" for construction of a mini-mill to satisfy the grain processing needs of 156 poor families of the incubator community;
 - < *Nesip* for building a well to provide the local population with irrigation and potable water; and
 - < The initiative group of medical workers for assisting the Almaty community of relatives of terminally ill people.

- Zhalgas-Counterpart Support Center coordinated the activities of NGO *Nesip* in lobbying the interests of the rural community. The community representatives developed an action plan for resolving the problems of rural infrastructure and promoting interaction with local government bodies.

2. Astana Civil Society Support Center, Akmola oblast, Astana

Internal Capacity Building

- Two staff meetings with volunteers were held to discuss the Center's registration. The public association founders were identified, the Center's charter was discussed and approved, all the required foundation documents were prepared; the general meeting of the staff and volunteers has named the Center as "Agency for Social Technologies and Development" (ASTD), information is being collected and the required documents are being prepared for legal registration, the logo is being designed and the governing body is being established.
- Completion of the joint project with UNHCR and lack of funding for PRIA project necessitated internal revision of responsibilities. This question was also discussed with Marat Aitmagambetov during his visit. It was decided to revise the staff responsibilities and map out new areas of work.
- Within the period of February 25 through April 5 the Astana CSSC employee Bibigul Salykova had an internship at the Almaty Hub Center as an OD Coordinator. During this internship Bibigul acquired the skills of conducting OD assessments (during the trip with Jamila Asanova to Karaganda CSSC), collecting and writing OD success stories, making notes on the results of OD case management meetings. She also took part in the evaluation of community projects by the grant committee.
- Claire Healing finished her work as an OD consultant. A final report on the joint 6-months' project was prepared for the Hub Center and for the CSSC.
- The CSSC staff received seminar training on such topics as "NGO Taxation according to the New Tax Code", organized by UNDP; "Significance of NGOs in the Civil Society Development" organized by the TACIS National Coordination Bureau; and a mini-training on Internet work, organized by IREX under the IATP program.

Community Outreach

- Grant agreements with two NGOs for funding community projects proposed by the Astana "Public Employment Center" and "Ecoclub Koktem", town of Atbasar, Akmola oblast were signed in January.
- The Public Fund *Nadezhda* opened on January 24 in the settlement of Prigorodny near Almaty. Representatives of local authorities, parliamentary deputies, Counterpart Kazakhstan Director Marat Aitmagambetov along with the founders of the fund *Disabled Children Society* participated in the opening. The event was broadcast on national TV channel Khabar on January 24-25.
- In February - March the CSSC concentrated its efforts on the Community Outreach program. The CSSC staff assisted *Disabled Children Society* and *Association of Business Women* in conducting several participatory community appraisals in the settlements of Prigorodny and Lesozavodskoy. These NGOs are now developing several project proposals and based on the results of PCAs conducted.
- Counterpart's grant committee approved a project by the rural NGO *Fresh Wind* to establish a public center.
- In order to develop procedures for monitoring and assessing community projects, the CSSC staff visited the settlement of Prigorodny and the town of Atbasar.
- CSSC conducted mini-training on development of volunteerism for the NGO "Society of Disabled Children", while volunteer activities were presented in school ? 15.
- In February the CSSC conducted 2 trainings on "Advocacy" and "Development of Associations", with participation of local and oblast NGOs.

- On January 8 Galia Omarova, manager of Astana SC conducted a follow-up on advocacy training held in August last year for representatives of seven NGOs. During the event the participants exchanged opinions and made plans for the use of advocacy techniques in their work.
- *InfoCenter* under the RK Ministry of Culture and Public Accord published a methodological guide "Interaction between the State and the Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan: Experience of Cooperation", which includes some analytical materials and legislative acts. *InfoCenter* applied to the CSSC for assistance in selecting NGOs to be mentioned in the publication. The Center recommended several NGOs to work with. As a result five articles out of nine were about activities of NGOs recommended by the Support Center.
- An independent Volunteer Center, set up with active support of the CSSC, was registered in Astana. The CSSC developed a strategy of work with this organization. Several meetings with the Volunteer Center Director resulted in agreement to coordinate activities and distribute responsibilities. This will enable the CSSC to use NGO resources while implementing the Community Outreach Program and considerably raise the efficiency of its work.

3. Entrepreneurship Development Agency SMEDA, Aktobe oblast, Aktobe

Internal Capacity Building

- From the beginning of the year SMEDA Agency is headed by a new director Abai Myrkhin, former manager of the CSSC which functions on the basis of this organization.
- Program coordinator of Counterpart Kazakhstan Nurlan Zhumabekov gave consultations on Community Outreach program implementation. The project "Green Yards" was monitored jointly with the CSSC manager Kairat Kunshashev.
- The CSSC manager Kairat Kunshashev was elected an expert advisor for the grant program ISAR-Atyrau.
- CSSC employees were trained at Counterpart trainings "Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation", "Public Awareness Campaign" and the seminar "Taxation of Non-Commercial Organizations under the New Tax Code of the RK".

Community Outreach

- The CSSC provided consultations on project design. In February Counterpart signed grant agreements with the NGO "Demorda" on the construction of a rural club in the village of Karazhar, Baiganin District and also with the Cooperative of Apartments Owners "Selmas" on constructing play grounds for children.
- The CSSC developed community project monitoring procedures. Three Seminars were held for the city consumer cooperatives and the Cooperative of Apartments Owners, with participation of the city akimat and local mass media, to discuss such issues as: "Procedure for Participation and Role of NGOs and the Mass Media in the Sessions of Aktobe Oblast Department for Regulation of Monopolies", "Promotion of Public Interests", "Exposure of Social Problems and of their Roots".
- In February the CSSC staff conducted 2 trainings: "Participatory Community Appraisal and Development of a Community Action Plan", and "Project Design" for NGOs of the city and the oblast.
- The CSSC, in cooperation with Aktobe «Center for Women's Support», initiated setting up a coalition of women's NGOs and NGOs of the city for the purpose of building up the capacity to solve women's social problems. On January 26 a roundtable was held in the building of Western-Kazakhstani Institute of Law, the office of PA "Ansar", for discussion of interaction between women's NGOs. A letter of intent was signed to consolidate efforts in addressing the problems of women.
- A month-long campaign was organized to advertise CSSC activities through the mass media. A report on the seminar "Join Together Today for a Future without AIDS" was broadcast over the local TV channel "Rika-TV". A journalist of Radio-Rhyme expressed a long-lasting interest in CSSC activities and is quite willing to specialize in coverage of social issues.

- After the "Social Partnership" and "Advocacy trainings that took place in January " the CSSC initiated establishment of a coalition of NGOs and city authorities for prevention of AIDS and drug-addiction among teenagers. The coalition includes such public organizations as "Healthy Lifestyle Club", "Imaton" Psychotherapeutic Center and the recently established PA "Onyx", as well as such governmental agencies as Center for AIDS Prevention, Narcological Dispensary and City Department of Education. On January 15 the coalition held its regular meeting at the CSSC to discuss the results of the work accomplished and make plans for the future. The CSSC provided the coalition with some technical (copying, provision of a digital camera) and methodological assistance in holding seminars, as well as information support.
- The CSSC expanded its activity in recruiting volunteers to help local NGOs. In January a new volunteer Asel Zhamanbaeva rendered technical services to NGOs; she also helped the CSSC to translate from English necessary documents on civil society development in Kazakhstan. Another CSSC volunteer continued providing free legal services to non-commercial organizations.

4. Association of NGOs of Kostanai oblast, Kostanai

Internal Capacity Building

- At a meeting dedicated to CSSC volunteer work it was decided to introduce forms for volunteers to make their work more efficient. Such forms are expected to help in planning assignments and monitoring their implementation.
- Dana Amanova, grant manager of the Hub Center, visited the CSSC for joint monitoring of community projects and providing assistance in action planning. The CSSC considered and approved the plan for forming the local grant committee.
- Oblast Maslikhat approved establishment of a Council of interaction between the local bodies of executive, representative power and NGOs under the Kostanai oblast akimat. On February 9 there was a meeting of members of the Council to develop and approve the plan of work in Kostanai oblast for the period of February through October 2002. The Maslikhat proposed to increase the number of trainings "NGO and Community", and "Project Design" for Kostanai oblast. The Council also offered to cover a part of expenses on these trainings.

Community Outreach

- From January 28 through January 29 Kostanai hosted an oblast conference on social partnership "Mechanisms of Social Partnership between Bodies of Local Executive, Representative Power and Non-Governmental Organizations". The seminar was organized by Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan, Association of Kostanai NGOs with support of Eurasia Foundation and the oblast akimat. Information on this conference was placed on the official web site of Oblast Akim. The seminar participants discussed the following issues:
 - < Establishment of a Council for interaction between local authorities and NGOs under the oblast akim. The main purpose of the Council is to involve NGOs in analysis of urgent social problems and planning of joint measures towards their solution.
 - < Organization of representative power during public hearings on social issues by local government bodies.
 - < Establishment of some sort of center to coordinate the activities of all entities engaged in fighting poverty, promoting employment, rehabilitation, social adaptation, charity, etc.
 - < Personal support of the idea of the conference and the seminar by oblast akim and chairman of oblast maslikhat resulted in active discussion of relations between local authorities and NGOs.
- In February ten participants from three rural areas took part in "Participatory Community Appraisal and Development of Community Action Plan" training. PCAs will be conducted after the training followed by the development of the community action plans.
- This quarter the CSSC staff conducted PCAs in several communities: Kostanai Society of Deaf, the village of Auliekol, Auliekol district of Kostanai Oblast, and also residents of a family hostel in the

city of Kostanai. Several community projects were developed as a result of this, and one project is already underway in the village of Auliekol, Kostanai oblast. The other two projects: "Mobilization of Kostanai Residents at 112 Ualikhanov St. for Improvement of their Living Conditions" and "Establishment of Sewing and Shoe-Making Shops for Reduction of Unemployment and Improvement of the Living Conditions of the Most Vulnerable Layers of the Population of the Settlement of Borovskoy" are in development at the moment.

- Some of CSSC staff participated in the seminar conducted by Kostanai oblast tax committee on "Presentation of Electronic Forms of Tax Reporting under the New Tax Code" for heads and accountants of city and oblast organizations.
- An NGO fair was initiated and conducted by the Association of NGOs. The objective of the fair was to introduce an NGO sector to the general public. 20 NGOs took part in the event.
- The CSSC staff held a meeting with representatives from the VSO volunteer service. This quarter VSO volunteer Jizel Mazonev worked extensively with a group of elderly unemployed people to unite them and mobilize resources for satisfaction of their needs.
- New volunteers signed labor agreements with the Center in January and March – Marina Dvoryanskaya, Denis Ibragimov, Marat Irzhanov, Anastasia Rudneva and Maxim Shegai.

5. Nuclear Tests Victims Union IRIS, East-Kazakhstan oblast, Semei

Internal Capacity Building

- In February CSSC employees participated in Counterpart's "Public Awareness Campaign" training.
- A library fund was started and a logbook was started for registering the books received.
- In January 21 IRIS employees held a meeting to discuss the issues of financial sustainability and fundraising. With the help of OD PC Jamila Asanova the CSSC analyzed its work, and revised its capacity building and service delivery plan. The CSSC also addressed the issue of documenting success stories and got some basic knowledge of OD technologies.
- The CSSC conducted a selective polling of 10 regional NGOs for tracking their progress. The CSSC staff analyzed the questionnaires, identified the major difficulties of NGOs, and developed a joint action plan with NGOs *Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan, Istok, and Initiative Women of Semipalatinsk*. This action plan includes assessment of needs in educational programs, provision and dissemination of information, consulting, and assistance in monitoring and evaluation.

Community Outreach

- A training "Participatory Community Appraisal and Development of Community Action Plan" was conducted for local NGOs and initiative groups; a number of such assessments were administered in a senior center and a settlement in Stepnoy. During the previous assessment the local akim held a meeting with the community's initiative group. A community action plan was developed and local residents started solving their problems. As a result of the assessment conducted in the senior center, the CSSC helped to develop a community project approved by the grant committee in March.
- On January 4 CSSC staff visited the village of Karaul in Abai district, where they had a meeting with the village akim and the initiative group *Togzhan*. Based on the results of this trip the CSSC plans to conduct a PCA in this village in the spring.
- In January-February the CSSC monitored community project implementation in the village of Bolshaya Vladimirovka. The monitoring revealed successful implementation of the project "Baking of Tasty and Salutory Bread". The bread baked there is of high quality but sold at low prices. The bakery signed a contract to supply bread to the district hospital and a local school.
- In March the CSSC conducted a follow-up on the training "Volunteer Management" and discussed the principles of volunteer work, the ways of regulating relations between the volunteers and the organization, formats of volunteer contracts, and volunteer rights and duties.

6. Social Corporate Fund ZUBR, East-Kazakhstan oblast, Oskemen

Internal Capacity Building

- The CSSC staff members analyzed the CSSC work in terms of reaching the basic indicators in service delivery and institutional development. Analysis of internal capacity revealed lack of human resources, so it was decided to enlarge the staff and revise responsibilities. Recruiting agencies have received information on CSSC assistant manager vacancy to be filled on a competitive basis.
- Vitaly Kulik developed two training modules (basic and advanced) for efficient NGO governance development. After CSSC member Olga Obratsova's participation in the Tashkent regional training the modules were revised and an annotation on the resource book was made.
- ZUBR employees started forming a Board of Trustees and conducted a stakeholder analysis.
- ZUBR employees analyzed the efficiency of decision-making at all levels and its internal coordination. The analysis revealed a lack of coordination in financial decision-making, in the project managers' financial management, and in governance.
- The organization continued to actively improve the system of evaluating seminar effectiveness. This quarter three follow-ups were held after trainings and additional follow-up programs for "Volunteer Management" and "Strategic Governance" were designed.
- The Center is developing social partnership. Within the last 2 months participation in the Fund's seminars by representatives of state bodies increased by 11%; in January they constituted 28% of the total number of participants.
- The strategy of implementing the Community Outreach Program was discussed. Measures were taken to raise the Program's effectiveness; new contacts with the organizations working directly with the communities were established.
- The CSSC employees received the following trainings: "Public Awareness Campaigns", "Comments on the New Tax Code of the RK", Global's training "Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation", regional meeting of the working group for the development of governing bodies "Efficient Governance as a Factor in NGOs' Sustainable Development".
- Deputy director of the «ZUBR» Oleg Chernyshov was included into the state oblast committee for revising housing legislation.
- A partnership project "Transparent City", supported by Soros Foundation Kazakhstan, is being implemented with participation of NGOs, state organizations and libraries of the city. The project is designed to implement information technologies, Internet, and to develop city information resources available to the general public.

Community Outreach

- On January 24-25 the CSSC conducted "Participatory Community Appraisal and Development of Community Action Plan" training for mobilization of civil initiatives and training specialists in the conduct of research. The trainees represented NGOs, initiative groups, state agencies (Department of housing and public utilities, Department of labor, Employment Center, Department of analysis and prognostication, local self-government committees). The training promoted use of these methods in community work, in development of state social programs, and the state agencies' partnership in the project implementation.
- After successful completion of the community project a Cooperative of Apartment Owners "50 Lenin St." organized an interview of its constituency and management with local TV channel Kalken TV, which was later broadcast.
- Two projects were submitted to the grant committee. One of them "Establishment of an Information-Recreation Center for People with Poor Sight" was approved by the grant committee and the other is being revised in accordance with recommendations of the committee.
- A Volunteer Center has started operations under the CSSC this quarter. 16 volunteers from five NGOs of Ust-Kamenogorsk work for it on a permanent basis. The program of Volunteer Center development was devised. It envisages volunteer participation in CSSC trainings and in seminars on streamlining interaction between CSSC personnel and volunteers. Basic training for volunteers has

already been conducted by Volunteer Center members with consultation by CSSC staff. It included general information about the NGO's activities, mission, and volunteers' role in the development of the organization. The two most active volunteers Ekaterina Polyakova and Olga Grudina received training at the "Project Design" seminar.

7. Karaganda Regional Ecological Center Eco-Center, Karaganda oblast, Karaganda

Internal Capacity Building

- Preliminary and organizational development assessment of the Karaganda *Ecocenter* capacity showed a high level of organization, well-trained personnel, 10 years of experience working as an NGO, availability of technical facilities (office, equipment, etc.) and a desire of the organization members to cooperate with Counterpart. Additionally this organization has ample experience of working with its constituency, fostered during its campaigns for environmental protection, biodiversity, social partnership, and also during 2 years of grant program administration at both an oblast and national level.

Community Outreach

- From March 11-15 Nurlan Zhumabekov, CO PC and Zhalgas-Counterpart PC Galym Zhukupbaev conducted two trainings: "Participatory Community Appraisal and Development of Community Action Plans" and "Project Design" for representatives of 20 NGOs and initiative groups of Karaganda. Three employees of the Karaganda CSSC also took part in the training and together with other participants they acquired the practical skills of conducting PCAs and improved their skills in making project proposals. During the trainings participants visited two communities (in the suburbs of Karaganda) focusing on the practical aspects of community outreach, compilation of community action plans and development of community projects.

Table of Services - Kazakhstan

Service	Zhalgas-Counterpart	Astana CSSC	SMEDA	Association of NGOs of Kostanai oblast	IRIS	ZUBR
Number of visitors	161	158	160	317	223	142
Number new visitors	27	46	47	25	50	47
Number of visits	542	439	605	457	317	236
Number of NGOs receiving services	143	60	92	88	60	43
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	21	23	9	21	9	34
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	16	2	0	5	2	0
Number of trainings	12	4	6	6	4	11
Number of consultations	53	36	156	78	85	154
Number of times Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	669	214	208	126	41	34
Number of times copy machine was used	227	504	174	117	75	73
Number of copies	1987	6238	10988	5361	3350	1459
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	477	264	54	95	6	17
Number of PCAs conducted	6	4	0	5	2	4
Number of CAPs developed	6	0	0	0	3	2

KYRGYZSTAN

During the quarter, CSSCs staffers took part in the following workshops and seminars:

- Regional training seminar on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation held in Almaty on February 25- March 1 (Naryn, Kant, Kara-Balta and Bishkek CSSC staff). A new training module on Participatory M&E was adopted and the first internal training is scheduled for April 2-5.
- On March 18- 21, the German partners- C. Schruirer, Director of Counterpart Deutschland and Peter Sauer, trainer-consultant of Counterpart Deutschland conducted a training workshop titled Impact Monitoring, Team work, Facilitation, Community Foundations (Batken, Kant, Karakol, Kerben, Osh, and Talas CSSCs). The training was conducted in the framework of EC-funded project 99-0439.
- Regional advanced training workshop on *Governance* held in Tashkent on March 19-22 (Karakol and Nookat CSSCs).
- *Gender School* seminar organized by the Women Support Center (Kerben, Osh, and Naryn CSSCs).
- The third round of the TOT in *Advocacy* conducted by NDI in March 16-18 (Kara-Balta, Naryn, Kant, Kerben, Talas and Karakol CSSCs).

Last quarter, the CSSCs of Batken, Karakol, Jalalabad, Osh, Naryn and Talas signed 12-month contracts totaling \$50,000 with the Soros Foundation to continue providing services to local NGOs. The CSSCs were contracted to administer Soros' grant program, provide information support, and deliver consultations and training workshops.

1. Batken CSSC (BT)

Internal Capacity Building

- The CSSC staff took part in internal OD training conducted by the *Training Center Golubka* from Moscow for the FTI staff on January 22-24. The training resulted in finalizing 3-year organizational goals, one of which is to develop the capacity of the CSSC. Further, the job responsibilities of the staff were revised.
- The CSSC hired a new Assistant P. Suranova, who was chosen from the pool of contract trainers. The former Assistant A. Tynybekov left the position due to inadequate performance.
- The German partners- C. Schruirer, Director of Counterpart Deutschland and P. Sauer, trainer-consultant of Counterpart Deutschland visited the CSSC on March 16 to monitor activities of target communities. Based on their observations, recommendations on streamlining community mobilization activities were given to the CSSC staff.
- A small grants program in Batken Oblast, funded by USAID and aimed at supporting peace building and conflict mitigation initiatives of local NGOs/CBOs was announced in Batken Oblast. The CSSC took an active part in finalization grant guidelines, selection criteria and operating procedures for a local grant review committee. The CSSC formed the grant review board, consisting of 7 people representing 4 local NGOs, 2 state entities, and one international organization. The first meeting was held on March 26, where 25 applications were reviewed, and 9 proposals totaling \$14,915 were preliminarily approved.

Community Outreach

- On January 16, the CSSC conducted a meeting with participation of Batken Rayon Administration and NGOs. The participants discussed collaboration between local authorities and civil society, and the Deputy Akim appreciated the activities of local NGOs and informed the NGOs about plans of the Rayon Administration and its vision of partnership opportunities.
- On March 27-29, the CSSC Assistant A. *Aikynova* and Contract Trainer A. *Karabashev* conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 18 PCA facilitators.
- On March 30, the CSSC conducted PCAs focusing on developing economic activities in the villages of *Dostuk* and *Chon-Gara* with participation of 148 people. The participants identified advantages/shortcomings of possible income-generating activities. Revision of the CAP developed last year was scheduled for early next quarter.
- On January 8, the CSSC hosted a roundtable of local NGOs and media to discuss Decree #20. The participants, representing 16 NGOs and 2 media outlets, decided to conduct an information campaign about the Decree and its implications among the population of Batken Oblast.

2. Bishkek CSSC (BS)

Internal Capacity Building

- Counterpart transferred its Internet Center to InterBilim, which allowed an increased visitation rate and expanded Internet/E-mail services for clients. The NGOs which used the Internet Center in Counterpart's office are provided the same access to services at the new location.
- The Counterpart Training Coordinator Ch. Akmatova consulted the Center's staff and Contract Trainers in revising training modules in Project Design and Constituency Development.
- On March 22, the CSSC staff took part in internal OD training aimed at revising short-term and long-term organizational goals.

- The CSSC conducted a training workshop in Sustainable Organizational Development for the staff of a project on Tourism Development, run by the Swiss agency Helvetas, which covered training costs.
- Mrs. A. Sasykbaeva, the Director of InterBilim, took part in meeting with representatives of Department of States on January 15 and informed them about activities of InterBilim and recent civil society developments in Kyrgyzstan.

Community Outreach

- In January-February, the CSSC staff facilitated PCA and CAP in the new residential district Keremet. More than 100 people, mostly internal migrants, prioritized problems facing population of the district and two of them, lack of potable water and poor quality roads- were identified as primary gaps to address. The CSSC conducted training workshop in Project Design in March to assist the initiative group to develop funding proposals.
- On March 25-27, Contract Trainers K. Amanalieva and N. Temirova conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 15 PCA facilitators.
- This quarter, the CSSC conducted PCAs focusing on developing economic activities in the new residential areas of *Ak-Bosogo* and *Archa-Beshik* with participation of 140 people. The participants identified advantages/shortcomings of possible income-generating activities. Revision of the CAP developed last year was scheduled for early next quarter.
- The PR Assistant Ms. E. Voronina took part in a meeting with Mr. T. Baltabaev, Deputy of the Legislative Chamber of Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) to discuss issues of health protection, family planning and childhood. The meeting was aimed at revision of current legislation in these matters.
- Ms. E. Voronina also participated in the roundtable titled Civil Society and Freedom of Speech on February 21. The roundtable was devoted to the discussion of Decree #20 and resulted in an appeal to President Akaev for the revocation of the Decree.
- Mrs. E. Jusueva took part in a roundtable held on January 29, where representatives of the most active Bishkek NGOs and deputies of Jogorku Kenesh discussed amendments to the Tax Code.

3. Jalalabad CSSC (JA)

Internal Capacity Building

- Meetings of contract trainers were conducting regularly on a monthly basis, discussing the quality of training workshops. For example, on February 13, the CSSC together with contract trainers discussed reporting issues, amendments to the training manuals, and procedures of evaluation of training activities.
- On March 4, the leader of the *Peace Building Group* Mrs. I. Raimberdieva conducted a one-day seminar in conflict resolution for the 12 staffers and contract trainers. The seminar had two objectives: firstly, to introduce participants to general concepts of conflicts and ways to mitigate them, and secondly, to discuss the role the CSSC and local NGOs may have in resolving border conflicts. A follow-up meeting to discuss specific ideas and actions is scheduled for April 2002.
- The CSSC purchased one computer connected to the Internet and one printer within an agreement with the Soros Foundation.
- The process of transforming the Stakeholders Committee into an Advisory Board is underway. The CSSC staff were entrusted to revise operational procedures and regulations by the next meeting scheduled for the next quarter.
- Counterpart OD Program Coordinator V. Akhmetov and Training Coordinator C. Akmatova conducted the third OD assessment, and pointed out several achievements, highlights of which include improved training administration, increased number of clients, and expanded links with local governments.

Community Outreach

- The CSSC conducted a meeting of stakeholders on January 22 to revise stakeholders' regulations, their responsibilities and rotation/selection criteria. The members of the Stakeholders Committee entrusted the CSSC with a task to come up with amendments to be approved at the next meeting of the Committee.
- The CSSC assisted the NGO *Suzak Aiymdary* in conducting a roundtable on *Social Partnership* with participation of NGOs and aiyl okmotus (village governments) of the Suzak Rayon. The representatives of aiyl okmotus shared experience in partnering civil society organizations in addressing social issues, and some of them, for example the head of Bagysh Aiyl Okmoty, requested training in Project Design and Social Partnership for their staff. The Deputy Rayon Akim Mr. K. Kambaraliev expressed the intention of the local governments to expand collaboration with civil society for the benefit of the vulnerable population.
- On March 19-21, Contract Trainers Mrs. C. Jusupova, Mrs. A. Jorobaeva and Mrs. B. Egemberdieva conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 19 PCA facilitators.

4. Kant CSSC (KN)

Internal Capacity Building

- The CSSC received co-funding from UNHCR to develop refugee-targeted activities including: assisting Tajik refugees in obtaining Kyrgyz citizenship and mobilizing refugee communities. The CSSC hired Mr. T. Janaev as Citizenship Coordinator, the contract started on February 8, 2002.
- On January 28, the CSSC Manager T. Temirova took part in a seminar devoted to the issues of collaboration between local governments and civil society conducted by the Issyk-Ata Rayon Administration.
- On January 29-30, the CSSC Assistant A. Dunganaeva took part in a training workshop in Constituency Building conducted by *InterBilim* in Bishkek.
- During the reporting period, the CSSC has successfully built the capacity of new contract trainers in conducting such modules as *Project Design*, *Business Planning*, and *Micro Credits* with assistance of experienced trainers, who conducted seminars together with new trainers and provided "on-the-job" coaching.
- In March, the CSSC received a request of the Issyk-Ata Rayon Kenesh to train government employees, especially of the lowest level- Aiyl Okmotus. The CSSC conducted the training workshop Project Design where people of Aiyl Okmotus took an active part.

Community Outreach

- On January 26, Head of the UNHCR Office in Bishkek Mr. J. Lynch, Head of International Relations Department of the President's Administration Mr. A. Aitmatov, UNDP Resident Representative Mr. E. Murat, Deputy Minister of Interior Mr. K. Sadiev, and the Rayon Akim Mr. G. Davidenko participated in granting passports to 80 refugees of Issyk-Ata Rayon. This event took place due to the active work of refugee NGOs and leaders of refugee communities, who constantly lobbying simplification of citizenship acquisition procedures.
- The CSSC took an active part in collecting information on refugees for the citizenship database in line with UNHCR-funded project. The survey started on February 20 and finished on March 6. With the assistance of volunteers of refugee NGOs *Sayron*, *Yrys Kenchi*, *Duvana* and *Miloserdie-Yntymak*, adult refugees from Issyk-Ata and Chuy Rayons were interviewed and records were entered to the electronic database. In addition to interviewers, the CSSC recruited 5 volunteers to type the collected data.
- On March 19-21, the CSSC's staff conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 16 PCA facilitators.

5. Kara-Balta CSSC (KB)

Internal Capacity Building

- On February 4, the CSSC hosted a meeting of 7 contract trainers to discuss training program accomplishments and ensure information sharing among contract trainers.
- Office Manager K. Shorukova took part in the seminar Taxes and Laws conducted by PRAGMA Corporation in Kara-Balta on January 16-22. She obtained new knowledge in tax bylaws and is expected to use them in delivering consultations to NGOs/CBOs.
- The CSSC Manager K. Abraliev took part in the training workshop in *Facilitation Skills* conducted by Contract Trainers D. Vasilkov, C. Akmatova, and O. Beyshembiev on March 14-15.
- The CSSC received co-funding from UNHCR to develop refugee-targeted activities including assisting Tajik refugees in obtaining Kyrgyz citizenship, and mobilizing refugee communities. The CSSC made a decision to move Ms. K. Shorukova to the new position of Citizenship Coordinator, the contracts started on February 8, 2002. She also took responsibilities of the accountant.
- The CSSC facilitated a roundtable of refugee NGOs of Jayl Rayon held in the office of Hireneso on January 14. Three refugee NGOs *Hireneso*, *El Ychyn* and *Chuy Murgab* presented brief reports on their last year activities and plans for 2002 to the members of Aksakal Councils, and shared information about humanitarian assistance being provided through these NGOs.

Community Outreach

- Kara-Balta CSSC assisted the initiative group of Kara-Tube VI. in finalizing the CAP focused on addressing 4 problems recognized by the community as of high priority during a PCA conducted in January. In order to cover transport expenses of the initiative group, community members decided to collect 10 soms per family. The initiative group developed a proposal on improving potable water supply in the village, which the CAG Review Committee approved in March.
- The CSSC took an active part in collecting information on refugees for the citizenship database in line with UNHCR-funded project. The survey started on February 20 and finished on March 6. With the assistance of 28 volunteers recruited by the CSSCs and refugee NGOs of Panfilov, Jayl and Moscow Rayons, 2848 adult refugees from 36 villages were interviewed and records were entered to the electronic database. In addition to interviewers, the Center recruited 14 volunteers to type the collected data.
- Three meetings of the team of CSSC volunteers took place, where they discussed actions taken to provide assistance to disabled children. The CSSC Refugee Coordinator A. Kasymbekov conducted a brief seminar on Project Design for 11 volunteers. CSSC volunteers together with local NGO *OIR* identified that first of all disabled children need school supplies and shoes. Volunteer A. Asipjanov compiled a list of the most needy children and approached Mr. J. Herring, US citizen working in Kyrgyzstan, requesting for financial assistance, and Mr. Herring provided funds to supply 24 children with school supplies, toys and shoes.
- The CSSC hosted a roundtable with the participation of 19 representatives of local NGOs to discuss Decree #20 and its implications. The participants wrote an appeal to Prime Minister Mr. K. Bakiev, and Deputy Mr. K. Karabekov. An initiative group of 4 people was elected and given responsibility to collect signatures and deliver letters. The roundtable was widely covered by the local media.

6. Karakol CSSC (KR)

Internal Capacity Building

- On January 21, the Head of the Department of Oblast Administration Mrs. B. Isakova conducted a one-day seminar in clerical work for the Center's staff. The Center staff visited the Oblast Administration to observe circulation of documents and record keeping. The CSSC conducts weekly staff meetings to share information and to provide "on-the-job" coaching.

- *Leader* issued the annual report on its activities for 2002, 28 copies in Russian and 7 copies in English were published. On March 15, *Leader* conducted a general meeting of its members and volunteers to approve the annual report, to review progress in implementing the strategic plan, especially in terms of providing paid services and getting a new building for the organization.
- The CSSC conducted a meeting of contract trainers on February 11 to discuss recommendations to update the existing training module in Project Design in order to adapt it for target communities. A group of three contract trainers was entrusted to revise the training module. Shortly after, the revised module was sent to the Hub Center for finalization. The contract trainers also discussed the issue of creating a Web site of local trainers.

Community Outreach

- This quarter the CSSC developed a special form for organizations interested in having volunteers. In February- April, the Center provided services of 26 volunteers for 5 state organizations (state administrations, Oblast Archive, etc.), 7 NGOs, 2 CBOs and 1 educational institution.
- On March 15, the CSSC hosted a meeting of the Stakeholders Committee to discuss and finalize grant-making regulations: guidelines, selection criteria and operating procedures of the local grant review committee. The first meeting of the grant review committee was scheduled for April 26.
- On March 26-28, the CSSC's staff conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 20 PCA facilitators. This quarter, the CSSC conducted a PCA focusing on developing economic activities in the village of *Jele-Dobo* with the participation of 94 people. The participants identified advantages/shortcomings of possible income-generating activities. Revision of the CAP developed last year was scheduled for early next quarter.
- The inception phase of the project *Rural Hygiene and Sanitation Project*, funded by DFID and implemented by WS Atkins, was launched in February 2002. In line with this project, the CSSC assisted in conducting a pilot participatory appraisal in Karakol VI. under guidance of L. Thorn, Community Development Specialist of WS Atkins.
- The Center hosted a roundtable with participation of 15 local NGOs to discuss the Decree #20 and its implications. The participants wrote an appeal to President Akaev, Prime Minister Mr. K. Bakiev, and Deputies of the Parliament, emphasizing the apparent contradiction of the Decree to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic and international treaties signed by the Government.

7. Kerben CSSC (KE)

Internal Capacity Building

- The CSSC gained the capacity to provide Internet and E-mail services, which are in great local demand, since many local NGOs/CBOs intend to establish partnerships with organizations abroad and to search for funding opportunities. The CSSC trained 2 volunteers to provide Internet and E-mail services, and currently 9 mailboxes are used by local organizations. The services resulted in the development and delivery of 10 proposals by local NGOs to donors such as TACIS, SDC, Democracy Commission under the US Embassy, Soros Foundation.
- In February, the CSSC published a pilot issue of the bulletin "Burevestnik", which highlights information about Center's activities, programs of other NGOs and donors, legal information, volunteers' activities, etc.
- According to the Strategic Plan developed and finalized last year, the CSSC developed 4 funding proposals to expand its activities. The proposals have not been finalized yet.

Community Outreach

- The Manager of the CSSC Mr. T. Khamdamov had several meetings with the Manager of Namangan CSSC Mr. Sh. Kurbanov to identify specific areas of collaboration. They discussed the situation in the bordering village *Mamai*, which is one of the target communities of the Center. Both Managers

agreed to join efforts in establishing friendly relations between Kyrgyz and Uzbek communities of this village through facilitating the common use of such natural resources as gas and water.

- The volunteer team of the Center established good links with the *Center of Volunteer Initiatives (CVI)* from Bishkek, which has already scheduled some training seminars for volunteers in Kerben. The highlights of volunteer activities in Kerben will be placed on CVI's Web Site.
- On March 28-30, the CSSC's staff conducted PCA training with a focus on revenue generation for 20 PCA facilitators. The CSSC conducted PCAs focusing on developing economic activities in the villages of *Kyzyl-Tuu* and *Ak-Jol* with the participation of 88 people. The participants identified advantages/shortcomings of possible income-generating activities. Revision of the CAP developed last year was scheduled for early next quarter.
- CSSC volunteers launched a charity action called *Ak-Tilek* aimed at collecting second-hand clothes for children of low-income families of Kerben VI. in order to increase school attendance rate. The action will be completed next quarter.
- On February 5, the Center facilitated roundtable of local NGOs and media discussing Decree #20. There were different opinions regarding this Decree, and after active debates, the participants wrote an appeal to President Akaev and the Jogorku Kenesh, protesting against the Decree.
- Due to tragic events of March 17-19 in Aksy Rayon, where 5 people were killed while the militia was breaking up a picket protesting the detention of Deputy Beknazariov, the Rayon Akim S. Osmonov resigned. The Center reported that it would take some time to establish relations with the new administration.

8. Naryn CSSC (NR)

Internal Capacity Building

- The Naryn Center launched two projects this quarter: Providing Support to NGOs funded by the Soros Foundation, and Internet Public Site, sponsored by IREX; and conducted a roundtable for 15 local NGOs on January 25 to announce them. These projects have institutional support components.
- The CSSC conducted meeting of stakeholders to revise stakeholders' regulations, their responsibilities and rotation/selection criteria. The members of the Stakeholders Committee entrusted the CSSC to revise the regulations in order to transform the Committee into an Advisory Board.
- The CSSC conducted three meetings of contract trainers to discuss recommendations for updating the existing training module in Project Design for target communities. A group of three contract trainers was entrusted to revise the training module. Then the revised module was sent to the Hub Center for finalization. Two contract trainers acquired skills in conducting workshops in *Advocacy*.

Community Outreach

- On January 16, the CSSC hosted a meeting of the Stakeholders Committee with participation of the leaders of initiative groups of target communities. The members of the Committee and the community leaders shared information on the implementation of CAGs awarded last year. The initiative groups of Tash-Bashat VI. and Ygyt VI. made a decision to be registered in order to expand their donor base. The CO Coordinator of the Hub Office N. Satarov introduced the participants to the Logical Framework concept.
- The initiative group of the community of the village of *Cholpon*, which is on the list of target communities, developed a project aimed at renovation of the water reservoir and submitted it to Counterpart. The project was not approved, and the community was given recommendations to clarify workplans, sustainability, etc. This year the initiative group revised the project accordingly and it was approved by UNDP.
- CSSC volunteers took an active part in organizing and holding a roundtable devoted to Decree #20. They also conducted an action on collecting clothes for children from low-income families. The volunteer activities are being regularly covered by the local radio station *Almaz* under the heading

“Volunteer Rain”, being broadcasted every Friday. The volunteers look for possibilities to conduct actions, aimed at environment protection, together with school youth.

- On March 26-29, the CSSC’s staff conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 23 PCA facilitators. The CSSC conducted a PCA focusing on developing economic activities in the village of *Tash-Bashat* with the participation of 42 people. The participants identified advantages/shortcomings of possible income-generating activities. Revision of the CAP developed last year was scheduled for early next quarter.
- The inception phase of the project *Rural Hygiene and Sanitation Project*, funded by DFID and implemented by WS Atkins, was launched in February 2002. In line with this project, the CSSCs assisted in conducting a pilot participatory appraisal in Tendik VI. under the guidance of L. Thorn, Community Development Specialist of WS Atkins.
- The Center facilitated a roundtable of local NGOs and media discussing Decree #20 on February 8. The meeting was attended by 16 NGOs and 5 media outlets. Resulting from the discussions, participants sent an appeal to President Akaev, Prime Minister K. Bakiev, Deputies of Parliament I. Kadyrbekov and K. Karabekov, protesting against the Decree and calling for its revocation.

9. Nookat CSSC (NO)

Internal Capacity Building

- Based on an OD assessment conducted by Counterpart staff last year, the CSSC conducted some sort of certification for its staffers using questionnaire developed beforehand. The members of the Board of Directors made an assessment of the staff performance and recommendations on their remuneration. Further, the Center made a decision to encourage each staff person to work with 2-3 volunteers on a regular basis in order to expand activities and build capacity of volunteers.
- In January, the Hub Center Coordinators visited the CSSC to monitor activities of target communities. Based on their observations, recommendations on streamlining community mobilization activities were shared with the CSSC staff.
- The CSSC works on three projects and the organizational structure was changed to respond to the multi-project environment. This quarter the CSSC together with the Board of Directors revised the strategic plan.
- In February, the CSSC announced a new project aimed at integration of Tadjik refugees and supported by UNHCR. The Center hired Ms. Goulkhan Safaralievva as the Refugee Coordinator and conducted an orientation for her.
- The CSSC purchased new office equipment (two computers, a printer and a copy machine) and the staff regularly studies English and computers. On February 27, 3 staffers visited the Osh Institute of New Technologies and Languages to familiarize themselves with 2 programs run by the Institute: community mobilization and health promotion. The Dutch consultant M. Van Der Doul demonstrated a mechanical water pump and solar heater, which can be used by local communities. Three staff persons of the Institute took part in a PCA conducted by the CSSC at the end of March.
- As a result of the *Social Partnership Conference* held in December 2001 in Nookat, local governments allocated 800,000 soms to support activities of civil society organizations. The Center signed contracts with 4 village governments to deliver training workshops for their staff and community leaders, and 50% of training costs are to be covered by the village governments.

Community Outreach

- The Refugee Coordinator G. Safaralievva visited principal refugee locations of Nookat and Aravan Rayons to familiarize herself with the refugee situation and work done so far in terms of mobilization of refugees. The first training in Microbusiness was conducted in March 18-19 in Kok-Jar village.
- On March 5-6, the CSSC’s staff conducted PCA training with a focus on revenue generation for 15 PCA facilitators. This quarter the Board of Directors made a decision to select 6 new communities.

The CSSC conducted PCAs in the new target villages of *Kotormo, Don Kishlak, Arbyn, Besh-Tal* and *Akchaaly* with the participation of 506 people.

- The CSSC conducted a competition of small projects developed by volunteers in order to encourage them to be proactive. The CSSC staff conducted the training workshop in *Project Design* and then solicited proposals of volunteers, and a committee consisting of 3 staffers approved three of them. Grants to volunteers were awarded out of CSSC's own funding.

10. *Osh* CSSC (OS)

Internal Capacity Building

- The Center conducted a meeting of stakeholders on January 17 to discuss achievements and shortcomings of last year's activities. The Center replenished its library with new books on Conflict, Human Rights, Democracy Building, etc. provided by the Soros Foundation.
- On February 20-21, the CSSC staff took part in a training on Strategic Visioning conducted by Trainer-Consultant of *InterBilim* N. Omurbekova.
- The German partners- *C. Schruirer*, Director of Counterpart Deutschland and *P. Sauer*, trainer-consultant of Counterpart Deutschland, visited the CSSC on March 15 to monitor activities of target communities. Based on their observations, recommendations on ensuring the process of collecting fees for water were shared with the CSSC staff.
- The process of transforming the Stakeholders Committee into an Advisory Board is underway. The CSSC staff was entrusted to revise operational procedures and regulations by the next meeting scheduled for the next quarter.
- In the framework of a new agreement with Soros, the Center continues providing training and consultative support to the NGOs, and to date 5 new funding proposals were sent to the Soros.

Community Outreach

- In February the CSSC organized training workshops on *Main Issues of International and National Laws in the Field of Human Rights Protection* in 4 target communities as part of strengthening their capacities in advocacy. The workshops were conducted by trainers of the local NGO *Foundation for Support of Legal and Economic Reforms (FSLER)*.
- On March 14-15, the CSSC's staff conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 15 PCA facilitators. This quarter, the CSSC conducted PCAs in the new target villages of *Kuu-Maidan, Pokrovka* and *Kenesh-Tatar* with the participation of 222 people.
- With the assistance of the CSSC, two target communities of the villages of *Kun-Elel* and *Pokrovka* developed and submitted proposals to the Soros Foundation in order to attract additional funding to address problems prioritized in their CAPs. One proposal is to build a bathhouse in Kun-Elek VI, and the other is to create a dining-hall for school children in Eski-Pokrovka VI.
- The Center facilitated a roundtable of local NGOs and media discussing Decree #20 on February 8. The meeting was attended by local NGOs and media outlets. Resulting from the discussions, the participants sent an appeal to the President Akaev, Prime Minister K. Bakiev, Parliament Speakers A. Erkebaev and A. Borubaev, protesting against the Decree and calling for its revocation. The letter was also sent to the *Radio Station Freedom*.

11. *Talas* CSSC (TL)

Internal Capacity Building

- In January, the Center recruited Mr. A. Turdukulov, specialist of Land Inspection, as a volunteer to provide consultations on Land Law. From the outset, he consulted members of target communities, and currently consultations are being provided in the office on a regular basis, 6 hours a week, serving on average 5-6 clients a week. Thus, the Center expanded its spectrum of consulting services.

- On February 8-9, three staff persons participated in training in business planning provided by *SBDC Consulting*. The Centers Bookkeeper B. Momunbekov took part in 2-week seminars on *International Fiscal Accounting Standards*.
- The CSSC hosted meetings of contract trainers to share actual experience in delivering workshops. The contract trainers decided to have two trainers at meetings presenting particular training modules.
- The process of transforming the Stakeholders Committee into an Advisory Board is underway. The CSSC staff was entrusted to revise operational procedures and regulations by the next meeting scheduled for the next quarter.
- The Center hosted a meeting of local NGOs and UNDP to discuss what services can be provided through the Internet Public Site, and how NGOs can benefit.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the CSSC and the Oblast Administration is under consideration by the parties, and is expected to be signed next quarter. The CSSC Manager G. Temirbekova was coopted to the Oblast Committee on Investments.
- The CSSC assisted the *Oblast Department on Tourism, Sport and Youth Policy* in conducting a roundtable for youth organizations. The CSSC staff and volunteers provided consultations in drafting the agenda and a provisional list of participants, and facilitated roundtable discussions devoted to the problems of youth and ways of addressing them.

Community Outreach

- On March 26-28, the CSSC's staff conducted PCA training with focus on revenue generation for 21 PCA facilitators. This quarter, the CSSC conducted PCAs focusing on developing economic activities in the villages of *Jany-Turmush*, *Kum-Aryk*, *Ogombaevo* and *Manas-1000* with the participation of 316 people. The participants identified advantages/shortcomings of possible income-generating activities. Revision of the CAP developed last year was scheduled for early next quarter.
- The leader of the target community *Kairat R. Atakanov* took part in a meeting of young leaders of civil society organizations with President Akaev held in the White House on February 14.
- The CSSC hosted a meeting of the Stakeholders Committee members and leaders of target communities, where the staff presented results/achievements of the CSSC during the first year of operation.
- The Center facilitated a roundtable of local NGOs and media discussing Decree #20 on February 7.

Table of Services - Kyrgyzstan

Service	BS	BT	JA	KB	KE	KN	KR	NO	NR	OS	TL
Number of Visitors	211	296	205	416	243	260	201	591	286	250	320
Number of New Visitors	51	82	51	77	85	67	64	63	55	58	149
Number of Visits	473	370	271	858	648	334	345	985	487	287	556
Number of NGO receiving services	159	98	107	71	70	33	158	132	153	204	139
Number of CBO, initiative groups receiving services	11	19	51	23	65	12	34	400	19	7	27
Number of volunteers recruited for NGO	0	0	0	8	2	0	55	20	0	10	1
Number of Training Workshops	4	7	8	7	2	8	6	9	5	6	9
Number of Consultations	132	310	111	250	253	179	217	106	211	41	262
Number of Times Computer/Internet/E-mail Was Used	433	67	47	73	56	15	1238	25	74	115	194
Number of Times Copy Machine/ Printer Was Used	64	86	96	304	242	41	29	72	300	152	273
Number of Copies (for Copy Machine and Printer)	285	1710	573	6343	1837	1805	174	285	8336	1170	5919
Number of Times Phone/Fax Was Used	40	36	71	28	25	34	25	132	78	27	239
Number of PCAs Conducted	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	5	1	3	4
Number of CAPs Developed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0

TAJIKISTAN**1. Dushanbe CSSC****Internal Capacity Building**

- This quarter staffing was completed in the Dushanbe CSSC and job descriptions of each staff member were updated. When the Counterpart OD Coordinator conducted an OD intervention with the Center members, they revised their Action Plan for capacity building and service delivery.
- Currently the Dushanbe CSSC has signed contracts with 15 volunteers who assist the Support Center's staff in providing services to their clients. A policy on volunteer management was developed by the Support Center to regulate volunteers' work. The next step is to offer the volunteers for work in other NGOs.
- The Dushanbe CSSC Training Manager and Accountant attended a *Project Evaluation Workshop* in Dushanbe, conducted by *Golubka* Center from Russia. Three members of the Center participated in the *Advanced Advocacy Workshop* conducted by the Dushanbe Center. A number of sessions

including Strategic Planning, and Volunteer Management were conducted for the staff members by the Civil Society Support Center's Training Coordinator and a contract trainer for staff development.

- The Dushanbe CSSC prepared and submitted to the Hub Center for approval training requests for a series of training workshops for new NGOs during the month of March and April. The Dushanbe CSSC also submitted to the Hub Center a one-year estimated budget for trainings till March 2003.
- A meeting with the contract trainers was conducted to discuss training issues. The discussion focused on developing a mechanism for monitoring trainings, updating the contracts for the contract trainers and developing a schedule for future trainings.
- Copies of the *Convention of the Rights of Children* and other publications on Children's Rights – 255 copies in all, were received from UNICEF for the NGO Resource Center. The NGO *Salzburg Seminar Alumni*, according to an agreement between the Dushanbe CSSC and this NGO, provided the Resource Center with 110 copies of publications on the *Third Sector*.

2. Khujand CSSC

Internal Capacity Building

- This quarter the Khujand CSSC offered the following major services to NGOs and CBOs of Sughd Oblast:
 - < Use of copying machine
 - < Use of fax
 - < Use of telephone
 - < Use of the NGO literature
 - < Sughd Oblast NGO Database
 - < Donor Organizations Database
 - < Consultations on project design, trainings provided by the Center, donor organizations, activities and NGO registration.
- The Khujand Center started working on updating the List of Active NGOs working in the Sughd Oblast. The list includes NGOs contacts, addresses as well as mission statements and implemented programs.
- A Program Assistant was hired this quarter to work with NGOs. This will improve the quality of services offered by the Support Center and help relieve the program staff of their workload. The job descriptions of all the staff members and volunteers were updated.
- The Khujand CSSC Director, Dilorom Atabaeva, attended a *Sustainable Dialogue Workshop* in Dushanbe, where she received new skills on facilitating sustainable dialogue between the local government and local NGOs.
- The Khujand CSSC Director met with the representative of the Norwegian Refugee Committee (NRC), Mahmoud Naderi, regarding a project proposal the Center had submitted to this organization for funding. If funded, the Support Center would set up an educational program for Afghan refugees living in the Khujand area.

Community Outreach

- The Khujand CSSC has launched a new approach for recruiting volunteers. The Support Center made an announcement in the local media in which they invited volunteers to compete for 30 volunteer positions. The selected volunteers would complete a one-month training program based on Counterpart's core training modules and a one-month practical work program at the Support Center. The training program for volunteers included: "NGO and Community," "Problem Identification," "Volunteer Development," "Project Design," "Team Building," "Conflict Resolution," "Public Education through Media," "NGO Management," and "Fundraising." Upon completing the training the volunteers will be offered to local NGOs as potential volunteers or employees. Four of them have already been recruited by local NGOs.

- The Khujand Center's members developed a work plan on Community Outreach, including *Community Mobilization, Social partnership, Volunteerism and Advocacy*. The work plan will help the Center to implement the Community Outreach program more effectively.
- A session on Advocacy was conducted for the Support Center's staff and members of target NGOs using the new advanced module. The participants gained new knowledge and skills on Advocacy and became familiarized with the *Advocacy Resource Book*.
- The Khujand CSSC reviewed a number of community development proposals submitted from Sughd Oblast communities. After the review suggestions were given to the communities in order to improve the quality of the proposals. After a final review, the proposals were sent to Hub Center for approval by the Grant Review Committee.

3. Kurghon-Teppa CSSC

Internal Capacity Building

- The NGO *Fidokor*, Counterpart's CSSC partner in Kurghon-Teppa, held its Annual General Meeting in February. In the meeting *Fidokor*'s Executive Director and Kurghon-Teppa CSSC Director Dilbar Khalilova presented *Fidokor*'s achievements in 2001 and presented a workplan for the upcoming year. The members of *Fidokor* approved a new six-month workplan for 2002. *Fidokor* has launched a number of new program initiatives in the area of agriculture, rural development and micro financing, and so it was decided to add changes to the Charter of the organization in order to allow for the expansion of these activities. The Board of Directors was also increased from three to five members. Tursunoy Alimardonova was elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- It is a part of *Fidokor*'s strategic plan to successfully move towards becoming financially sustainable and the organization now plans to do this by making micro-financing a major part of their strategy. According to the NGO Support Grant that it received from Counterpart, *Fidokor* is providing small loans of \$100 to needy families in two target communities of the Vakhsh District. This is *Fidokor*'s first micro-finance project, but already twenty-six out of forty targeted families have received micro-credit loans. Four of *Fidokor*'s staff members have also received training in micro-finance. In addition, Mercy Corps and *Fidokor* have started a new micro-credit project with a loan portfolio of \$60,000.
- During this quarter the Kurghon-Teppa CSSC facilitated three training workshops on *NGO and Community, Project Design and Advanced Advocacy*. The Support Center also continues to provide information, support and consultations to local NGOs. As a result of this assistance three NGOs received funding for their projects from Mercy Corps through the *Ishtirok* Grant Program.
- Due to the OD intervention conducted by the Hub Center OD Coordinator the Support Center revised its action plan for the year 2002. The job descriptions of all staff members were revised and new contracts were signed with them. The Hub Center conducted two sessions on *Accounting and Financial Reporting* for the CSSC's staff and other *Fidokor* members.
- Three new volunteers were trained by the Support Center in Kurghon-Teppa.

4. Khorog CSSC

Internal Capacity Building

- The NGO *Kalam* runs Counterpart's CSSC in Gorno-Badakhshan. During this quarter it was heavily involved preparing for a GBAO Civil Forum, an event that is going to be held in Khorog in April. The Aga-Khan Foundation will fund the Civil Forum. This event, which was initiated by the Khorog CSSC, Trade Unions Counsel and the Agency for Entrepreneurship Development, intends to bring all the sectors of GBAO society together to develop civil society issues and to address the problems of the region.
- The leader of *Kalam*, Buribek Buribekov, participated in the regional training workshop on *Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation* in Almaty. After his return he conducted a session on

monitoring and evaluation with contract trainers and the staff of the Support Center. The Support Center intends to provide monitoring and evaluation of the projects funded by international donor organizations that do not have representation in GBAO.

- The Support Center in Khorog also received a number of Russian publications on the *Third Sector* from the Siberian Center for Supporting the Civil Initiatives. The partnership with this Center was established when the leader of *Kalam* participated in the *Network Development Workshop* in Siberia last year. Also, publications on NGO management were received from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Galileo College in Israel.

Community Outreach

- During this quarter the CSSC worked closely with its target communities to help them develop proposals in accordance with the Community Action Grant guidelines. As a result, four community proposals from communities: *Abdulloev, Tirchid, Khufak and Shokhdast* were developed and submitted to the Hub Center. In addition, *Kalam* received assurances from the Aga-Khan Foundation's MSDCP Program that they will support the proposals if Counterpart funds them.

5. Kulob CSSC

Internal Capacity Building

- The Kulob Civil Society Support Center recently completed the registration process with the Ministry of Justice to become a local NGO and it is now the NGO *Shahrvand*.
- The Support Center has completed the process of establishing policies on ethics, norms and human resource policies. It has also made significant progress on internal financial control mechanisms. In addition, the Support Center developed a new training manual and guidelines for volunteers. Currently five volunteers were recruited by the Support Center.
- As a result of an OD intervention with the Kulob Support Center conducted by the Hub Center OD Coordinator, the CSSC's Action Plan for capacity building and service delivery was revised. The Kulob Center staff members actively participated in the process of identifying new activities for strengthening the capacity of the organization.
- After the OD intervention, the Support Center staff members divided up their responsibilities in accordance with the tasks of the Phase III Program in the following way:
 - < Director: Social partnership; monitoring and evaluation; and representation to International Organizations
 - < Program Coordinator: Training and community outreach
 - < Resource Center Manager: Information; consultation; and work with volunteers
- The Support Center continued providing consultations to their clients. The consultations were mostly related to NGO registration, project design and social partnership.
- The Kulob Center volunteered to develop a draft charter for the future CSSC network. The draft charter was distributed to the Civil Society Support Centers for consideration and feedback.
- The Hub Center found some financial irregularities in Kulob Center's reports. Taking the previous written notification of financial irregularities, the Hub Center has put the Support Center on a three-month probation, until June 30, 2002. During the probation period the Hub Center, in consultation with the Regional Office, will make an evaluation and a decision to continue the partnership or not. The Kulob Center must also rectify several shortcomings in their financial reports in order to see the partnership agreement signed for a full year.

Community Outreach

- This quarter the Support Center sponsored a roundtable between local NGOs and the Kulob City Government in order to establish a positive partnership between the NGO sector and the government in this region. Fifty representatives of the local government, the mass media, NGOs and other types of public associations from the Kulob area participated in the roundtable. After the opening speeches of

the Kulob City Mayor and the leader of Shahrvand, the CSSC Coordinator Jumakhon Olimi made a presentation on the role of NGOs in developing civil society.

- As a result of the roundtable a *Public Council of Social Partnership* was established to identify and address the problems of Kulob region. The Mayor of Kulob and the leader of *Shahrvand* were elected as chairpersons of the Council and the leader of the NGO *Najoti Kudakon Kurbongul Kasimoba* was elected as an Executive Secretary of the Council. Other members of the Council will be selected at its next meeting.
- The Kulob Support Center has conducted Participatory Community Appraisals with three targeted communities that resulted in developing three Community Action Plans (CAPs). Based on the CAPs two community proposals were developed and submitted to Counterpart for review.

Table of Services - Tajikistan

Service	Dushanbe	Khujand	Khorog	Kurghon-Teppa	Kulob
Number of visitors	404	124	222	183	83
Number of new visitors	143	22	43	30	26
Number of visits	642	252	609	213	231
Number of NGOs receiving services	233	76	91	60	48
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	45	23	37	28	15
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	3	5	3	1	1
Number of trainings	2	0	2	3	0
Number of consultations	220	116	298	94	66
Number of times Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	101	0	48	78	99
Number of times copy machine was used	165	66	119	69	68
Number of copies	2571	349	477	1231	622
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	32	70	47	118	5
Number of PCAs conducted	8	6	2	8	9
Number of CAPs developed	8	6	0	7	5

TURKMENISTAN

1. Ashgabat Resource center

Internal Capacity Building

- 5 new volunteers were attracted to work in the Resource Center. A total of 14 volunteers were active in the RC by the end of the reporting period. Two volunteers participated in Counterpart Turkmenistan trainings.
- Resource Center Assistant participated on the Counterpart Turkmenistan Training “Facilitation Skills Development”.
- Resource Center Assistant participated in Discussion Club in Dashoguz CSSC.
- The Resource Center Assistant participated in a three-day workshop conducted by the Ecological Fund of Turkmenistan.
- The Resource Center Assistant participated in a Cultural Conference conducted by Ukraine Embassy to Turkmenistan.
- Resource Center Assistant participated in the “Logframe” workshop conducted in March by Regional Program Manager.

- Twenty new NGOs representatives made first visits to Resource Center and were provided with initial consultations.
- Over 130 NGOs have received consultations on increasing organizational capacity in different spheres: fundraising, find new partners, developing project ideas, organizing and implementing NGO activities such as contests or ecological actions.
- Provided services to NGOs on a daily basis: access to e-mail and Internet, information, using the computers, copy machine, fax and phone. 28 newly published materials and books appeared in the Resource Center Library.
- One additional computer with Internet connection was installed at the Resource Center.
- Counterpart Turkmenistan Newsletter was issued.
- A one-day seminar/workshop on legal issues was conducted by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) in the Ashgabat Resource Center on January 22, 2002. 23 members from 18 different NGOs from Ashgabat city, Balkan, Lebap and Dashoguz regions participated.
- A stand and handouts on ICNL activities and materials on legislation themes were posted in the Resource Center.

Community Outreach

- Volunteers of the Resource Center helped the Turkmen Association of Journalists to question Turkmen NGOs and collect more materials about the quality of publishing materials.
- A meeting with NGOs on volunteer development was held with the participation of Resource Center Assistant.
- The center video camera was used 4 times for NGOs' activities attracting volunteers of RC such as Children's Fund of Turkmenistan, Anti TB Center, and Ecological Fund of Turkmenistan.
- A meeting with NGO members who work with communities was held in Resource Center.
- The Resource Center Assistant conducted a meeting with Dashoguz CSSC volunteers on CSSC service delivery issues.

2. Dashoguz CSSC

Internal Capacity Building

- Eight training seminars were organized by Dashoguz CSSC and held in Dashoguz city and Turkmenbashi etrap during reporting period.
- Three NGO Discussion Club meetings for Dashoguz velayat were held in Dashoguz CSSC.
- The Dashoguz CSSC invited a group from Khorezm CSSC and NGOs, who met with Turkmen NGOs and participated in activities organized by Dashoguz CSSC. The possibilities of forming sustainable partnerships among the NGOs of Dashoguz and Khorezm regions were discussed.
- On March 23 a Round Table was held with representatives of the Tax Inspectorate on tax issues related to NGO activity. The RT was very useful in terms of bringing NGOs closer to registration and legitimacy when they are involved in fund-raising for non-profit activities, such as summer camps, through the collection of money from children's parents, theaters with chargeable tickets and so on. Also touched upon were many other issues of relations between NGOs and the Tax Inspectorate.
- On January 29-31 Dashoguz coordinator participated in Counterpart Turkmenistan training "*The art of facilitation*". This training was helpful in issues of strengthening the CSSC team and developing greater capability to facilitate group discussions.
- On January 24-25, Dashoguz CSSC coordinator participated as a follow-up trainer in training called "Volunteer Management". CSSC staff's increasing capacity to hold training brings more confidence in the future localization of Dashoguz CSSC.
- On February 7-8 Dashoguz CSSC's coordinator participated in the training "Financial Accountability". This training provided additional knowledge on financial reporting. This is

important because localization and local financial management of SC over the next several projects is to be implemented simultaneously.

- On February 25 – March 1, Dashoguz CSSC coordinator participated in training “Community Project monitoring and evaluation” organized by Global Training and Development in Almaty. This training was helpful in strengthening the CSSC team’s knowledge of participatory methodologies for M&E of community projects.
- On March 4-7 Dashoguz CSSC’s manager participated in the Third Regional Conference on Local Resource Mobilization, which took place in Agra (India). This conference organized by Resource Alliance (UK) was dedicated to new trends, policies and atmosphere in the world related to the NGO sector. The conference was useful in terms of transferring the knowledge and skills (methods, approaches) utilized by NGOs all over the world.
- Dashoguz CSSC Internet access was improved during January. The connection was made through a local telephone company that started providing access in January. Access is now 3.5 times cheaper and the quality/speed has doubled. There are 3 organizations who have started using Internet access from their offices through the Dashoguz CSSC server NGO: “ENE” and “TRIERA” were hooked to server for e-mail service, and NGO “IKAR” opened an account to get Internet access.
- Three volunteers of Dashoguz CSSC participated in Counterpart training.
- In the end of March Dashoguz CSSC actively participated in their third OD assessment.
- In this quarter 4 regular volunteers of Dashoguz CSSC spent over 253 hours working in the SC. Their main activities were: searching for information on the Internet for NGOs, assisting NGOs in conducting correspondence by e-mail, and preparing documents for NGOs.
- Two volunteer meetings were held discussing the positive and negative parts of volunteer work, the goals of volunteer activities, the schedule of participation in trainings, and signing volunteer contracts with Dashoguz CSSC.

Community Outreach

- On 26th of January the Dashoguz CSSC manager participated in the CAG grant committee conducted at Khorezm CSSC in Uzbekistan.
- On February 21 the Dashoguz CSSC manager and the Counterpart Turkmenistan Community Outreach Coordinator had a meeting with authorities of Ak-Depe etrap of Dashoguz velayat and discussed the issues of conducting a PCA activity in three communities of this region.
- Dashoguz CSSC staff participated 5 times in the monitoring of 6 CAG projects implemented by NGO “Sarygamysh” in Turkmenbashi etrap of Dashoguz velayat.
- On March 11-18th a 3-day PCA training was conducted for NGOs and subsequently three full PCA surveys were conducted in three remote communities: Egri-Gui, Toprak-gala and Wass villages of Ak-Depe etrap of Dashoguz velayat.

3. *Lebap CSSC*

Internal Capacity Building

- In January, the Lebap CSSC assistant participated in a training entitled “Legislation of the community organization”. Participants discussed the development of governing bodies, democratic and civil society development, creating favorable legal conditions for growth and development of NGOs and public organizations, and improvement of the current legislation on public organizations as well as putting this legislation into practice.
- During this quarter, the CSSC assistant participated in the trainings: “The Art of Facilitation” and an advanced training on “Financial Reporting” and “Logframes” in Ashgabat, as well as “Project Monitoring and Evaluation” in Almaty.
- The Lebap CSSC manager participated in a meeting conducted by Soroush Javadi, Uzbekistan Counterpart Director on planning formats. He also traveled to Tashkent for an advanced skills training on “NGO Governance”.

- The Lebap CSSC staff improved made excellent progress identifying and making contact with potential partners. New opportunities now exist with the Lebap Velayat Medical Center, UNHCR, as well as the Velayat and Etrap Hakimliks.
- The third OD assessment of Lebap CSSC analyzed the implementation of programmatic plans, social partnership activities, and included consulting on these and other key issues of SC activities.
- 5 training seminars were conducted at Lebap CSSC.
- On March 6 Lebap CSSC organized a Round table “Support of refugees is the responsibility of everybody” with participation of representatives of UNHCR, velayat hyakimlik and NGOs. Identification of refugee problems led to discussion of solutions involving future cooperation between the Velayat hyakimlik, UNHCR, and community groups.
- Round Table with US Embassy and NGOs: This round table included US Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy, USAID Turkmenistan representative John Kropf, Michelle Ulrich (ECA), G. Khydyrova (program manager), and representatives of local NGOs: *Medet, Annageldy, Nargiz, Amudarya, Amul, Merjen, Health Center, Arzuw, Business Center, Idea* and other NGOs. There was an intensive exchange of views and opinions on issues of NGO coordination, NGO registration, programs of civil society and NGO development in the Lebap region.
- David Hoffmann USAID/CAR Representative on Democracy and Mass Media visited Lebap and had meetings with leaders of NGOs *Merjen, Amudarya, Amul, Medet, Gatoleners Union, Ecology, Information Law Center, and Youth Center* on issues of the NGO Thermometer.
- On January 4, Jay Cooper, Counterpart Regional Director and Yazgylych Charyev Counterpart Turkmenistan Acting Director visited Lebap CSSC office and had a conversation exchanging views on Lebap CSSC activities, plans, and suggestions on improving its activities. They also met with Lebap Velayat Hakim Geday Akhmedov and discussed Lebap refugee assistance as well as Counterpart Turkmenistan activities in the region.

Community Outreach

- Lebap CSSC facilitated several meetings of representatives of the community and local government on issues of cooperation and terms of implementation of a project to construct a new school building for refugee children. The community made decisions on issues of project planning and scheduling.
- Lebap CSSC disseminated information on the possibility of getting road-repairing machines for Lebap region, and Lebap Velayat hyakimlik sent a letter asking to provide these machines to Lebap region through Counterpart.
- Six volunteers were recruited to work in Lebap Support Center. The total number of recruited volunteers has increased to nine.
- Lebap CSSC staff in cooperation with the NGO “Merjen” identified specific problems faced by refugee women. Lebap CSSC, using UNHCR grant funds, provided them with 16 sewing machines to facilitate family income generation.
- Lebap CSSC staff monitored the CAG project “Bringing educational opportunities to the village” in Atamurat etrap on a weekly basis. Staff members studied project implementation and made recommendations to the local community for more effective use of local resources.

Table of Services - Turkmenistan

Service	Ashgabat Resource Center	Dashoguz CSSC	Lebap CSSS
Number of visitors	167	48	78
Number of visits	459	187	179
Number of NGOs receiving services	115	19	38
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	39	6	17
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	29	1	3
Number of trainings	11	8	5
Number of consultations	137	69	139
Number of Computer/Internet/E-mail users	135	16	34
Number of times copy machine was used	285	23	120
Number of copies	4799	296	4179
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	24	27	31
Number of PCAs conducted	0	3	0
Number of CAPs developed	0	0	0

UZBEKISTAN

Quarterly meetings with contract trainers were conducted in each CSSC to discuss training plans for the next quarter, work out suggestions for improving training modules, and brief trainers on the latest news.

NGO Databases were updated by each CSSC on a monthly basis and current results by Center are:

CSSC	Total # of NGO in Database	# of NGOs added in the quarter
Samarkand	73	10
Urgench	46	2
Nukus	99	2
Namangan	62	11
Bukhara	99	2
Kokand	75	8

During the current quarter *Project Harmony* established contact with Nukus and Samarkand CSSCs in order to coordinate their future work with NGOs through the CSSC on their project on professional development *Community Connections*.

Paid training services are becoming more regular – the Samarkand CSSC conducted two trainings for representatives of *Joint Development Associates (JDA)*; the Namangan CSSC trained representatives of *Mercy Corp* on trainings conducted for NGOs.

International Organization *UzCOHRED* (Foundation of Scientific Health Researches) established contacts with our CSSCs in order to learn the general situation of NGOs working in the field of health and to find potential partners in their work.

1. Bukhara Information and Cultural Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- January 4, 2002 – an NGO Club was conducted in Navoyi. Questions on how to conduct an NGO Fair were discussed and an Organizational Committee was elected to finalize the dates and location of the Fair. 18 NGO representatives participated. Materials on conducting NGO Fairs were adapted from the Stavropol branch of Southern Russian Resource Center.
- January 15, 2002 - CSSC Manager participated in the seminar *Legislation and mass media* conducted by *Dispute-Club of Journalists "Reporter"*. At the seminar it was agreed that the CSSC should conduct seminars for journalists on *NGO and Community* and *Mass Media and NGO*, and conduct a round table on *The role of Mass Media in Civil Society Development*.
- February 20, 2002 – CSSC Manager participated in Meeting of NGOs in the Department of Justice of Bukhara Oblast. Presentations of active NGOs were conducted. As a result of the meeting the structure of an Advisory Council of NGOs was defined.
- March 12-14, 2002 – assistance was rendered to the *Center of Informational and Marketing Researches* of Kokand-city in conducting a seminar on *Social Marketing* for NGOs of Bukhara and Navoyi cities. Transportation and hosting expenses were paid by *Project HOPE*.
- March 14, 2002 – CSSC Manager participated in the Khamkor NGO Network meeting in Tashkent. Questions of interrelations of the Network members, and Uzbek legislation for NGOs were discussed. There was a hot discussion on the question of implementation of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan about NGOs, its shortcomings impeding NGO development. Participants applied to OSCE for informational support for *Khamkor* Network.
- March 19, 2002 – There was a meeting with the head of the *Graduates Support Center* of *ACCELS*. The issue of training 10 NGO representatives monthly on *Internet* use was discussed. A list of the first group was composed.
- March 22, 2002 – There was a meeting of NGO representatives with local trainers. Hub-office training Coordinator also participated in the meeting. This meeting was organized with the purpose to prepare for the action *Week of Kindness* to be conducted in April and to discuss the training program. Discussion of the training program together with NGO representatives had a positive result, which is a number of offers for improving trainings.
- March 26, 2002 – CSSC Coordinator participated in a training on *Mass media: is it power, servant or mirror?* It was conducted under the project of *Dispute-Club of Journalists "Reporter"*. NGO representatives, mass media editors, correspondents and city-Khokimiyat representatives participated in the training. Problems of publicity, qualification and competence of journalists were discussed.

Internal Capacity Building

- A manual for trainings on *Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of projects* was composed based on the materials of the regional seminar (February 25 – March 1, 2002).
- Contacts were established with the Resource Center of Association of Librarians of Navoyi Oblast on coordination of activity on noncommercial sector development.
- Training Coordinator of hub office visited CSSC and organizational, planning and reporting questions were discussed as well as questions of professional development of trainers.

Community Outreach

- January 29, 2002 - Round Table for medical workers of Navoyi Oblast was conducted in Navoyi-city in co-operation with Project HOPE. Business Women Association also rendered assistance in preparation of the Round Table. The purpose was to inform people working in the field of health care about the NGO sector in the field of health protection and to find ways of cooperation in the third sector development. 36 people participated in the Round Table. As a result of the meeting of medical workers with Bukhara and Samarkand NGOs and International Health Organizations representatives, suggestions on development of public health protection were made. The Round Table was reported at

the local TV. As a result, on March 26, 2002 adapted training on *NGO and Community* was conducted for representatives of Health organizations of Navoyi Oblast. On March 27-28, 2002 adapted training on *PCAP* for the same group was also conducted. In organizing and conducting of the above seminars, representatives of Resource Center *Semurg* and Business Women Association of Navoyi Oblast rendered assistance to the CSSC.

- According to a request of Business Women Association of Kashkadarya Oblast, a training on *Project Design* was conducted for the branches of Business Women Association on February 6-8.
- March 26, 2002 –Bukhara CSSC manager participated in the Fair of Training and Consulting services organized by Samarkand *International Training Center*. CSSCs presented information on Counterpart’s training program. As a result of this, a round table with participation of organizations working in the field of educational services was conducted. It was offered to create an Association of similar organizations and to create a database of trainings and trainers
- PCAPs conducted with the help of CSSC include:

Organizer	Community	CAPs developed
<i>IG of Unemployed Women</i>	Kishlaks “Shurobod”, “Kelachi” and “Savrak” of Shafirkanskiy rayon	January 30, 2002 – Kishlaks “Shurobod”, “Kelachi” and “Savrak” of Shafirkanskiy rayon of Bukhara Oblast. Initiator - IG of unemployed women. 40 people participated. The problem was unemployment of rural women. The solution suggested was to organize embroidering center with two branches for 120 women.
<i>Business Women Association – Karakulskiy branch</i>	Makhalla “Dustlik”, kislaks “Zierat” and “Mullo shaykh” of Karakulskiy rayon	

2. Kokand Civil Society Development Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- January 23, 2002 - regular NGO Club was conducted in the NGO *Kamolon Center*. The topic of the meeting was *Law and NGO*. Two key question were discussed: 1) What are the NGO rights; and 2) Taxation of NGO. 12 NGO representatives participated. As the result all the participants got answers for all questions they were interested in.
- January 18, 2002 - CSSC Manager participated in a Round Table organized by TV *Mulokot* as a part of the project *Voices of Central Asia*. Enforcement agencies and Kokand NGO representatives participated in the meeting. The objective was to discuss problems of crossing the state borders of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in Fergana Valley. Participants shared opinions and agreed to conduct similar Round Tables in Khujand and Osh.
- February 23, 2002 - NGO meeting was conducted in the CSSC with the purpose to inform NGOs about rules of CSSC Resource center; discuss changes in the requirements of Health Program; and present Counterpart’s grant procedures. 33 NGO representatives participated in the meeting. Hub-office representative also attended the meeting.
- March 14, 2002 – CSSC Coordinators met representatives of *UzCOHRED* with the purpose to meet NGOs and representatives of State structures working on problems of health. As a result, CSSC organized a Round Table where 15 people participated.
- March 23, 2002 – regular NGO Club was conducted in the Center *Khayrikhon*. The topic was *Work with Mahallas*. 12 NGO representatives participated on the meeting. In this meeting the problems of interrelation of NGOs with mahallas were discussed. The main problems identified were: lack of knowledge about NGO work among residents of mahallas; people are passive in solving social problems; there is sustainable stereotype that solving social problems is a matter of the State;

bureaucracy of local authorities; mentalities; and difficulties in bringing people together. It was suggested to work closely with the media to publicize mahalla problems.

- Meetings of the network of international organizations working in Fergana Valley were conducted on a regular monthly basis. In January this meeting was conducted in *Pragma*, February – CSSC and March - *Abt. Zdrav Plus*. These meetings are coordinated by Kokand CSSC and facilitated by the organization providing the place for the meeting. Each organization's activity, current programs, future plans and cooperative issues are discussed in the meetings.

Internal Capacity Building

- Kokand CSSC, which used to be a branch, registered in the Ministry of Justice and is now the partner organization *Civil Society Development Center*.
- March 11-20, 2002 - CSSC manager conducted monitoring of conducting Counterpart's trainings conducted by Kokand and Namangan trainers. Special attention was paid to the trainers' work in pairs; increasing the qualification of beginning trainers; discipline of both trainers and participants; and the quality of trainings conducted.
- Professional growth of contract trainers and candidates for trainers:
 - < Umarchanova Nodira – *Success Story and Impact Writing, Coalition Building, Project Design*.
 - < Nargiza Mukhitdinova - *Success Story and Impact Writing, Team Building and Conflict Mitigation*.
 - < Gulnara Sabirova – *Project Design, Coalition Building, Strategic planning*.
 - < Dilzoda Akhmedova - *Coalition Building*

Community Outreach

- March 19, 2002 – CSSC organized a Round Table in the Center *Begoyim* in Margilan-city with the purpose to activate participation of Fergana NGOs and initiative groups in Counterpart programs. Presentations of Counterpart programs MIP/CO and successful projects implemented under them were conducted. NGOs had the opportunity to ask questions of Hub Center and CSSC Coordinators.
- January 11, 2002 - the goal of the forthcoming advocacy campaign to be conducted by *Children creative center Shans* was defined. The goal is provision of free or privileged fare on city transport for deaf children and their parents. A plan for the campaign was also created. As of (end of March 2002) this campaign is wrapping up and results will be reflected in the next quarterly report.
- February 13, 2002 - CSSC Coordinator, CSSC volunteers and the leader of *Youth Center Yangi Avlod* conducted a campaign to attract volunteers to NGO activity. This campaign was conducted in State Pedagogical Institute's conference room. About 40 students participated in this event and 20 of them got interested in being NGO volunteers. These 20 were added to the Database on Volunteers and *NGO Support Center of Disabled children* used one of the volunteers in its work.
- March 26, 2002 – CSSC Coordinator conducted a regular meeting of CSSC Volunteers with the purpose to get their ideas on more effective work in the CSSC and interconnections with NGO representatives. 4 volunteers participated. As a result the following suggestions were made: participating in NGO Club; organization of meeting with volunteers from NGOs as well as from other CSSCs.
- During the quarter CSSC hired a new volunteer Adiba Alieva for the work on office equipment.
- During the quarter CSSC Coordinator continued conducting monitoring of PCAs conducted and CAPs developed. In particular: PCAP of NGO *Avitsena* in Kuva-city, initiative group *Novaya volna* and initiative group *Novoe pokolenie*.
- PCAs conducted with the help of CSSC include:

Organizer	Community
<i>Association of Librarians of Fergana Oblast</i>	Readers and workers of the Fergana Oblast Library
<i>Center "Avitzenna"</i>	Makhalla "Takhta Kuprik" of Kuvinskiy rayon of Fergana Oblast
<i>IG "Yangi tulkin"</i>	Makhalla "Urta Kishlok" of Buvaydinskiy rayon of Fergana Oblast
<i>IG "Novoe Pokolenie"</i>	Students of the Faculty of Foreign Languages of Kokand City Pedagogical Institute
<i>Center "Tumaris"</i>	Makhalla "Dakhbed" of Rishtanskiy rayon of Fergana Oblast

- CAPs developed include:
 1. January 8, 2002 – Charitable Foundation "Mekhr Sakhovat" of Kokand-city. Initiator – Charitable Foundation "Mekhr Sakhovat".
 2. January 12, 2002 - Oblast Library named after Akhmad Fargoni of Fergana-city. Initiator – Association of Librarians of Fergana Oblast.
 3. January 26, 2002 – Makhalla "Urta Kishlok" of Buvaydinskiy rayon of Fergana Oblast. Initiator – IG "New wave".
 4. January 28, 2002 – Makhalla "Tukhta Kuprik" of Kuvinskiy rayon of Fergana Oblast. Initiator – NGO "Avitzenna".
 5. March 29, 2002 – Makhalla "Dakhbed" of Rushtanskiy rayon of Fergana Oblast. Initiator – Center "Tumaris".

3. Namangan (Partner)

Activity Overview

- January 3-5, 2002 - there was a training on *Foundations of Social Marketing* conducted by the *Center of Informational and Social Researches* of Kokand-city, under a project financed by *Eurasia Foundation*, in cooperation with Namangan CSSC. NGO and initiative groups representatives participated in the training. CSSC coordinator also participated in it.
- January 25, 2002 - CSSC conducted regular NGO Club. 34 NGO and initiative groups representatives of Andijan and Namangan Oblasts participated in the meeting. Also Managers of Kokand CSSC and Kerben CSSC (Kyrgyzstan), director of Andijan Oblast Library and newspaper *Iqbol* consultant participated in the meeting. New rules for project application, conducting PCAP and participation in trainings were presented to NGOs. Participants of the meeting shared experience and information on NGO registration. Manager of Kerben CSSC briefly presented grant program of *Central Asian Regional Ecological Center*.
- February 28, 2002 – A Round Table was conducted in the CSSC as initiated by the *Center of Informational and Socio-Marketing Researches*. The topic was *Creation of the conditions for charity in Uzbekistan*. 5 business structures and 8 NGO representatives participated. As a result of the Round Table, participants shared suggestions and recommendations on development of charity activity in Namangan Oblast, discussed creation of Business-Club for bringing NGOs and business structures together and establishing social partnership among them.
- March 12, 2002 – CSSC Coordinator participated in Andijan NGO meeting organized by Business Women Association of Andijan. Representatives of 8 NGOs and initiative groups participated in the meeting. During the meeting questionnaires for the database of NGOs were distributed. Data was entered into the NGO Database.
- March 15, 2002 – there was a meeting with representatives of the International Organization *UzCOHRED* conducted with the purpose of familiarizing participants with this organization's programs. 11 Namangan NGO representatives participated in the meeting.

Internal Capacity Building

- On January 16-19, 2002 - two *Mercy Corp* representatives participated and paid for their participation in the training on *PCAP* conducted by CSSC. One representative of *Mercy Corp* paid for participation in a training on *Project Design* that was conducted on February 25-27, 2002. A *Mercy Corp* representative paid for participation in the training on *Facilitation skills* conducted on March 25-27, 2002.
- March 26, 2002 – as a result of interviewing applicants for the position of CSSC Coordinator, Khasanov Davronbek was selected.

Community Outreach

- March 7, 2002 – there was a meeting of CSSC volunteers conducted by CSSC staff. 5 volunteers participated in the meeting. Current activity of the CSSC was presented as well as volunteers’ role and activity in the CSSC was discussed. Rules of volunteer work in the Resource Center were developed. It was decided to conduct such meetings on a monthly basis.
- PCAs conducted with the help of CSSC include:

Organizer	Community
<i>Women Resource Center “DEN”</i>	Makhalla named after Akhumbabaev of Namangan-city
<i>Women Association “Fido”</i>	Makhalla “Nayman” of Markhamatskiy rayon Andijan Oblast
<i>Public Center “Umr” of Andijan Oblast</i>	Schoolchildren, teachers, methodists, mentors and attendant staff of School No.13 for disabled children
<i>IG “Makhorat maktabi”</i>	Makhallas “Sufizoda” and “Baynalminal” of Namangan-city
<i>IG “Shark guzali”</i>	Makhalla “Nijniy Ravustan” of Namnganskiy rayon
<i>Business Women Association of Namangan Oblast</i>	5 makhallas of Davlatabadskiy rayon of Namangan-city
<i>Public Center “Umr” of Andijanskiy rayon</i>	5 makhallas of Andijanskiy rayon

- CAPs developed include:
 1. January 4, 2002 - Boarding school No.16 of Asakinskiy rayon of Andijan Oblast. Initiator – Foundation “Panokh Shulasi”.
 2. January 18, 2002 – Khodjaabadskiy rayon of Andijan Oblast. Initiator – IG “Al-Ayol”.
 3. February 21, 2002 – Markhamatskiy rayon of Andijan Oblast. Initiator – Women Association “Fido”.
 4. March 16, 2002 - Boarding school for disabled children No.13 of Andijan-city. Initiator – Public Center “Umr” of Andijan Oblast.
 5. March 22, 2002 – 5 makhallas of Andijanskiy rayon (“Besh-Buynak”, “Ayrilish”, “Erkin-Tekin”, “Dam Aryk”, “Guliston”). Initiator – Public Center “Umr” of Andijanskiy rayon.
 6. March 23, 2002 – Namangan Oblast Library named after Nodira. Initiator – IG “Makhorat Maktabi”.
 7. March 24, 2002 – Makhalla “Nijniy Ravustan”. Initiator – IG “Shark guzali”.

4. Nukus Civil Society Development Center (Partner)

Activity Overview

- January 8-9, 2002 – after training on NGO and Community, CSSC Coordinator conducted presentation of Counterpart Consortium programs for 6 Kegeylinskiy rayon Makan Kenes, rayon Khokimiyats and local mass media representatives.
- January 20, 2002 – Round Table was conducted for 24 representatives of NGOs, initiative groups and makhalla committees with the purpose to assess the results of cooperative work on projects, to find out problems of such work, and expectations from the CSSC for solving these problems.

- February 21, 2002 – on the invitation of International Organization *Doctors without frontiers* CSSC Manager participated in a meeting-seminar during which questions of conducting research on tendency of migration processes in Karakalpakstan were discussed. Representatives of United Nations – Tashkent, UNDP – Nukus, State structures, etc. were present. Organizers were supplied with information on availability of trainers able to conduct researches on local language.
- March 14, 2002 - Presentation of MIP/CO programs (stressing grant and training programs) was conducted in the building of Council of Ministers for representatives of rayon khokims, heads of Makan Keneses, editors of local and rayon newspapers from 15 rayons.
- March 18, 2002 – At the request of Khokimiyat of Nukusskiy rayon, CSSC Coordinator conducted presentation of training and grant programs for 30 heads of different authorities and public organizations of the rayon.
- March 29, 2002 – regular NGO Club meeting was conducted. 33 NGO and initiative group representatives participated in the meeting. The purpose was to familiarize participants with the rules of using Resource Center, procedures of grant-making (program grants and PCAP grants), further style of Club activity (periodicity, Organizational Committee membership, division of responsibility of Club members).

Internal Capacity Building

- CSSC was registered in the Ministry of Justice and now is called Civil Society Development Center and is now a partner.
- A contract for purchasing premises for the office was signed.
- Contract with CSSC Coordinator Azabay Mambetkarimov was canceled and beginning from January 24, 2002 Bakhran Khodjamuratov was invited to act as a Coordinator for a trial period as a volunteer. Due to his incompetence he was asked to leave at the end of March 2002.
- Hub-office CO Coordinator conducted coaching for the CSSC MIP/CO Coordinator.
- February 25, 2002 – CSSC Manager participated in a meeting-seminar of Nukus branch of the project *Local Subpoena-21* of United Nations on Sustainable Development of the region. State authorities, international NGOs, mass media representatives participated on the meeting. As a part of the project it is expected to finance proposals for creation of a model of sustainable development of the Karakalpakstan. As the result, CSSC prepared and submitted a proposal for implementing training program in two rayons.
- During the regional training on *Effective Governance* conducted in Tashkent on March 19-22, 2002, CSSC Manager together with managers of CSSCs from Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan shared information and experience on work with governing bodies, creation of Advisory Councils and worked with the team of trainers.
- Professional growth of contract trainers and candidates for trainers:
 - < Yusup Karadaliyev, Baurjan Ibrashev, Askar Erjanov - *Training for Trainers on Methodology of training adult auditory* (Urgench)
 - < Klara Utepbergenova, Gulnara Japakova, Baurjan Ibrashev – *Principles of Social Marketing* conducted by Kokand Center of informational and Socio-Marketing Researches.
 - < Ernazar Atagullaev, Rustam Azirkhanov, Baurjan Ibrashev – *Small Business development* (Urgench)
 - < Tazagul Bayniyazova, Baurjan Ibrashev, Askar Erjanov – *NGO and Community* (conducted in local language)

Community Outreach

- During the quarter 3 new volunteers were attracted to the work in the CSSC. They are: Elena Tsoy (working as CSSC secretary), Alexandr Ermagambetov (translation of correspondence, copying), Aziz Aytmuratov (copying, faxing, typing).
- CSSC has begun producing a video film on PCAP as an aid for trainers conducting PCAP training.
- In this quarter CSSC began to plan PCAPs, including them into their work plans.

- PCAs conducted with the help of CSSC include:

Organizer	Community
<i>IG “Center of New Generation Growth”</i>	Micro-rayon No.23 of Nukus-city
<i>IG “Roma”</i>	Micro-rayon No.23 of Makan Kenes No.15 of Nukus-city
<i>NGO “Clearness Center” and IG “Patriot”</i>	Micro-rayon No.23 of Makan Kenes No.29 of Nukus-city, kindergarten No.4
<i>IG “Buston”</i>	Ellikalinskiy rayon of Buston-city of Karakalpakstan
<i>NGO “Culture of Health preservation”</i>	Makan Kens No.7 of Nukus-city
<i>IG “Muynak”</i>	Village “Rybkombinat” of Muynak-city of Karakalpakstan
<i>NGO “Renessans”</i>	Makan Kenes No.23 “Koskol” of Nukus-city
<i>IG “Kok Ozek”</i>	Makan Kenes No.2 of Village “Karauzyak” of Karakalpakstan
<i>NGO “Center of Public Researches”</i>	Makan Kenes No. 32 “Bozauil of Nukus-city”
<i>IG “Azamat”</i>	Auls “Jaray”, “Tubay”, “Basar”, “Tomarly Bosar”, “Kazakhstan”
<i>IG “Birlik”</i>	Kolkhoz named after Khabibullaev, aul “Abat”
<i>NGO “Aralecostan”</i>	Karakalpak branch of Academy of Science, scientists, attendant staff, aspirants.
<i>Foundation of Shamuratova</i>	Makan Kenes No.5

- CAPs developed include:

- January 11, 2002 – Micro-rayon No.23 of Makan Kenes No.15 of Nukus-city, school No.34. Initiator – IG “Center of New Generation Growth”.
- January 4, 2002 – Micro-rayon No.23 of Makan Kenes No.29 of Nukus-city. Initiator – NGO “Clearness Center”.
- January 6, 2002 – Micro-rayon No.23 of Makan Kenes No.29 of Nukus-city. Initiator – IG “Patriot”
- January 11, 2002 – Micro-rayon No.23 of Makan Kenes No.25 of Nukus-city. Initiator – IG “Roma”.
- January 11, 2002 – Meeting of the Aul residents. Initiator IG “Shok Torangyl”.
- January 19, 2002 – Ellikalinskiy rayon of Buston-city. Initiator – IG “Buston”.
- February 4, 2002 – Makan Kenes No.7, of Nukus-city. Initiator – NGO “Culture of Health preservation”.
- February 9, 2002 – village “Rybokombinat” of Muynak-city. Initiator – IG “Muynak”.
- February 15, 2002 – Makan Kenes No.13 of Nukus-city. Initiator – NGO “Renessans”.
- February 17, 2002 – Makan Kenes No.2 of “Karauzyak” village. Initiator – IG “Kok Ozek”.
- February 24, 2002 – Makan Kenes No.32 “Bozauil” of Nukus-city. Initiator – NGO “Center of Public Researches”.
- March 20, 2002 – Khalkabad-city of Kegeylinskiy rayon. Initiator – IG “Azamat”.
- March 17, 2002 – Kolkhoz named after Khabibullaev, aul “Abat”. Initiator – IG “Birlik”
- March 31, 2002 – Makan Kenes No.5 of Nukus-city. Initiator – Foundation of Shamuratova.

5. Samarkand Civil Society Support Center (Branch)

Activity Overview

- January 18, 2002 - NGO Club was conducted. 40 NGO and initiative group representatives as well as Deputy-Khokim of Samarkand Oblast and Hub Center representatives participated in the meeting. The agenda included discussion of the following questions: State policy to NGOs - NGO Club members had opportunity to ask question on NGO problems to Khokimiyat representative who gave full information and ideas for future cooperative work; Logical frame of a project; organizational

issues of the NGO Club – discussion of goals and objectives of the Club and the topic of the next meeting; information exchange among NGOs.

- January 30, 2002 - US Embassy Department of State representatives visited CSSC with the purpose to get acquainted with CSSC activity, discuss problems and difficulties of NGO activity, and questions of makhalla and small grants.
- February 11, 2002 - press-release about Samarkand NGO Club activity were composed by CSSC and sent to mass media (Samarkand local TV, and “Pravda Vostoka” and “Parvina” newspapers).
- February 15, 2002 - NGO Club was conducted. 36 leaders of Samarkand Oblast NGOs and initiative groups as well as Audit firm, the Association of Accountants and Auditors; Tax Department of Samarkand Oblast; Samarkand Oblast Khokimiyat representatives participated in the meeting. The following questions were discussed: NGO taxation; organizational issues of the Club (gathering questionnaires of NGO Club members). NGOs also shared experience. As a result of the meeting it was decided to create an Organizational Committee of the Club, and it was planned that the Committee will administer the further work of the Club.
- February 24, 2002 - at the request of Canadian Embassy in Almaty, CSSC organized a meeting of Public Affairs Office and Canadian International Development Agency representatives with our Focus NGO *Umid* and its Socio-legal Cabinet in Taylyakskiy rayon. The purpose of this meeting was to get acquainted with the local NGO activity and the work of International Organizations in rural areas. After this meeting visitors promised to cooperate with CSSC on NGO development in the region.
- March 5, 2002 –the first meeting of Organizational Committee of the NGO Club was conducted. CSSC staff as well as 4 NGO representatives participated in the meeting. Mission and objectives of the Club were revised. It was also decided to offer Club members to work on the following directions: 1) Protection of NGO rights and promotion of their interests; 2) informational activity; 3) partnership, social partnership; 4) advocacy campaigns. The idea was to work in groups on certain directions. It was also decided to create two groups: one for development of Regulation of the Club and one for development of Ethical Code of the Club. On March 29, 2002 issues above were discussed in the NGO Club. 17 NGO representatives participated in the meeting.
- March 6, 2002 – CSSC staff conducted a presentation of Counterpart programs and CSSC activity for Khokim of Taylyakskiy rayon of Samarkand Oblast and all the heads of village councils and makhalla committees of this rayon. CSSC staff also met Khokim of Urgutskiy rayon for the same purpose. As a result, in two rayons of Samarkand Oblast dates of conducting adapted training on *NGO and Community* in Uzbek language for Khokimiyats’ workers and heads of Makhalla Committees were defined.
- March 12, 2002 – Round Table with women NGOs of Samarkand-city was conducted on the request of American Embassy. Ms. Elinor Burkett, journalist and specialist on women rights, facilitated the Round Table. 11 women NGO leaders participated in the meeting. Problems of women rights, domestic violence and development of women NGOs were discussed.
- March 25, 2002 – CSSC Manager met with Coordinator of *UzCOHRED*. The purpose of the meeting was to make contact and discuss issues of cooperative work on health NGOs’ development. As result, preliminary understanding on cooperative organization of trainings for local NGOs was established.

Internal Capacity Building

- January 24-26, 2002 - the first paid training on *Project Design* in Uzbek language was organized and conducted for International NGO *Joint Development Associates (JDA)*. In the future it is planned to continue joint work with JDA since this organization also renders assistance to local NGOs in getting credits, humanitarian aid and business development.
- March 15-16, 2002 – Training on *Management of NGO* in Uzbek language was conducted for *Joint development Associates (JDA)* on a fee basis. The feedback was very positive and as a result training on *Financial Management* was ordered approximately in May 2002.

- Beginning from February because CSSC Manager, Azam Babakhodjaev, became Deputy-Director in Hub Center, CSSC Coordinator, Tanzilya Salimdjanova, became CSSC manager and a new Coordinator, Eldor Amirkulov was hired.
- February 20, 2002 - there was a Constituent Assembly of the CSSC conducted with the purpose to approve the CSSC Charter. As the result CSSC Charter was submitted for preliminary consideration to the Oblast Juridical department. During the first half of March 2002, all documents for CSSC registration were prepared. Civil Society Support Center was renamed as *Public Initiative Support Center*. On March 28, 2002 these documents were submitted to the Samarkand Oblast Department of Justice.
- Trainer’s contract was signed with Nafiza Kamalova.
- Professional growth of contract trainers and candidates for trainers - Shozoda Kabilova, Shoiraxusanova, Mila Asanova, Axana Shmay, Muborak Ikramova – *Coalition Building*

Community Outreach

- 10 new volunteers who are students were hired for work in the CSSC during the quarter
- March 11-12, 2002 – seminar on *NGO and Community* was conducted for group of medical workers. On March 18-20, 2002 the seminar on *project Design* was conducted for the same group.
- March 26, 2002 – Samarkand CSSC staff as well as Bukhara CSSC manager participated in the Fair of Training and Consulting Services organized by Samarkand *International Training Center*. CSSCs presented information on Counterpart Consortium’s training program. As a result of this Fair, a Round Table with participation of organizations working in the field of educational services was conducted. It was offered to create an Association of similar organizations and to create a database of trainings and trainers.
- March 27, 2002 – Regional and hub-office CO Coordinators visited CSSC with the purpose to monitor Community Outreach program in Samarkand. They visited two CAG projects (one had been already finished and one is current).
- PCAs conducted with the help of CSSC include:

Organizer	Community
<i>Women and Youth Association “Mekhrdod”</i>	Makhalla “Said” of Samarkand-city
<i>IG “Suyanch”</i>	Makhalla “Davlatobod” of Taylyakskiy rayon of Samarkand Oblast
<i>IG “Bakht”</i>	Makhalla Bakht of Gallyaaral-city of Djizakh Oblast
<i>NGO “Doctors and Children”</i>	Central rayon hospital of Taylyakskiy rayon of Samarkand Oblast – pediatricians, physicians and young mothers
<i>Consultative-Legal Center “Famili and the Law”</i>	Kishlak “Khalboyi” of Djambayskiy rayon of Samarkand Oblast
<i>Center of Youth Enlightenment “Teenager”</i>	Teachers, schoolchildren and their parents of secondary school No.65 of Siabskiy rayon of Samarkand-city

- CAPs developed include:
 1. February 5, 2002 – Makhalla “Davlatobod” of Taylyakskiy rayon of Samarkand Oblast. Initiator – IG “Suyanch”.
 2. March 2, 2002 – Central rayon hospital of Taylyakskiy rayon of Samarkand Oblast. Initiator – NGO “Doctors for children”.
 3. March 14, 2002 – Secondary school No.65 of Siabskiy rayon of Samarkand-city. Initiator –Center of Youth Enlightenment “Teenager”.

6. Urgench (Partner)

Activity Overview

- February 26, 2002 - CSSC Manager with the support of rayon Deputy-Khokim and NGO *Najod* conducted presentation of Counterpart Consortium programs and CSSC activity for makhalla committees of Yangiarykskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast.
- February 28, 2002 – NGO *Renessans* of Nukus-city and *Center “Mukhtoj” of Khiva-city* conducted *Round Table* with the purpose of conducting meeting of Karakalpak and Khorezm NGOs in Khiva-city for establishing partnership and implementation of partner projects. CSSC rendered assistance in organization of the Round Table.
- March 4-5, 2002 – CSSC Manager together with 9 NGOs from Khorezm Oblast visited Dashoguz Oblast of Turkmenistan with the purpose of experience sharing among Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan NGOs and discussion of partner projects. As a result, *Dashoguz Ecological Club* on the request of two NGOs from Shavatskiy rayon conducted seminar on *Skills of Ecological Education of children* for teachers and directors of schools of Shavatskiy rayon. Also, she consulted NGOs on creation of Ecological Club in Khorezm Oblast.
- March 15, 2002 – CSSC manager and Coordinator met with representatives of International organization *UzCOHRED* with the purpose of cooperation and assistance in distribution of a questionnaire on health and health care problems among all NGOs and State structures. On March 29, 2002 CSSC Coordinator participated in a meeting conducted by *UzCOHRED* in Tashkent. Preliminary priorities on the problems of health were worked out. This visit was paid by *UzCOHRED*.

Internal Capacity Building

- January 26, 2002 - after conducting a Local Grant Committee meeting, managers of Urgench CSSC and Dashoguz CSSC (Turkmenistan) who were invited for participation in the LGC discussed questions on cooperation between two CSSCs and questions concerning forthcoming travel of CSSC staff and Khorezm Oblast NGOs to Dashoguz.
- Hub-office Grant Manager and Financial Director visited CSSC with the purpose of conducting mock audit. As a result, the scheme of financial control was revised and completed with recommendations and comments given.
- CSSC staff finished preparation of a proposal for creation of an Internet center and training on Internet use under *IREX* program and submitted it for consideration.
- Professional growth of contract trainers and candidates for trainers:
 - < Zukhra Babadjanova and Nasiba Babadjanova – *NGO and Community*
 - < Salomat Yakubova and Nasiba Babadjanova – *PCAP*
 - < Zukhra Babadjanova, Zumrad Kabulova, Nasiba Babadjanova, Indira Khudabergenova, Bakhtiyar Shukurov - *Training for Trainers on Methodology of training adult auditory*

Community Outreach

- PCAs conducted with the help of CSSC include:

Organizer	Community
<i>Center “Women Health”</i>	Makhalla “Beshmergan” of Shavatskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast
<i>IG “Kalta minor”</i>	Makhalla “Kalta minor” of Khivinskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast
<i>IG “Ecology and Health”</i>	Makhalla “Kiyot” of Shavatskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast
<i>Computer Center</i>	Youth of Khiva-city
<i>Trust Center for teenagers</i>	Gymnasia-school No.3
<i>Center “Khumo”</i>	Youth of Khiva-city
<i>IG “Ichan Kala”</i>	Makhalla “Ichan Kala” of Khiva-city
<i>Women Center “Mansura”</i>	Makhalla “Navbakhor” of Urgench-city

- CAPs developed include:
 1. January 16, 2002 – Makhalla “Beshmergan” of Shavatskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast. Initiator – Center “Women Health”.
 2. January 29, 2002 – Makhalla “Kalta Minor” of Khivinskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast. Initiator – IG “Kalta Minor”.
 3. January 17, 2002 – Makhalla “Kiyot” of Shavatskiy rayon of Khorezm Oblast. Initiator – Center “Ecology and Health”.
 4. February 12, 2002 – Youth of Khiva-city. Initiator – Computer Center.
 5. February 23, 2002 – Youth of Urgench-city. Initiator - Trust Center for Teenagers.
 6. March 16, 2002 – Youth of Khiva-city. Initiator – Center “Khumo”.

Table of Services - Uzbekistan

Service	Bukhara	Kokand	Naman-gan	Nukus	Samar-kand	Tashkent-Hub	Urgench
Number of visitors	206	175	126	390	195	310	210
Number of new visitors	49	34	59	88	40	60	62
Number of visits	335	458	247	782	481	1054	665
Number of NGOs receiving services	100	92	54	118	104	214	94
Number of CBOs, initiative groups receiving services	82	35	31	144	34	31	96
Number of volunteers recruited for NGOs	0	2	2	0	4	0	0
Number of trainings	12	9	8	8	14	6	10
Number of consultations	132	121	37	364	420	97	335
Number of times Computer/Internet/E-mail was used	140	133	95	312	99	996	128
Number of times copy machine was used	190	310	126	301	121	349	156
Number of copies	3022	3204	1505	1642	1012	3861	1122
Number of times Phone/Fax was used	96	207	93	151	55	99	162
Number of PCAs conducted	2	5	7	13	6	3	8
Number of CAPs developed	1	5	7	14	3	3	6

E. FOCUS/TARGET NGO OVERVIEW

KAZAKHSTAN (Focus NGOs)

1. *National Consumers League of Kazakhstan*

Activity Overview

- 135 teachers and university professors representing all regions of the country received consultations in this quarter. Teachers received consultations on various issues like: whether it is possible to change the education program; how to interest the Oblast (City) Education Department to introduce a new subject; how to attract funds for conducting seminars for teachers; how to organize a competition on basics of consumers knowledge among students (the structure, stages and evaluation of the competition); how to contact associations on protection of consumers' rights and civil society support centers.
- In the period from November 2001 to the present time, trainers-methodologists who were trained at seminars of the Education Center held 20 seminars and trained 438 school teachers. A seminar in Aktau for 19 participants was conducted in Kazakh and all handout materials were also translated and adapted to Kazakh.
- A total of 140 people (122 women and 18 men) applied to the organization to get technical support. Teachers may use the library of the Center.
- On February 7-8 "Legal Aspects of Protection of Consumers Rights" seminar was conducted for professors of higher education institutions. 92 applications were submitted for participation in the seminar, 20 of which from 16 regions of the country were selected. Since the majority of higher education institutions are located in Almaty and 80% of them have economic and legal subjects, three participants represented this city. During the seminar participants studied legal procedures for protection of consumers' rights.

Internal Capacity Building

- In February 2002 the League moved to a rented 4-room apartment, which now will serve as the organization's office. The change of office location positively influenced the activity of the Education Center. The office space where teachers work with literature and equipment expanded allowing a greater number of teachers to work at the same time. A second room was added to be used for trainings, round tables, press conferences, etc.
- The third evaluation of the League's organizational development level was carried out. Employees of the organization were interviewed and an analysis of weak and strong points was made. The scoring results of the Module of Sustainable Organization were included in the regional database.
- There was drafted an application to obtain a grant to publish and disseminate a book and a manual for teachers of schools on basics of consumer knowledge. The application was approved in February by the grant committee of the US Peace Corps. It is planned to publish and distribute these publications throughout all regions of Kazakhstan by the middle of July.

2. *Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan (CNOK)*

Activity overview

- As a result of activity of CNOK, on January 23 the Government, by the Resolution #85, approved the Conception of State Support of NGOs of Kazakhstan. The Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord announced January 23 as a Republican Day of NGOs. This event was widely covered in mass media.
- CNOK continues implementing the project "Mechanisms of social partnership between the bodies of executive power and non-governmental organizations". As a result of seminar conducted jointly with

the CSSC in Kostanai and meetings with representatives of the local authority, a Committee on Interaction between the bodies of local authority and NGOs of Kostanai oblast was established. 43 people (including 14 representatives of the executive power) participated in the seminar.

- Employees of CNOK work at parliamentary working groups considering the following draft laws: “On hygiene – epidemiological security of population”, “On Social Correctional-Pedagogical Work with Children and Teenagers Having Abnormality in Development and Growth” and “On State Social Insurance Fund”.
- CNOK jointly with UNDP and Tax Standards Formation Fund conducted four seminars on issues of taxation and methods of monitoring and evaluation of projects.

Internal Capacity Building

- CNOK actively applies the skills of creating a governing body. The number of members of the association has increased significantly. In January a new National Association of NGOs that work in the sphere of education joined the Confederation.
- V. Sivrukova, the head of the organization, took part in a international seminar in Bishkek on March 4-7 within the framework of the Asian Development Bank project, which is implemented by this organization.
- By order of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated March 4 No. 16, V. Sivrukova was included into the Commission on Family and Womens Affairs of Kazakhstan.

3. Diabetic Association of the Republic of Kazakhstan (DARK)

Activity Overview

- On January 15 DARK made a presentation of a methodological room for people suffering from diabetes. This Room was established by DARK on a “Schwarzkopf and Henkel” grant. The room provides facilities for educating patients at “Diabetes School”, and consultations of experienced endocrinology specialists. It also has a reading hall with methodological literature on diabetes. It also provides a means for estimating individual acceptable physical workload and the fat quantity in one’s body in order to develop a diet.
- On February 8 in Astana President of DARK participated in round table dedicated to the year of health that was organized by the Government of Kazakhstan. An Action plan for 2002 was developed during the round table. These actions are directed to improve population’s health, to support the health care system and promote a healthy way of life.
- On February 19 in Astana N. Tukalevskaya, President of DARK, and G. Olkhovskaya, DARK Vice-President, participated in the tender on state procurement of insulin and means of its supply as observers.
- DARK has started to prepare a trip of winners of the Second Kazakhstan Diabetic Sports Days to the 10th International Competition among people ill with diabetes that will take place in Davos, Switzerland, in August.

Internal Capacity Building

- 20 regional diabetic associations subscribed free of charge to “Kazakhstanskaya Pravda” national newspaper.
- In Almaty, on January 8-9 Ms. G. Khairova, DARK coordinator, participated in “Advocacy” seminar organized by Zhalgas-Counterpart Support Center.
- In March Minister Samakova presented Ms. N. Tukalevskaya, President of DARK, with an anniversary medal in honor of the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan Independence.
- DARK has sent information received from IDF and IDAA/DESA as well as several newspaper publications to the regional diabetic societies.
- From February 17 to March 6, Ms. N. Tukalevskaya, President of DARK, and Ms. G. Olkhovskaya, Vice-President of DARK, visited regional diabetic societies in Astana, Kokshetau and Petropavlovsk

with the aim of rendering practical help. They met with representatives of akimats and oblast Health Departments and discussed problems of people suffering from diabetes. In Petropavlovsk they held a meeting with representatives of Kostanai Diabetic Society and consulted staff on work of this society. The trip was sponsored by Soros-Kazakhstan. Based on results of the trip they analyzed problems existing in the regions. DARK submitted its proposals on solving these problems to the Ministry of Health Care.

- On March 1 Ms. G. Khairova, DARK Coordinator, took part in the round table “Problems in Implementation of Rights of the Disabled Women” organized and conducted by the public association of Almaty Women Information Center and Akimat of the city of Almaty.

4. *Young Leaders Association (YLA)*

Activity overview

- A methodological manual on “UN Model” program was drafted for teachers. It includes an optional course, off-hour events, a set of lessons and exercises, and information on the UN Model Club. It also has an attachment: a calendar, dictionary and UN normative documents.
- Within the framework of “UN Model” program in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek) there were presentations, competitions, lessons and sessions of the mini General Assembly dedicated to the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Kazakhstan’s and Kyrgyzstan’s entrance to the UN.
- In Karaganda on February 16 there was a one-day “Drugs” seminar organized for schools of Karaganda and Shakhtinsk.
- A one-day seminar on planning was organized on February 26 in Astana for #1 Economic Lyceum. Newly trained leaders conducted this seminar for the first time.
- On March 17 in Shymkent there was a Sunday meeting “The Art of Conducting Meetings” organized for 60 participants. It was organized by the new staff of the Shymkent city branch.
- On March 24-29 in Temirtau city there was a camp on School Self Governance organized for 50 participants (students and teachers) for Shakhtinsk, Karaganda, Satpayev, Taraz, Astana and Almaty cities. The staff included newly trained leaders and trainers from Karaganda oblast.
- At the request of ICMA/USAID on March 20-22 in Ekibastuz city Oleg Bakhmutov and Aliya Telembaeva conducted “Personal Growth and Principles of Work in Team” seminar. 46 participants from public associations and city akimat and representatives of the regional ICMA/USAID office participated in the seminar.
- In Astana in March two trainings for students of polytechnic college were organized. The topics of trainings were “Planning” and “The Art of Presentation and Problems of Youth”.

Internal Capacity Building

- A conference/training aimed at training of new trainers and continuing education of regional trainers took place on February 11-16. A total of 65 people from 15 cities of Kazakhstan participated in the training. 35 educated leaders were included into the staff of 10 branches. At the conference they received titles and certain skills to conduct major YLA programs. They were also taught in the Art of Training. They also organized various events such as one-day topical meetings dedicated to discussion of certain issues that are of interest to young people; actions on providing assistance to orphanages, old people’s homes and to the disabled. 16 leaders and 7 trainers increased their professional level and drafted new sections on YLA programs that will be developed and included into the methodological materials. A new program on trainers’ education was launched.
- Talgar and Aktau cities applied to the Ministry of Justice for registration of YLA branches. At present there are seven branches officially registered and three branches are in the final registration stage.
- A new reporting format for coordinators of YLA and directors of branches as well as the formats of monthly and quarterly plans were developed. Also internal rules for interaction between the Hub Center and regional staff were established. Branches have already been sending quarterly reports and plans in accordance with the new formats.

- Functional responsibilities for YLA coordinators were approved.
- A single database of the National Association of Young Leaders was created. It contains lists of all leaders and volunteers of YLA of Kazakhstan with their job description and personal data (date of birth, address, email, etc).

KYRGYZSTAN (Focus NGOs)

In general, the focus NGOs made notable progress in building their capacity. All focus NGOs established contacts with local governments and donor organizations. They undertook certain efforts towards financial sustainability. They developed several funding proposals and submitted to a number of donor agencies, including Democracy Commission under US Embassy, NDI, Eurasia, IREX, ISAR, Soros Foundation, etc. The NGO *Bayastan* won a grant of the Democracy Commission to expand activities aimed at child rights protection. *The Farmer's Union* was awarded a TACIS grant to conduct a series of seminars for farmers in SME development. During the quarter, the institutional agreements totaling \$69,101 were signed with all 4 Focus NGOs. The third round of OD re-assessments was scheduled for the next quarter.

1. Bishkek Center For Social Initiatives, Bishkek

Activity Overview

- During February-March, the NGO staff conducted a series of meetings with internal migrants residing in the districts *Kok-Jar, Ala-Too, Kasym, Ak-Bosogo, Kelechek, Ak-Tilek* and *Bakay-Ata*. The schedule of legal consultations for the period April-October was discussed. It is expected to deliver consultations 3-10 days a month dependant on the number of district residents.
- On February 27, the BCSI Director K. Rakisheva met with the Coordinator of Small Grants Program of the WB Mission in Bishkek J. Jakypova and discussed participation of local NGOs in monitoring poverty among different groups of the population and in providing services to reduce the poverty level. Following the discussions, a project proposal aimed at reducing the poverty level in new residential areas was developed and submitted to WB.
- In March, the BCSI Director K. Rakisheva met with T. Kydyrov, the Director of the *Bishkek Migration Management Center*, and A. Krasin, the Director of the *Self-governance Department under the Bishkek City Administration* to discuss collaboration with these organizations for the better benefit of internal migrants residing in Bishkek. The parties agreed to hold a joint roundtable with participation of NGOs, governments and media to discuss recent developments in new residential areas. The roundtable was scheduled for mid April.

Internal Capacity Building

- A meeting of the Coordination Council with participation of the NGO staff, members, volunteers, clients and partners was held on February 20 to discuss a work plan for 2002, and amendments to the strategic plan.
- The Coordination Council has gradually been transforming into a Board of Directors: the NGO staff discussed proper amendments to the Statute of BCSI as well as introducing membership fees, and these amendments will be on agenda of the General Assembly of NGO members scheduled for May 2002.
- This quarter BCSI worked on improving the internal filing system, and NGO members replenished the small library with reference books.
- The NGO staff designed self-evaluation forms to track progress in terms of organizational development. The first self-assessment was scheduled for early April 2002.
- Job descriptions were revised and finalized for each volunteer. Two of them, J. Jenbaeva and M. Isanova, took part in the training on *Facilitation Skills* conducted by *InterBilim* on March 14-15.

2. Talas Oblast Farmers' Union, Talas

Activity Overview

- This quarter, the NGO was awarded a TACIS grant to conduct a series of seminars for farmers in SME development and legal issues, thus strengthening representation of small and medium-size business on a local level.
- The leader of the NGO E. Sydykov took an active part in a meeting of the *Council on Trans-border Cooperation*, which was designed to strengthen the export potential of the Oblast.
- The NGO made an agreement with the Oblast Employment Center about hiring officially registered unemployed people for repairing the premises of the field information centers. This quarter, the room of the information center in the NGO office was renovated.
- Two issues of the information bulletin for farmers were published, and the information in the field centers was updated on a monthly basis.

Internal Capacity Building:

- The NGO made an agreement with the Governor's office about placing new information centers for farmers in the offices of aiyl okmotus (village governments). The *Governor K. Karachalov* agreed to issue notification to all village governments to place one staff person in the information centers to be paid out of local budgets.
- In the framework of the project supported by TACIS, the NGO hired two lawyers, and as a first step of their professional development, they participated in a practical seminar on effectively delivering legal assistance to farmers held in Naryn Oblast.
- A seminar on the Union's projects for the staff of the field information centers located in aiyl okmotus (village governments) was held on March 19.

3. Bayastan, Naryn

Activity Overview

- The support center for children with disabilities was successfully providing services to promote children's rights, including issuing a newsletter, publishing booklets, and conducting special classes on children's rights for school teachers and senior grade pupils. This quarter, 260 school children participated in classes on child rights, provided by NGO staff and volunteers from the *Young Lawyers Association*. In parallel, 22 people were consulted in the office.
- In February, *Bayastan* won a grant of the Democracy Commission under US Embassy to expand current activities aimed at child rights protection.
- The NGO Director T. Shamuratova took part in a roundtable conducted by *the Ministry of Education, Save the Children and UNICEF* in Bishkek. The participants discussed issues of expanding the integrated educational programs for disabled children into inclusive educational programs, with expanding the mandate to street children and vulnerable families.
- On March 26, the NGO Director T. Shamuratova gave an interview to the *radio station Almaz* in a live broadcast, where she informed the audience about the NGOs' activities, current projects and further plans. The radio station was agreed to carry regular broadcasts on child rights.

Internal Capacity Building:

- The NGO created a *Consultative Council*, consisting of 7 members, representing parents, mass media, Educational Department, Social Protection Department, Health Department and schoolteachers. On March 6, the NGO hosted the first meeting of the Council to discuss activities of different parties towards assisting disabled children. The NGO presented the list of disabled children. The members of the Council decided to meet monthly.

- The NGO was proactive in collaborating with *Save the Children (UK)*, which conducted three seminars for the NGO members and parents on the main approach of treating disabled children.
- The NGO Coordinator N. Isaev and Volunteers K. Karakojoeva took part in the training workshop on *Advocacy* conducted by Counterpart contract trainers on March 12-15.

4. *Chintamani*, Tash-Komur Town, Jalalabad Oblast

Activity Overview

- To ensure protection of the environment, the NGO conducted two spot-check investigations together with the *Sanitary-Epidemiological Service (SES)* and the *Town Committee of Environment Protection*. The findings were filmed and sent to the Oblast TV.
- Two issues of the bulletin *Voice of Nature* were published. The leader of the NGO Mr. V. Kireev met with public organizations of the Town of *Mailuu Suu* to discuss and plan joint action to alleviate environmental problems connected with uranium tailing pits.
- The NGO conducted the video lesson “Nature Guards” for 16 pupils of 6th grade of the Town School #1 named after N. Ostrovsky. The children heard about people working in natural reserves, zoos, and activities aimed at protecting biodiversity.

Internal Capacity Building:

- The job responsibilities of the staff were rewritten with addition of specified duties, and based on new job descriptions contracts were signed with the staff. The NGO Director V. Kireev reported that after job responsibilities were revised, delegation of functions and sharing responsibilities were significantly improved.
- One of the bottlenecks encountered during the past OD assessments was low level of sharing information and experience among the staff. This quarter, the situation was improved through hosting regular staff meetings and a mini-training conducted by Bookkeeper N. Yumakaeva, who is the contract trainer of the Jalalabad CSSC.
- The NGO actively looks for external funding because of the lack of local funding. In February, they submitted a funding proposal focused on environment protection through public outreach activities to the Democracy Commission under US Embassy.

TAJKISTAN (Target NGOs)

The Hub Center OD Coordinator visited the target NGOs: *Development Fund*, *Yosuman*, *Nilufar*, *Hamroz* and *Munis* to assess their needs. After conducting a TTAP with them the assessment showed that all target NGOs need TTAP follow-up activities to assist them in improving their organizational capacity. It was recommended that they receive training in governance, membership development, constituency building and management.

This quarter the target NGO list was revised and their number was reduced to fifteen. The revised list of target NGOs and their recent activities follow:

Kurghon-Teppa

1. **NGO *Hamroz*** located in Bokhtar District runs a sewing workshop for 60 refugee/IDP women and implements a project on Violence Against Women in Khatlon Oblast. The NGO also has a program on working with communities. This quarter *Hamroz*'s members conducted a PCA workshop in Mehnatabad community. As a result of the PCA a community action plan was developed to rehabilitate the village medical station.
2. **Women Center *Chashma*** in the Shartuz District assists women in increasing their status in society and improving their lives. They also work with community groups to help them address their problems. Currently *Chashma* works with Arabkhona and Yangiyul communities in Kabidiyon

District and Sayod community in Shahritus District. PCA workshops were conducted with all of them. Arabkhona community with Chashma's assistance has developed a proposal, which concerns micro financing and has an advocacy element, and submitted it to Counterpart.

Kulob

3. **NGO Anis – Kulob.** Counterpart's grantee has worked in Muminabad and Shurabad Districts with their target communities: Balkhobi, Nishorak and Safedob. As a result of PCA/PRA activities facilitated by Anis all the communities developed CAPs and created initiative groups for solving their problems. Counterpart has approved Balkhobi's community project regarding the construction of the local water supply system under the CAG Program.
4. **Women Center Niso** continued their micro financing project. As of end of March they have given small credits to over 500 people-needy members of communities in Kulob area. This quarter Niso started constructing the second building of the school in Kulob. Japanese Embassy had supported this project. Niso assisted CHAP in humanitarian aid distribution in Kulob area.
5. **NGO Sudmand** continued performing their project School of Young Leaders, supported by Eurasia Foundation. After UNDP Office in Kulob hired Sudmand's Leader, the organization came into decline. Kulob CSSC has facilitated a meeting with Sudmand members in order to improve the situation in the organization. By the end of the meeting all the members agreed to resume the organization's activity. They elected a new leader of the organization.

Khujand

6. **Development Fund**, is located in Khujand and works in the agricultural areas of Sughd Oblast supporting farmers, entrepreneurs and rural communities in improvement of their economic situation and in finding solutions to their social problems. Development Fund has worked with three communities of Rasulov District assisting them in identifying their priority problems. In two communities: Selkan and Madaniyat the community members identified lack of drinking water as a priority problem. Development fund assisted them to develop one project proposal on the rehabilitation of water supply system and submit it to Counterpart. The project was approved under the CAG Program.
7. **Yosuman** is an NGO Support Organization located in Mastchoh District. Besides, they work with the local rural communities to help them consolidate in solving their common problems. Through the NGO Support Grant from Counterpart, Yosuman conducted meetings and other PCA/PRA activities with the members of three communities in Mastchoh, which resulted in establishing initiative groups in all communities. Each initiative group developed a CAP on the problem identified as a result of PCA. One of the communities Komsomolskaya Ploshadka with the assistance from Yosuman based on their CAP developed a project proposal on repairing the community school and submitted to Counterpart. The project proposal was approved.
8. **NGO Saodat** works with communities of Ghonchi, Rasulov and Nau Districts of Sughd Oblast. They particularly help women improve their life condition. According to the grant received from NOVIB this organization assisted about 100 women, - heads of families in the above mentioned districts, to get land through local government entities. Saodat members have participated in TOT on PCA and other trainings conducted by the Khujand CSSC.
9. **NGO Yovar** works with vulnerable people, particularly women in Istaravshan District. The members of Yovar have conducted research in Istaravshan communities. Based on this research Yovar is planning to revise their program of community outreach. This quarter Yovar continued assisting their target communities in developing community action plans. One of those communities called Rugun based on their CAP developed a project proposal on setting up water-pipe line and submitted to Counterpart.

Khorog

10. **NGO Madad** 's mission is protection of social and economic rights of rural community members, in particular women. Madad is Counterpart's grantee under the NGO Support Grant program. According

to this grant Madad conducted PCAs with three communities of Roshtkala District assisting them in developing CAPs to address their problems. Community Shokhdara based on their CAP designed a project for small grant on reconstruction of the water channel and submitted to Counterpart. Madad has printed and distributed among the communities its information list about community life.

11. **Vahdat** is a CBO established in Pastchid Community near city of Khorog consisting of 3,600 people. Recently Vahdat received official status after getting registered in Justice Department. Vahdat's mission is to assist the population of Pastchid in solving their social and economic problems. The leader of the organization is Khorog CSSC contract trainer. This quarter Vahdat has set up a water pipeline with grant under the CRD Program and together with NGO Intellect built a sport center in Pastchid. They also developed a project proposal on repairing the local school and submitted it to Aga-Khan Foundation. Vahdat has initiated a campaign of planting trees and gardens in Pastchid, mobilizing the internal resources of the community.

Dushanbe

12. **Harmony of World** has conducted meetings with four target communities in Dushanbe. The members of this NGO assisted two communities in developing Community Action Plans and designing project proposals. One of them - 64 micro rayon community's proposal was funded by Mercy Corps International. The project aims at improving the sanitary situation in a number of buildings of this community.
13. **Munis** works with communities of Hisar District particularly on children issues. This quarter NGO Munis started implementing a project to provide vocational training for 68 children from poor families. UN World Food Program supports the project. The members of Munis conducted a Problem Identification workshop with members of Karamkul community. The community members identified lack of drinking water as a top priority problem. Munis assisted the community with developing a project proposal on setting up water pipe line to the community. The proposal was funded by European Union.
14. **NGO Nilufar** targets small business and enterprise development in the communities of Varzob District. Also, Nilufar conducts conflict resolution activities where people of different ethnic groups live and assists communities in conducting advocacy campaigns. This quarter Nilufar was focusing on providing job places in Chaghatay community. They also held their Board of Directors meeting where the membership of the Board was revised.
15. **NGO Medservice.** After Medservice conducted a problem identification workshop with the members of their target communities i.e., Telman and Sharq, unemployment and lack of sources of income was identified as a top priority for these two communities. To address this problem in Telman community Medservice assisted them with sewing market bags. Now 60 people mostly women obtained an income source. Nilufar and workshop staff is working on increasing the production of bags.

TURKMENISTAN (Target NGOs)

Activity overview

1. Junior Achievement Economic Education and Young Entrepreneurs Center

- On February 26 - March 2 a second level workshop on complex project design was held for preparation of trainers from the NGO. There were 16 participants.
- The NGO invited foreign specialists who conducted six one-day workshops for increasing the qualification of trainers at the corporation "Karana".
- On March 26 - 27 UNDP, in cooperation with British Embassy conducted a follow up workshop based on the results of the visit to Great Britain of local inspectors working with unmanageable children.

2. *Shamchyrag* Turkmen Association of Journalists on Social Partnership

- All necessary information for the registration process was prepared.
- NGO members are working on creation of a Governance Body/Board of Directors and identified three candidates.
- The project proposal “Knowledge is Power” to develop the branches of Association in velayats was submitted to Democracy Commission of US Embassy.
- Twice a month workshop on writing bulletins, newsletters and journalism for NGOs is conducted for 20-25 persons.

3. *My Right*

- Under the project “*Consumer Knowledge. Educated Consumer of XXI Century*”, financed by Democracy Commission of US Embassy, the NGO conducted a series of trainings for 20-25 school children. Ten of those school children attending trainings became volunteers for the NGO.
- The NGO continued consulting consumers on regular basis.
- The NGO translated into Turkmen a booklet “How to Become an Educated Consumer”.
- Monthly bulletin “The Club of Consumers” was issued in Russian and Turkmen languages.
- NGO is working on creation of a Governing Body/Board of Trustees and three members of this Board were identified.
- Members of the NGO participated in trainings conducted by Counterpart Turkmenistan: “NGO and Community”, “Using Information Resources of the Internet”, “Facilitation Skills Development”, “Strategic Planning”.

4. NGO *Sarygamysh* Turkmenbashy etrap, Dashoguz

- Representatives of the NGO facilitated implementation of six Counterpart CAG projects by local residents in Turkmenbashy etrap.
- Upon creation of new water committees during project implementation, the number of volunteers increased by 25 persons to a total of 442 people.
- The representatives of Khorezm CSSC visited NGO for experience exchange.
- NGO conducted four trainings and contributed 10% of finances: “NGO and Community”, “Team Building”, “Association Development”, “Project Design”.
- Newsletter called “*Altyn Damja*” was issued regularly.
- Leader of the NGO, Atjan Babayev, participated in regional training “Monitoring and Evaluation” held in Almaty.
- Participated in seminar on legislation issues conducted by ICNL in Ashgabat.

5. NGO *Uchgun* Turkmenbashy etrap, Dashoguz

- Conducted lessons on Sanitary Practices and Hygiene in 42 schools of Yilanly etrap. The subject of these lessons was teaching children to control the spread of infectious disease through water and dirty hands.
- Representatives of the NGO participated in PCA training conducted by Counterpart Turkmenistan in Akdepe etrap of Dashoguz velayat
- NGO representatives took part in the meeting with Regional CO Manager (Ara Nazinyan) and other Counterpart Turkmenistan staff, which was held in the office of “*Sarygamysh*”, Turkmenbashy etrap.
- Has issued Quarterly Newsletter.

6. NGO *Medet*, Turkmenabat city, Lebap

- Has granted space and logistical assistance to NGO “*Civil Dignity*” to conduct a series of trainings on interactive teaching methodology.
- The NGO houses two new clubs, a “*Tourist Club*” and “*Drama Club*”, which function on a weekly basis

- Has opened a Persian Language course
- Two refugees were provided with jobs by the NGO.
- A new “Medet” branch, an educational center opened in Farap etrap. The branch is run by two persons, an English teacher and computer specialist.
- 10 people from the NGO have participated in Counterpart training seminars.
- Two persons participated in Counterpart’s TOT.

7. *Ecological School of Farmers*

- NGO consulted peasants of Gavers etrap on termination of pests.
- An information handout on “Plants and natural pesticides” was prepared and distributed to peasants of Ruhabat etrap.
- Conducted actions for strengthening the status of the organization – judicial justification of the activities of the NGO.
- Took measures on development of social partnership and cooperation with other NGOs.
- Gave consultations on pest control of domestic plants to representatives of NGO “Annageldi”.
- Discussed with NGO “Merjen” direction of activities and solution of common problems.
- Organizational Development: the number of members of the organization has increased from 5 to 7 persons, and the number of volunteers increased to 12 persons.
- Members and volunteers have increased their knowledge through Counterpart Turkmenistan training and other international organization assistance.
- Two persons from NGO participated in the trainings conducted by Pragma Corporation at the Economics and Business school.
- One person participated in workshop consultation of NGO “Bosfor”
- 3 members of NGO participated as trainers in Counterpart trainings.

8. *Union of Pensioners Arma*

- Regularly offered consulting services on pensioners’ issues.
- Provided medical services for 45 - 50 pensioners
- Conducted several workshops for medical personnel who are working with pensioners under the project “Assistance and medical service to elderly people”
- NGO members participated in Counterpart training seminars.

9. *NGO Amul, Turkmenabat city, Lebap*

- Conducted exhibition of artists’ works
- Arranged the “Exhibition” of children’s arts devoted to the Day of Flag.
- Organized photo exhibition devoted to Women’s Day (March 8).
- Started monthly fine arts courses for children in partnership with the Education Board of the city
- Arranged attendance of organizations to the permanent Exhibition of “Turkmenabat regional society of film and photo enthusiasts” devoted to the Artists of Turkmenabat velayat.
- Started a monthly action of decoration and applied arts for schoolchildren
- Six NGO members attended trainings conducted by Lebap CSSC

10. *Social adaptation Center Umyt in Turkmenbashy city, Balkan*

- Conducted two Round Tables on subjects: “The City, a new home for townspeople”, “Nature is our common home”
- Issues bi-monthly informational bulletin
- Organized and conducted two celebrations for children
- Conducted intellectual game (KVN) among the NGOs of Turkmenbashy city.

- Received humanitarian aid through CHAP for the Society of Deaf and Blind people, City Hospital, Cheleken chemical factory, Veterans of the Afghan War, and Publishing House
- Renewed chess classes for schoolchildren
- NGO representatives were awarded by the Ministry of Nature Protection for their good work
- Article about NGO activities was published in the state newspaper “Neutral Turkmenistan”
- “Umyt” in cooperation with other NGOs in Balkan velayat, like “Lalezar”, “Caspiy”, “Zolotoy vek”, has conducted two seminars on ecology: “City Ecosystem”, “Golden Century in clean Caspian sea”.

11. Commonwealth of Eco NGOs

- Provided daily consultations and coordination of the work of Ecological NGOs.
- NGO organized round tables on Public Awareness Campaign.
- Published regular newsletter.

12. NGO Keyik Okara

- Provided daily reception and consultation of patients.
- Signed a subcontract with UNHCR.
- NGO representatives took part in a German Embassy meeting with the visiting deputy minister of Germany.
- The NGO leader was invited by UNHCR to work as consultant in Lebap velayat for 3 days.
- NGO members took part in a training conducted by ICNL.

13. Trieria, Dashoguz city, Dashoguz

- Prepared documents for registration.
- Completed work on the project “Life is a Movement” funded by Know-How Fund
- Organized sport activities for 16 disabled children
- Published monthly Newsletter “Pulse”
- Volunteers of the NGO “Trieria” developed a new 8-page Informational Bulletin “Merry Factor» 50 copies of which are planned to be distributed.

Internal Capacity Building

- OD action plans for two target NGOs were developed: “My rights” and Association of Journalists “Shamchyrag”.
- Counterpart Turkmenistan conducted a second OD assessment for two target NGOs: “Commonwealth of ECO NGOs and the “Center of Economical Education and Entrepreneurs”
- A follow-up meeting with target NGOs and participants of the NGO Governance Conference was held to discuss plans to establish and/or improve the governing body that were developed during the conference and outlined the next steps.
- A follow-up meeting to “Volunteer Management” training for target NGOs was held to discuss further development of NGOs’ volunteer base. NGOs presented their achievements on work with volunteers. Participants had recruited from two to eight volunteers in accordance with action plans developed at the training.
- 8 representatives from target NGOs took part in TOT training.
- NGO representatives participated in PCA training conducted by Counterpart Turkmenistan.
- Several NGOs took part in seminars “NGO Legislation” conducted by ICNL in January and April 2002
- Representatives of NGOs “Keyik Okara”, “Commonwealth of Eco NGOs”, “Family”, “Mercy”, and “Health” met with the Ambassador of OSCE and took part in the meeting with US Ambassador and Secretary of State.

- NGO representatives from “Special Olympics”, “Women’s Resource Center”, “Ashgabat Informational Center” participated in the regional Counterpart training on “Governance” held in Tashkent.

UZBEKISTAN

All the Focus NGOs finished their projects at the beginning of January 2002 and submitted their final annual program and financial reports. The next financing they got at the end of March 2002. Due to more than a two-month break in financing under Focus Grant target NGOs did not conduct activity under our program.

F. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

KAZAKHSTAN

- Cooperation with VSO with the Astana SC is continuing. In March a new volunteer, Joan Itkin, has started to work in the SC in Astana.
- ICMA and Counterpart Kazakhstan agreed on joint implementation of “Economic Development of Communities” program with the Kostanai CSSC.
- Central-Asian Institute of Development (CAID) and Counterpart started joint implementation of a USAID-funded project on Social Partnership. ICNL is a partner of CAID on the project and Counterpart’s role is financial management and monitoring and evaluation of the program.

KYRGYZSTAN

- Country Director E. Kasybekov had the following meetings this quarter:
 - < Monica Vegas Kladakis, senior coordinator for democracy and human rights promotion, US Department of State, Gregory Gardner, third secretary, Embassy of the United States of America, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, altogether with representatives from NDI and Internews at its office. He briefed guests on the situation with NGO and Civil Society development and answered questions. He also shared with them the issue of NGO constituency development, especially in rural area.
 - < Together with the Senior Program Officer Aman Nusupov, he met with Max van der Sleen, director of Macro&Sector Policy Division of Netherlands Economic Institute (NEI) and Elena Belanova, director of Moscow Office of NEI. They discussed Counterpart’s participation in the CDF and PRSP processes and the Community Outreach program.
 - < Terry Thornton from NDI together with Erkina Ubysheva to discuss program activities and potential for cooperation.
 - < A launch event of the UNDP Human Development Report.
 - < Timothy Pylate, Ukraine Country Director of Project Harmony, Inc., and Erik Scott, Program Manager of Project Harmony in Georgia to discuss a possible partnership in Kyrgyzstan.
 - < Elmira Shishkaraeva, program director from Soros Foundation, in order to coordinate our joint actions towards support of Batken, Jalalabad, Karakol, Naryn, Osh, and Talas CSSCs.
- The project #99/0439 with EU funding, aimed at strengthening the ability of local communities to advocate on behalf of their citizenry and ensuring their participation in decision-making process, is progressing in a satisfactory rate. In March, Ms. C. Schuierer, the Director of Counterpart Deutschland and Mr. P. Sauer, the Trainer-Consultant visited Kyrgyzstan to pay monitoring visits to the target communities of Batken Oblast and conduct training workshop *Impact Monitoring, Team work, Facilitation, and Community Foundations*. They share observation with the EC project staff and made recommendations for the second year activities. The project interim report was adopted by the Commission and the Hub Center received the second tranche. To date, PCAs were conducted in 14 target locations, and the project team monitored 15 community projects being implemented in Chuy, Osh, Issyk-Kul and Batken Oblasts. In general, all projects were progressing in line with the planned schedule.
- The Health program is progressing in line with the implementation plan. On January 17-18, the follow-up workshop in Strategic Planning was held in Issyk-Kul Sanatorium by the Hub Center. The strategic plans of NGOs *Tsirina, Sanitas, FGPA, and Kyrgyz Club of Hypertensives* were finalized. Two mentoring partnership grants (MPGs) were approved totalling \$47,910. The FGPA was awarded a grant to establish partnership with *World Family Practitioners Association (WONCA)*, and *Association of Hospitals* will implement the project aimed at gaining new expertise from the *French Hospital Association*. The Project Manager C. Kamarli took part in the regional TOT in Social Marketing held in Tashkekt on March 18-22.

- The project 01/AB/KGZ/CM/200 with UNHCR funding, aimed at providing support to refugee organizations, is being executed in line with the project timeline. The management team of Counterpart made a decision to hire Mr. Razak Ashimbaev as the Citizenship Coordinator of Counterpart, and Ms. K. Shorukova and Mr. T. Janaev as Citizenship Coordinators of Kara-Balta and Kant CSSCs respectively. The contracts started on February 8, 2002. Orientation with all new staff was conducted and their job descriptions were finalized. The database of all Tajik refugees in Chui oblast were designed by IT staff. The questionnaire and set of information fields to be filled out were finalized in consultations with UNHCR and Migration Department. A series of meetings with refugee NGOs was conducted aimed at discussion of a campaign to collect information for the database. It was decided to assign one refugee NGO per rayon to coordinate these activities. Refugee NGOs were obliged to recruit teams of interviewers and to conduct actual interviews. CSSCs of Kara-Balta and Kant were given coordination tasks and responsibilities to type collected data. On February 18, the seminar on obtaining citizenship and collecting information for the database was held in Counterpart office for 27 representatives of selected refugee NGOs. Seven refugee NGOs were awarded small citizenship grants (equivalent to 150-200 USD per NGO) to cover transportation costs of interviewers and their meal. By March 31, the citizenship team completed entering data to the database and the overall number of records have reached 3,026.
- The inception phase of the project *Rural Hygiene and Sanitation Project*, funded by DFID and implemented by *WS Atkins*, was launched in February 2002. Counterpart Kyrgyzstan is an implementing partner to *WS Atkins* and its main responsibilities include recruiting local experts for the project, identifying local partner NGOs and administering training, PRA and information campaigns. To date, Counterpart provided support to the project team in conducting meetings with the Ministry of Health, and pilot communities in Issyk-Kul and Naryn Oblasts.
- On February 5, The Senior Program Officer A. Nusupov took part in the legislative index meeting held in Jogorku Kenesh. Among panelist were deputies of Jogorku Kenesh, representatives of local self-governing bodies, USAID contractors and local NGOs. The meeting goal was to identify a level of participation of general public in legislative and regulatory processes in open discussions.
- The meeting of UNHCR and its implementing partners was held in UNHCR office on March 20. The participants shared information on recent accomplishments and plans for 2003 in order to consider them in the COP. The Senior Program Officer A. Nusupov made presentation on behalf of Counterpart, emphasizing that citizenship issues will be in agenda of 2003, and refugee NGOs, playing such an important role in this process, would need further support in collecting papers, promoting income-generating activities among refugees and new citizens, as well as advocating on behalf of them.

TAJKIKISTAN

- Three Donor Organizations meetings were held at Counterpart this quarter. Representatives of *Eurasia Foundation*, *Mercy Corps*, *USAID*, *UNHCR/NRC*, *Democracy Fund* under the American Embassy, *AED*, *Swiss Agency for Cooperation*, *Aga-Khan Foundation*, *ABA/CEELI*, *ACT Central Asia*, *OSCE* took part in the meetings. In the February meeting all the forum members decided to create a database of the grants given to local NGOs for internal purposes and approved the format to be used for the database. Counterpart will be responsible for putting the data together, updating and keeping it, and coordinating the whole process.
- The Country Director attended the regular meeting of the International NGO meetings. He discussed hosting a roundtable discussion between selected members of the INGO community and several members from various ministries within the Government of Tajikistan.
- The Country Director and CRD Program Coordinator met with Nancy Pasternak from *Medecins Sans Frontiers* regarding the NGOs working in the field of Mental Health.
- Senior Counterpart Staff members met with David O'Connor of *ABA/CEELI* and Christopher Shields of *IFES* to discuss the Parliamentary Roundtable on Public Access to the Legislative Process.

Counterpart Tajikistan was asked to contact six local NGOs to participate in the Parliamentary Roundtable.

- The Country Director attended a dinner hosted by Michael Harvey, USAID Representative to Tajikistan in honor of Daniel Rosenblum, Deputy Coordinator of USAID. The discussion around the priority needs for Tajikistan was held.
- Met with the Director of the National Association of Business Women (NABW) in Tajikistan and a UNIFEM Consultant and discussed the legal environment for NGOs working to review and analyze commercial legislation from a gender perspective.
- The Country Director attended a meeting with Gary Schanil, Program Director of Shelter Now International and discussed points of cooperation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan
- Senior Counterpart Staff members met with Jon Edwards, the Program Manager of Allavida, a British NGO. He is looking at potential partners that specialize in community development. He was advised to meet with the Dushanbe and Kurghon-Teppa CSSCs.
- Negotiated with UNHCR regarding the new proposal. The final version of the proposal was already submitted to them.
- The Country Director met with Gregory Koldys, USAID Democracy Officer from Almaty and discussed the status of the CSSCs, needs for more trainings and other issues.
- The Country Director met with Rhett Power of PRAGMA and discussed the points of cooperation.
- The Country Director met with Jillian W. Richardson-Rohrscheib ACD/VOCA Chief of Party Tajikistan/Uzbekistan and discussed micro-finance issues and their new project in northern Tajikistan.
- The Country Director met with Uwe Federsel, Project Leader for CARITAS. He requested trainings, in particular business training. He was suggested contact PRAGMA or Kulob CSSC.
- The Country Director spoke with Norm Leatherwood, the executive Director of Shelter Now International about cooperating in Afghanistan.
- Met with Mr. Said Beg, local representative for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, for lunch and discussed their aid programs in Afghanistan.
- The Country Director and Jim Benson, Regional Director for CHAP met with Andrea Recchia, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, and United Nations OCHA Office. Discussed aid cooperation activities. OCHA is working closely with NGOs to coordinate their humanitarian aid programs.
- The Country Director attended an NGO forum meeting in which the US Ambassador, Franklin Huddle and the USAID Representative to Tajikistan. Michael Harvey spoke about an increase in the USAID program to Tajikistan. He also mentioned that Counterpart CHAP would see an increase in the amount of aid shipments for distributions through local NGOs.
- The Country Director met with Shamsiddin Karimov, Country Representative for AED Global, to discuss a plan of action to implement a joint training series for new NGOs.
- Hosted a lunch for Peter Mueti, Afghanistan Regional Emergency Coordinator of the United Nations Joint Logistics Center. We discussed relief and development efforts in northern Afghanistan.
- Met with Nora Kelly and David O'Conner of ABA/CEELI and briefed them on our NGO support activities, trainings, and community action grant programs. They also discussed the status of their current program in Tajikistan.
- Lola N., Farhad B. (CRD-Staff) and the Country Director met with Jeff Paulsen and Dr. Russell Lenhart of Orphan, Refugees and Aid, (ORA) to discuss the ABT (ZrdavPlus) health education grants program and its implementation through Counterpart. Originally, ORA had been offered the grant but turned it down, but will continue to work on medical education project with Abt. They would like to be involved in the grant selection process.
- The Country Director met with Michael Harvey, USAID Country Representative and Aburahim Muhidov, USAID Project Management Specialist. Mr. Muhidov had toured our CRD projects in Khujand with Nabisher and gave a very good report to Mr. Harvey on the impact of the project.

- The Country Director met with Chris Buckley, Christian Aid, and discussed our Civil Society program activities. For the last 3-4 years they were funding 4 NGOs in Tajikistan. *Mehrangiz* and *Ghamkhori* in Khatlan. They have also been funneling their money through CARE, which funds the local NGO, *Ghamkhori* in a Health project. Their grant to *Ghamkhori* is for about \$60 K a year. In Dushanbe they fund Odomiyat, the Youth Echo Center and SPSE.
- The Country Director met with Helen Gates, British Embassy in Tajikistan and discussed our program activities and our work with local NGOs. She mentioned aid funding would be channeled first through IFIs then international NGOs.

TURKMENISTAN

- The Acting Country Director participated in the regular monthly USAID Contractors meeting to update the Counterpart Program Implementation as well as was discussed the new requirements to register a foreign technical assistance program with State Agency for Foreign Investment of Turkmenistan.
- In January, Winrock International visited Counterpart Turkmenistan in order to discuss the possible cooperation of both programs in Mary velayat to promote activities of women small business groups.
- In February, the CHAP Regional Director Jim Benson visited Turkmenistan and discussed the possibilities of future cooperation in Lebap and other velayats and to coordinate joint activities in the region.
- In February representatives of ABA - Brian Rohan (CEELI, Washington), Richard Paton (CEELI, Uzbekistan) visited Counterpart Turkmenistan. During the meeting were discussed the ECO NGO pool capacity in Turkmenistan, their legal status, as well as the potential for Counterpart Turkmenistan and ABA/CEELI for joint cooperation.
- In February, Acting Country Director met with Deputy Khakim of Lebap velayat Tamara Yusupova to update the situation with the new location for Lebap CSSC.
- Acting Country Director and Lebap CSSC assistant Nargiza Meilieva participated at Health Sub - Donor meeting held in Turkmenabat city of Lebap velayat.

UZBEKISTAN

- Participation of CSSCs and our partner - *Training Center "Bilim va jamiyat"* in the training of *Effective Leadership* conducted by *Training Center "Golubka"* (Moscow) was paid by the *Project GLOBAL*.
- At CHAP's request a list of NGOs recommended for distribution of Humanitarian aid was compiled and forwarded.
- For representatives of *Abt. Associates's* Program *ZdravPlus* consultation on publishing and distribution of their bulletin conducted.
- At the *PRAGMA's* request list of business-NGOs was forwarded.
- Consultation on creation and registration of local NGO was conducted together with *ICNL* for *UNESCO* representatives.
- There was an agreement with *OSCE* and Counterpart on conduction of trainings for *OSCE* target group of teaches of secondary schools.
- There was a meeting conducted with International Organization *Project HOPE* working on the problems of tuberculosis in Syrdarya Oblast. Information on our grantee working on the same problem in Bukhara was provided.

G. LEVERAGING

KAZAKHSTAN

\$3,386.78 was leveraged this quarter through the following sources:

- For the financial management of the CDC project of the University of Michigan the Hub Center received \$1328.35.
- On February 11-15 Zhalgas-Counterpart conducted a five-day training ordered by UNDP. The total amount of training budget was \$1139.73 with \$81.95 for Zhalgas-Counterpart overhead.
- On March 5-19 Zhalgas-Counterpart conducted a four-day training for Soros Foundation. The total amount of training budget was \$918.70, with \$132 in overhead.

KYRGYZSTAN

- The contract with UNHCR for 2002 was signed for \$63,871, including overhead costs, to implement the 12-month project, which seeks to target Tajik refugees in Northern and Southern Kyrgyzstan. While are refugees are expected to benefit from this initiative, thirteen refugee communities, all of which face compounded challenges due to shortage of available resources and geographic isolation, will be specially targeted. The project is to be implemented through CSSCs of *Batken*, *Kant*, *Nookat* and *Kara-Balta*. Key interventions proposed under the project include: (1) assisting refugee NGOs in mobilizing refugees to apply for the citizenship of Kyrgyzstan, (2) facilitating partnership and networking in order to mobilize refugee NGOs to better advocate on behalf of their clientele, and (3) building staff skills with emphasis on transferring knowledge in community mobilization and advocacy.

TAJIKISTAN

- A total of \$9,577 was leveraged through AED Global for conducting training workshops for new NGOs

TURKMENISTAN

\$ 11 549.74 was leveraged this quarter through:

- British Embassy - for NGO *Bosfor* to implement the project “Open Visa” - \$7,218.50
- British Embassy - for Lebap CSSC to better provide services for regional NGOs - \$2,660
- Global training for Development - for NGOs *Tebigat Hovandary*, *Sarygamysh*, Youth Ecological Center *Tebigat* and for Dashoguz and Lebap CSSC to attend the training “Project Monitoring and Evaluation” in Almaty - \$1 221.24
- Union of Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan - for the project “Issuing of Informational bulletin” implemented by Patentees initiative Group - \$400
- Dashoguz Ecological Club - for NGO *IKAR* to implement the project “Development Through Youth Education” - \$50

H. LESSONS LEARNED

KAZAKHSTAN

- Hub Centers need to be able to prepare advocacy plans for the network. At the beginning of the year the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted a list of tax exempt donor organizations. Unfortunately, Counterpart was not included in this list, which may create problems when implementing grant programs. Counterpart Kazakhstan officially requested USAID's help in resolving this problem. At present Counterpart has received a package of documents regulating the activity of international organizations operating under bilateral agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the United States. Simultaneously USAID is negotiating with the appropriate government agencies for the inclusion of Counterpart and other International Organizations in the list of organizations exempted from taxation.
- The network of CSSCs cannot rely on one donor for continued funding. Due to the drastic cut of funding for the last year of the program, CSSCs budgets were dramatically reduced. In response, the Hub Center is aggressively leading fundraising activities. Already three projects proposals were sent to different donor agencies (for more details, please, see Network Development in the Hub Center Overview).

TAJKISTAN

Counterpart through its other community development programs has learned some lessons that were used in our Phase III Community Action Grant Program. Some of these lessons are:

- The impact of the community projects was very high, covering a larger number of beneficiaries, with only a small amount of grant money from Counterpart. For example, 26 community action grants of not more than \$2,000 per community impacted more than 60,000 people.
- Communities are able to make significant contributions to the projects not only by contributing labor, but also through local individuals and business institutions.
- An expert/engineer is needed at the very beginning of any proposed project to assess community projects and to give technical advise to Counterpart, the partner NGOs in the project and local communities as to the feasibility of the project. These same expert/engineer is needed to follow the project to its completion.
- The issue of ownership in community projects was raised on several occasions. Each community established initiative groups to ensure that the infrastructure projects were sustainable, that is, that the projects were maintained after the completion of the projects. Counterpart learned that it is essential to have the cooperation of the local government in maintaining infrastructure projects as initiative groups do not have full rights to government controlled infrastructure. For this reason the communities included local government representatives in their initiative groups.

TURKMENISTAN

- To pacify regional authorities and avoid interruptions in program implementation, Counterpart has made more direct information on Counterpart activities available. During this quarter there were two coordination meetings with local Khakimliks in order to clarify the issues regarding the Lebap CSSC office opening and its operations. The local Khakimlik representatives requested a monthly update on CSSC program events. A similar practice is already in place with MFA of Turkmenistan. Counterpart provides monthly updates of program events and travel information to USAID, which is then sent to MFA of Turkmenistan. Beginning in February, Counterpart started to send the same information to Lebap and Dashoguz Khakimliks. Subsequently, during the quarter there were no cancellations of program events of CSSCs in those regions.

UZBEKISTAN

- All staff can be effective in information gathering and monitoring projects. This quarter was the first time the Counterpart editor of *Initiative* newsletter made site-visits to various cities. These visits

proved successful in helping the editor gather qualitative information on projects and NGO activity in regions.

- Sharing reports in a timely manner can improve reporting quality. This quarter the Hub Center started distributing the CSSC monthly reports among all CSSCs. As the result the quality of the reports has grown.

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

A. PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Counterpart/ICNL Consortium is:

Assist in the development of a comprehensive legal and fiscal framework that will support and strengthen the NGO sector.

The purpose of ICNL is:

Develop a legislative environment that is supportive of the long-term growth of the NGO sector in Central Asian countries.

B. PROJECT IMPACTS

KAZAKHSTAN

Government Concept on State Support of NGOs Was Adopted

On January 23, 2002 the Government of Kazakhstan has issued Resolution No. 85 approving the Concept on State Support of Nongovernmental Organizations of Kazakhstan. This Concept indicates a significant change in government policy toward NGOs and seeks to support the activities of socially-oriented NGOs. The Concept envisions the issuance of social procurement orders to NGOs for the performance of important social programs, creation of councils for the cooperation of state bodies and public organizations, organization of joint activities between state bodies and NGOs, and the easing of NGO registration requirements.

To implement the present Concept, the Ministry of Culture, Information and Social Accord (known by its Russian acronym as MinKIOS) is required to develop an official Program of State Support of Nongovernmental Organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan by September 1, 2002. It will also be necessary to develop social procurement legislation that will regulate government procurement of social services.

The drafting of the Concept involved intensive efforts by KNOK and other NGOs, international organizations, and MinKIOS. ICNL provided technical assistance and consultations to the official Working Group which relied on ICNL commentaries and legal analysis in preparing the various drafts and the official text of the Concept. At the present time, ICNL is assisting the Central Asian Institute for Development (CAID) in developing draft legislation regulating state social procurement in Kazakhstan.

KYRGYZSTAN

Parliamentary Committee Rejects Government Resolution 736

On January 16, 2002, the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic held an enlarged session chaired by Committee Chairman Kabai Karabekov to discuss Government Resolution 736 dated November 17, 2001. The session was attended by first deputy Minister of Justice, parliamentarians, and representatives of international organizations, NGOs, and the mass media.

In Resolution 736, the Government submitted a package of bills for consideration by Parliament including a bill introducing amendments into the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on “On State Registration of Legal Entities.” Like the last summer’s Resolution 358, which was revoked after ICNL prepared a thorough commentary to it and NGOs raised a strong campaign in opposition to that Resolution, Resolution 736 sought to toughen state supervision of NGO’s activities via additional registration and re-registration requirements. In particular, Resolution 736 sought to impose new territorial registration requirements on public associations, established vague reregistration grounds that would have enabled the Ministry of Justice and its territorial subdivisions to demand reregistration of NGOs by a mere agency act rather than as provided by law, and established additional notice and registration requirements for NGOs.

For the first time in the Committee history, the Committee invited an international expert to provide expert testimony. ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily presented NGO registration practices in CEE, NIS, and Western Europe, and answered questions regarding registration procedure for NGOs in Kyrgyzstan. ICNL Commentaries to the Resolution 736 were also presented. Upon consideration, the Committee declined to approve Resolution 736 with regard to provisions toughening state supervision of NGOs.

NGOs Fight Restrictions on Freedom of Expression Imposed By Government Resolution 20

On January 14, 2002, the Government of Kyrgyzstan issued Resolution No. 20 which significantly restricts publishing and media rights of NGOs and other organizations. Unlike the previous Government Resolutions Nos. 358 and 736 which submitted a draft law for parliamentary adoption, Resolution No. 20 is self-executory and entered into force upon promulgation.

The Resolution and the Interim Regulation which it approved mandates registration of all faxes, copiers, scanners and other equipment that could be used to reproduce information and demands prior certification for “publishing activity” which is broadly defined to cover virtually any printed materials. The resolution also requires that the right to engage in publishing activities be clearly specified in a legal entity’s charter documents – since most NGOs and other legal entities do not have this provision in their founding documents, they would be required to amend their charters and reregister before they can engage in these activities. In addition, the resolution mandates the State Committee on Religion to control the number and construction of new religious facilities in Kyrgyzstan.

The Government’s unabashed attempt in this Resolution to limit the freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan in blatant violation of the Kyrgyz Constitution, international conventions to which Kyrgyzstan is a party, and Kyrgyz law drew an uproar from parliamentary deputies, NGOs, international organizations, and foreign governments. At the request of Deputy Karabekov, ICNL prepared a commentary to Resolution No. 20. The ICNL commentary was distributed to deputies, NGOs, and international organizations at various round tables and seminars and placed on the Counterpart Consortium list serve www.cango.net.kg where it is available to about 2,000 subscribers. The commentaries were also presented at the USAID-DM meeting to the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, Ms. Deborah Klepp, who promised to pass out ICNL commentary to the Ambassadors of other OSCE member states. In addition, the OSCE Ambassador Mr. Aydin Idil has requested and received these commentaries from ICNL.

The broad campaign raised against this Resolution by parliamentary deputies, NGOs, business entities, international organizations and foreign embassies is continuing to put strong pressure on Kyrgyz government. More than 200 NGOs were involved in the campaign against the Resolution. A number of appeals have also been lodged with the President, the Prime Minister’s Office, and the Constitutional Court urging the repeal of this resolution. ICNL will continue to assist NGOs in their fight against Resolution No. 20 to ensure that this unconstitutional attempt to restrict freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan is overturned.

Draft Amendments to Kyrgyz Tax Code Were Prepared for Submission to Parliament

As the result of the ICNL-organized Issyk Kul Workshop which followed the January 17 round table on the taxation of charities in Kyrgyzstan, the official working group has prepared draft amendments to the Kyrgyz Tax Code regulating the taxation of charities, grants, and humanitarian aid. The proposed amendments will be submitted to Parliament later in the spring.

The proposed amendments introduce strict criteria for meeting the definition of a charitable and a noncommercial organization (NCO), define charitable activities and purposes, grants, humanitarian aid, membership and entry fees. The amendments also exclude humanitarian aid and grants, membership and entry fees, and assets transferred gratuitously for the charter purposes of the noncommercial organization from the NCO's gross annual income. Furthermore, the draft amendments relieve from VAT deliveries of goods, works, and services made for charitable purposes by charitable organizations as well as deliveries made at or below cost to noncommercial organizations or that are otherwise made for certain specified socially useful purposes.

The project began as a follow-up to the January 17 Roundtable on NGO taxation that was organized at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees: the Committee for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs and the Committee for Taxes, Customs and Other Duties with the assistance of ICNL. It continued with the four-day workshop at Lake Issyk Kul that was organized and financed by ICNL. Subsequently, the draft amendments were presented to IMF, the Barents Group, NGOs and international organizations and will be submitted to Parliament during the spring session before the Parliament starts considering the budget for the next year. A public hearing on draft amendments is also planned.

C. ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Regional

ICNL contribution to Counterpart Consortium Resource Book on Advocacy

ICNL prepared a section on legislation governing NGO advocacy activities in four Central Asian countries for the Counterpart Consortium resource book on “Advocacy”. The ICNL contribution presents relevant legislation from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan governing NGO political, advocacy, and lobbying activities (e.g. excerpts from the Civil Code, the Administrative Code, the Criminal Code, laws on the “Referendum”, elections, etc.). The resource book will be distributed by the Counterpart Consortium as part of its advocacy trainings for NGOs.

Publication of ICNL Books on Social Partnerships and Public Financing of NGOs

Because of the high interest in social partnership and public financing issues in Central Asian countries and the corresponding demand for ICNL books on these topics, ICNL reedited and republished its book on *Legal Mechanisms of Public Financing of Noncommercial Organizations*. Originally prepared for Western NIS with the support of the American-Armenian Assembly and funding from USAID, this book proved to be a valuable resource for Central Asia. The book examines public financing mechanisms used in different countries (subsidies, grants, state procurement of social services from NGOs, etc.), examines good practices in the social partnership area between the government and NGOs (e.g. in Szczecin, Poland), and provides examples of advanced legislation on public participation, state procurement, and state subsidies. One thousand copies of the book were released. ICNL funded all publication costs.

ICNL also reedited and republished another 1000 copies of its book on *Comparative Research and Legislation on Social Partnership Issues*. Originally prepared under the Counterpart Alliance for Partnership program for the West NIS region and reprinted in October for Central Asia with the funding from the Global Development Project (GTD), this book proved to be in such high demand at seminars and trainings conducted in the Central Asian Countries, that it was necessary to republish it as well. The book contains analytical materials and research in the social partnership area and examples of laws from various countries that present different mechanisms of legal regulation of social partnerships between NGOs and governments. All publications costs were paid by ICNL.

KAZAKHSTAN

Round Table on Social Procurement Legislation

In early January, in anticipation of the passage of the Concept of State Support of NGOs, ICNL held a round table on social procurement legislation. The round table was attended by a number of well-known NGO leaders involved in this area (Valentina Sivrukova, Mansya Kainazarova, Zhanna Nauryzbaeva, Sholpan Baibolova, et al), the Director of Internal Policy Department within Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord (Gaziz Telebaev), and USAID (David Hoffman).

ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily made a presentation on best practices in government financing of NGOs and examined the different purposes pursued by social procurement legislation as compared with legislation regulating government’s assistance (grants) to NGOs. Thus, for instance, when the purpose of social procurement legislation is the improvement of social services – this goal may be best reached by involving both commercial entities and NGOs in the procurement process. By contrast, if the principal purpose is to provide support to NGOs, a subsidy or a grant mechanism may be more appropriate.

The ICNL Vice President also discussed the need to remove the Constitutional prohibition on state financing of public associations. This provision is unique to Kazakhstan and precludes public

associations, including those involved in the provision of social services, from the receipt of state grants and subsidies. There is also a risk that a future legislation on social procurement might be invalidated if public associations are able to access state funding via the procurement mechanism.

In the discussions that followed, participants agreed that more study and research needs to be done in the social procurement area and asked ICNL for assistance on this issue.

Assistance to the Central Asian Development Institute (CAID)

ICNL has begun work with CAID on the development of social procurement legislation in Kazakhstan. The CAID project seeks to develop draft mechanisms to foster state support of NGOs and NGO participation in state procurement of social services which are critically important to the long-term sustainability of Kazakhstani NGOs.

CAID was formed last fall by a number of well-known NGO leaders and government officials as an NGO public policy research center focusing on the democratization of the political process in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries and the development of an effective dialogue and cooperation between governments and NGOs.

In March, USAID approved ICNL's and Counterpart Consortium/Kazakhstan's recommendations to support two CAID proposals totaling about \$50,000 for the development of social procurement legislation. Under the terms of the two grants to CAID, ICNL will be responsible for technical assistance and programmatic monitoring and evaluation on this project while Counterpart Consortium/Kazakhstan will provide financial management and monitoring of the grant money allocated under the proposal.

Although USAID financing under the proposals is supposed to begin in April, a meeting of the working group has already been held and a number of analytical reports prepared. ICNL will continue to provide technical assistance to CAID and work to ensure that the draft legislation produced on this project represents the long-term interests of the NGO sector and incorporates international best practices governing social procurement legislation.

Publication of ICNL Commentary to NGO Legislation

In March ICNL released 2000 copies of the ICNL book *The Legal Status of Noncommercial Organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan (a Practical Guide)*. The book is designed to help with the implementation of the Kazakhstani legislation and to serve as a practical guide for Kazakhstani NGOs and covers various issues that arise in the course of their activities. Written by a team of practicing lawyers – Vadim Nee from ICNL, Natalia Yantsen from the Tax Standards Formation Fund, and Nail Karimov from the “Zhan” Asian Association on Rights of the Disabled – it examines the legal status of noncommercial organizations, taxation of noncommercial organizations in accordance with the new Kazakhstan Tax Code, and registration of noncommercial organizations. It also includes excerpts from relevant legislation that would be of greatest benefit to NGOs.

The publication of *The Legal Status of Noncommercial Organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan (a Practical Guide)* was funded by the Global Development Project (GTD). In the month since its publication, over 700 copies have already been distributed to NGOs, CSSCs, international organizations, and government officials. This book will also be distributed at seminars and various trainings conducted in Kazakhstan.

Work on the Draft Law on Youth

At the request of the Youth Information Service of Kazakhstan, a local youth NGO, ICNL has prepared a commentary to the provisions of the draft Law on State Youth Policy regulating state policy toward youth and youth organizations in Kazakhstan. Although the international practice is that youth NGOs are regulated like other NGOs, the Government considers this draft law a priority and it is expected to be

submitted to the Parliament in April.

Unfortunately, the present draft law is largely declarative and lacks an effective mechanism for the realization of its stated aims of protection and development of rights and interests of youth. It also contains a number of substantial errors and contradictions with existing legislation. ICNL will continue to provide technical assistance to interested NGOs on this issue.

Assistance to ANNOK in Developing Rules for Open Parliamentary Hearings

In February ICNL was approached by ANNOK, a well-known local NGO, for assistance and commentary on a draft regulation developed by ANNOK that would govern the procedures of holding open parliamentary hearings in Kazakhstan. The proposed regulations seek to improve transparency in the legislation adoption process, provide access to information on important legislative initiatives to affected citizenry and organizations, and enable constituents, experts, NGOs, and business entities to present their views to parliamentarians prior to the adoption of legislation.

At the request of ANNOK, ICNL has prepared several commentaries to proposed draft regulations. It has also participated in meetings and discussions designed to formulate a common position among NGOs and develop an advocacy strategy for proposed amendments to the rules of parliamentary procedures. ICNL will continue to provide technical assistance to ANNOK and other NGOs as well as facilitate the participatory process of drafting appropriate legislation governing public participation in parliamentary and government decision-making process.

Follow-up on the Government Resolution Approving the List of Foreign NGOs Allowed to Give Grants in Kazakhstan

On December 28, 2001, the Government issued Resolution No. 1753 approving the list of international and governmental organizations and foreign nongovernmental associations and foundations entitled to give grants in Kazakhstan. According to the new Tax Code, only states, governments of states, and those organizations mentioned on the list approved by this Resolution are allowed to give grants. By contrast, Kazakhstani individuals and legal entities as well as foreign nongovernmental associations and foundations that are not part of this list are not allowed to give grants.

The new restrictions on grantmaking have made it more difficult for donors to issue grants to NGOs and have limited the sources of foreign funding for NGOs. The problem is further exacerbated by the fact that this list contains significant errors and inaccuracies and fails to include certain major donors operating in Kazakhstan. Thus, internationally renowned grantmaking organizations such as the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Milieukontakt Oost-Europa and DIA (the Netherlands) are excluded from the list. In addition, neither the Tax Code nor Resolution No. 1753 provide procedures regulating the selection of the permissible grantors or the inclusion of additional donor organizations in the list.

ICNL has held a number of meetings and discussions with various international organizations about the meaning of these restrictions and has issued a commentary (in Russian and in English) to NGOs and international organizations notifying them of the changes imposed by the list. ICNL in cooperation with Tax Standards Formation Fund will continue to monitor the implementation of the Tax Code and the effect of new restrictions on grantmaking on NGOs and will issue a report on the effect of these restrictions later this year.

ICNL Response to a Ministry of State Revenue Letter

On February 8, 2002, the Vice Minister of State Revenue issued a letter restricting the applicability of exemption from the social tax for payments made out of grant funds. The letter contains a number of errors, improperly limits the exemption provided by the Tax Code, and may create significant problems for the NGO sector in Kazakhstan.

The Vice Minister's letter establishes an additional requirement not found in the Tax Code that an agreement must exist between Kazakhstan and another state, the government of a state or an international organization before a social tax exemption may be granted for payments made out of grant funds. In addition, it contains a number of material errors that could have serious consequences for grant recipients and donor organizations. For some unknown reason, the letter fails to recognize the existence of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan Regarding Cooperation to Facilitate the Provision of Assistance dated May 20, 1992 and refers to another agreement regarding the activity of U.S. Peace Corps in the Republic of Kazakhstan as the sole agreement between Kazakhstan and the U.S. Moreover, the Ministry's letter not only imposes tax obligations on many nongovernmental organizations from which they were exempt in accordance with the Tax Code, but also provides a retroactive effect to these obligations in violation of existing law.

Recognizing the threat posed to NGOs by the letter and the fact that a number of nongovernmental organizations have already encountered problems with tax authorities issuing improper directives requesting payment of the social tax, penalties and fines for past periods, ICNL has prepared a commentary to the Vice Minister's letter. This commentary (in Russian and in English) was disseminated to USAID, NGOs, and international organizations. ICNL will also continue to monitor this situation and work to ensure that this letter is recalled.

Assistance with the Campaign on Housing Associations (KSK)

ICNL was cooperating with NDI and ICMA on their campaign to amend legislation governing housing associations (known by their Russian acronym as "KSK") in Kazakhstan. ICNL expert Vadim Nee has made a presentation at the session on making amendments to the law governing housing relations. ICNL also sent a letter of support to a Kazakh Association of the Republican Net of Independent Observers, an NDI partner organization involved in a public campaign directed at the improvement of the housing legislation and housing relations in the country. ICNL will continue to cooperate in the campaign to amend housing legislation and will provide technical assistance on this issue.

ICNL Office in Kazakhstan was registered

In January, ICNL registered a representative office in Kazakhstan and hired a part-time bookkeeper to manage its affairs. The registration is part of ICNL's consistent attempts to bring greater transparency to its activities in Kazakhstan and increase its compliance with Kazakhstan legislation. The representative office will continue to manage ICNL activities in Central Asia and provide technical assistance and consultations to local NGOs.

KYRGYZSTAN

Protecting the Freedom of Expression of Kyrgyz NGOs

The issuance of Government Resolution No. 20 raised serious concerns about the media rights and the freedom of expression of Kyrgyz NGOs. In response and at the request of Deputy Kabai Karabekov, ICNL prepared a detailed commentary to Resolution No. 20 (in Russian and in English) which thoroughly examined numerous violations of the Kyrgyz Constitution, international conventions, and Kyrgyz law by this government resolution. These commentaries were widely distributed to parliamentarians, NGOs and international organizations, and subsequently used at trainings and public hearings on this issue. The ICNL partner Yuri Khvan also held numerous meetings with NGOs, parliamentarians, and international organizations on this issue and made a presentation at the advocacy training organized by Counterpart Consortium for CSSC leaders. In addition, other organizations such as NDI used ICNL commentaries in preparing their advocacy manuals on this issue.

Work on Drafting Amendments to Kyrgyz Tax Code

Round table on NGO Taxation

On January 17, 2002, a Roundtable on NGO taxation was organized with the assistance of ICNL at the initiative of two Parliamentary Committees: the Committees for Public Associations and Information Policy Affairs (chaired by Deputy Kabai Karabekov) and the Committees for Taxes, Customs and Other Duties (chaired by Deputy Akylbek Japarov). The round table was designed to examine the existing legislation and practices in the taxation of NGOs and to develop recommendations for further improvements in that area.

The round table was chaired by deputies Japarov and Karabekov and attended by more than 35 representatives from the Presidential Administration, the Prime-Minister's Apparatus, the Ministry of Finance, and the State Tax Inspection, NGOs, and international organizations. Particular issues included the need to provide a more favorable tax treatment for NGOs vis-à-vis commercial organizations, to establish special benefits for charitable organizations, as well as to improve provisions governing grants and humanitarian aid.

ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily made a presentation on the international experience and best practices in the taxation of charities and NCOs. ICNL commentaries to the Tax Code were also provided. At the end of the round table, it was resolved to develop amendments to the Tax Code and to adopt ICNL commentaries as the starting point. At the initiative of Deputies Karabekov and Japarov, a 7-person Working Group was set up which included Deputies Japarov and Karabekov, the First Deputy of the State Tax Inspection Murat Ismailov, the Head of the Tax Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance Adylbek Kasymaliev, ICNL partner in Kyrgyzstan Yuri Khvan, Barents Group expert Larisa Makarenko, and the Chamber of Tax Consultants Executive President Irina Ryzhykh.

This round table was highlighted in the local TV news and in the special TV program "Nalogi.kg". Also information about this roundtable was distributed in the list server www.cango.net.kg. These arrangements were aimed at involving as many NGOs as possible for the purpose of drafting the bill of amendments. Interested NGOs were asked to provide comments and recommendations, which were then examined by the Working Group in preparation for further work on the Tax Code.

The Issyk Kul Work Shop on Draft Amendments to the Tax Code

At the special request of the Working Group, ICNL organized and financed a four-day workshop, which was held at Lake Issyk Kul on February 4-8, 2002. In addition to the Working Group members, participants included economists, local tax experts, and ICNL expert Pavel Smiltneks. Pavel has already assisted with the January 17 round table and participated in preparation of ICNL's most recent prior recommendations to the Kyrgyz Tax Code that were used by the participants as a starting point for their discussions. It should be noted that ICNL's recommendations, which were used as a base for discussions by the working group, were formulated as a result of multiple consultations with NGOs and following two other Issyk Kul conferences held by the Barents Group, ICNL, and the Chamber of Tax Consultants.

The Working Group members and other experts reviewed ICNL recommendations and discussed the practical and economic issues of mutual concern. Major points of contention included the definitions of "charitable organizations" and "charitable activity" and the criteria for awarding a "charitable organization" status. The presence of the First Deputy of the State Tax Inspection Murat Ismailov and the Head of the Tax Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance Adylbek Kasymaliev was particularly useful since they could articulate government concerns with losing possible state revenues. The viewpoint of economists and tax experts were also beneficial. In the end, participants adopted many of ICNL's recommendations and began work on drafting amendments to the Tax Code.

Upon their return from the workshop, participants provided briefings to their respective superiors and colleagues, outside experts and NGOs. The Head of the Tax Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance

Adylbek Kasymaliev also briefed a visiting IMF mission to Kyrgyzstan on proposed amendments to the Tax Code and presented ICNL commentaries on this issue. For further information on events following the preparation Issyk Kul workshop, please see Project Impacts for Kyrgyzstan in Section B.

TAJKISTAN

ICNL Trip to Tajikistan

In early January, an ICNL team consisting of ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily, Acting Regional Director Alexander Nisengolts, and ICNL legal consultant Pavel Smiltneks traveled to Dushanbe. Aided by ICNL Representative in Tajikistan Muatar Haidarova, the ICNL team met with a number of important government officials and parliamentarians to try to advance legislation whose progress has hitherto stalled. The principal legislative acts discussed included draft laws “On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan,” “On Noncommercial Organizations,” and “On Charity and Charitable Organizations,” as well as the need to amend the Tax Code to make it more favorable to NGOs. After meeting with the Presidential Advisor Tatiana Bozrikova, Vice-Minister of Justice Tojiniso Azizova, First Vice-Chairman of the Tax Committee of Tajikistan (now called the Ministry of State Incomes and Fees of Tajikistan) Bakhtiar Sultanov, and the Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Budget, Finance and Taxation of the Parliament (Majlisi Oli, Madjlisi namoiandagon) Sanovbar Khamidova, and other officials ICNL was able to obtain important concessions on the registration and taxation of NGOs which the officials agreed to incorporate into draft legislation. ICNL will continue to work to advance development of Tajik legislation in accordance with best international practices.

Seminar on the Draft Law “On Charity and Charitable Organizations”

ICNL in cooperation with Tajik legal NGO “Society and Law” (Muatar Khaidarova, Chairperson) also organized a seminar on the draft charity law for drafters, NGOs, government officials and parliamentarians. The main purpose of the seminar was to examine the legal concepts governing the taxation of charities and principal issues with the registration of charitable organizations in Tajikistan.

A number of presentations were made, followed by discussions on important topics. ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily and ICNL legal consultant Pavel Smiltneks spoke about the international experience and good practices in the taxation of charities. Sumangul Tagaeva, Head of the Department on Registration of Public Associations of the Ministry of Justice described the legal aspects of NGO activity in Tajikistan. R. Sharipov of the Tax Committee of Tajikistan and Muatar Khaidarova spoke about the taxation of charitable activities of legal entities in Tajikistan. The participants discussed the principal difficulties encountered with the charitable activities of NGOs and the need for further information on the rights and obligations of charitable NGOs. The participants also agreed that there is a strong need to increase tax privileges for charitable NGOs and provide deductions to commercial legal entities that make charitable donations.

In the second half of the seminar, Presidential Advisor Tatiana Bozrikova and Vice-Minister of Justice Tojiniso Azizova presented the new fifth draft of the law “On Charity and Charitable Organizations.” An article-by-article discussion of the new draft followed and recommendations to the draft legislation were collected by Working Group member Muatar Khaidarova for further incorporation into the draft law. Participants raised a number of questions to the draft law, particularly on the Charity Commission that would be responsible for providing tax privileges to charitable NGOs. The Working Group will examine international experience on this issue and ICNL commentary to the draft charity law in Tajikistan.

Draft Law “On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan”

Muatar Khaidarova also participated in the activities of the Working Group developing the draft law “On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan.” The ICNL representative has also met several times with the Vice-Minister of Justice Ms. Tojiniso Azizova to discuss easing the registration provisions for NGOs in the new draft law on Registration. ICNL commentaries that were developed at the request of the

OSCE for the December 19, 2001 round table were also presented.

The Ministry of Justice submitted the final version of the draft to the Legal Department of the Government of Tajikistan. It should be noted, however, that although the working group members included some ICNL and OSCE suggestions, the new draft also contains certain extraneous provisions to the draft. ICNL, together with OSCE, will continue to advocate the adoption of its recommendations to parliamentary deputies who are responsible for the adoption of the law, and, if funding is available, will hold an additional round table on this draft law for parliamentarians and officials from the Legal Department of the Government.

Speedy passage of the law on “On State Registration of Legal Entities in Tajikistan” which is consistent with international good practices is essential for the development of the NGO sector in Tajikistan, since the adoption of the draft laws “On Noncommercial Organizations” and “On Charity and Charitable Organizations” will be delayed until the law on Registration is passed.

OSCE Round Table “On Freedom of Belief and Religious Organizations”

On February 2, ICNL representative Muatar Khaidarova gave a presentation on NGO legislation at the OSCE round table “On Freedom of Belief and Religious Organizations.” Participants included representatives of the religious organizations registered in Tajikistan as well as NGOs and government officials. The round table was organized by OSCE to discuss the existing Law on Belief and Religious Organizations and the need to amend the existing law or adopt a new law on this issue.

OSCE and Swiss Agency Round Table “On legal clinic”

On February 5, Muatar Khaidarova gave a presentation on NGO legislation at the OSCE and Swiss Agency round table on the establishing a legal clinic and a network of women’s NGOs in Tajikistan. Participants included representatives of Tajik NGOs, law specialists, and government officials. The OSCE representative from Warsaw agreed to meet later this spring to discuss plans for cooperating on this issue.

Seminar “The International Standards on NGO legislation”

On February 15, ICNL representative Muatar Khaidarova together with NGO “Society and Law” with financial assistance from the UNHCR organized a seminar “The International Standards of NGO legislation” for youth NGOs at the TILAC (Tajik Informatics and Legal Aid Center for refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs). Twenty-three representatives of youth NGOs and law faculties of universities and government officials (including the Head of the Department on Registration of Public Associations of the Ministry of Justice Sumangul Tagaeva) participated at the seminar. Trainers include Muatar Khaidarova together with Dushanbe CSSC legal consultant Khurshed Nasirov.

Counterpart Consortium’s (Tajikistan) Conference on Social Partnership is delayed until June 2002

The planned Counterpart Consortium conference on social partnership for over 300 NGOs and government officials was delayed. The President of Tajikistan was invited to be the keynote speaker at the conference, and because of his schedule, the conference was postponed until June. Muatar Khaidarova is an active member of the working group planning this conference and, once the conference date is known, ICNL plans to send its experts to Dushanbe to present the international experience and good practices on social partnership issues.

Seminar for Law Students on NGO Legislation

ICNL Representative and Chairperson of the NGO “Society and Law” organized a seminar for 25 law students at Tajik State University and Tajik-Slavic University on “Legislative Regulation of

Noncommercial Organizations." During the seminar the students learned about the international standards on NGO legislation as well as the NGO legislation in Tajikistan including the issues of NGO registration and rights and obligations of NGOs. The training was very useful since it became quickly apparent that the law students new very little about NGOs. ICNL plans to provide further trainings to law students since it is critical for NGOs to be able to find legal advocates who can represent their interests in Tajikistan.

A New Edition of the NGO Taxation Brochure

A new edition of the NGO taxation brochure was issued to reflect changes in tax legislation and new income tax rates. Publication of over 300 copies of the brochure was done with the financial assistance of NGO "Society and Law". The brochure was distributed at the NGO Navruz Festival-Iarmarka that was organized and funded by UNHCR.

NGO legislation

ICNL continued to work on the draft law on Noncommercial Organizations (the NCO law). Muatar Khaidarova is an official member of the Working Group appointed by the President of Tajikistan and was actively engaged in the drafting process. The present version is the fifth draft of the law. The NCO law is expected to be adopted after the passage of the law on State Registration of Legal Entities.

TURKMENISTAN

ICNL Trip to Turkmenistan

In January, an ICNL team consisting of ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily, Acting Regional Director Alexander Nisengolts, and ICNL legal consultant Pavel Smiltneks made a trip to Ashgabat. The primary objectives for trip to Turkmenistan were two-fold: to meet with the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan and investigate the Institute's intentions with drafting a law on Public Associations in Turkmenistan and to hold a seminar for local NGOs on international good practices and Turkmen legislation affecting NGOs.

ICNL Offer of Assistance to Develop the Draft Law On Public Associations

Ms. Bourjaily and Mr. Nisengolts held several meetings with Deputy Director of the Institute Abram Mogilevsky and assisted with preparation of the Institute's proposal on drafting the law on Public Associations. They also met with Yazgylych Charyev, Acting Country Director of Counterpart Consortium and with USAID Country Representative in Turkmenistan John Kropf and Gulnara Khadyrova of USAID to consult with them regarding the negotiations with the Institute and to share with them the Institute's proposal. Unfortunately ICNL had to terminate its negotiations with the Institute because Mr. Mogilevsky insisted that any official working group developing the draft law include Turkmen government officials who would be paid out of USAID funds, which would be contrary to U.S. regulations and USAID policy. ICNL continues to be ready to provide technical assistance with improving NGO legislation in Turkmenistan and will await further developments on that issue.

ICNL Seminar on NGO Legislation

On January 22 ICNL held a one-day seminar titled "NGO Legislation: Theory and Practice." The seminar was held in the Resource Center of Counterpart Consortium in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and was attended by 23 representatives of Turkmen NGOs. The purpose of the seminar was to educate local NGOs on the Turkmen NGO legislation and international practices in NGO regulation.

The seminar was opened by John Kropf, the country representative of USAID in Turkmenistan, and Yazgylych Charyev, Acting Country Director of Counterpart Consortium, who provided a welcoming address. ICNL Vice President Natalia Bourjaily then made several presentations on the international

experience and best practices in NGO legislation, NGO taxation, and social partnership between the state and NGOs. She was followed by ICNL legal consultant Pavel Smiltneks who provided an overview of the different organizational-legal forms of NGOs, public benefit and mutual benefit organizations, unregistered organizations that lack the status of a legal entity, and the internal governance structures for NGOs. Other speakers included Counterpart Training Assistant Elena Vasilieva and Zalina Rossoshanskaya, a representative of a local NGO “Bosfor”, who spoke about Turkmen “status” legislation and taxation of NGOs in Turkmenistan.

The seminar was quite a success with local NGOs who asked for more information and additional trainings. During the discussion period, seminar participants spoke about their difficulties in registering their NGOs and the necessity of adopting a new law on Public Associations. Participants stressed that it is important for the drafting process to be transparent and open to NGO input. ICNL plans to hold additional trainings for Turkmen NGOs in the second quarter.

ICNL Hires a Representative in Turkmenistan

During Ms. Bourjaily and Mr. Nisengolts’ trip to Turkmenistan, ICNL hired a part-time representative in Turkmenistan. Elena Vasilieva, a recent Turkmen law graduate (with a red diploma) and a Training Program Assistant at Counterpart Consortium, will be working for ICNL 20 hours per week; the other 20 hours per week she will continue to work for Counterpart. Elena will advise ICNL on new developments in Turkmen legislation and provide consultations and trainings to NGOs.

UZBEKISTAN

ICNL Assistance in Eliminating Inconsistencies in Uzbek Legislation Affecting NGOs

In early January, ICNL together with the OSCE Center in Tashkent and the Legal Issues Research Center (LIRC), a legal NGO, has organized a round table discussion for lawyers on unification of legal terminology related to NGOs. Since the legislative acts in this area were issued at different times, there are discrepancies in the terminology used in different acts. These terminological inconsistencies hinder the proper implementation of NGO legislation and it is necessary to amend the relevant legislation. The present round table was designed to jump start the process.

The one-day round table brought together law scholars and practitioners to identify and discuss these terminological inconsistencies in Uzbekistan legislation. The participants examined the discrepancies between the provisions of the Constitution of Uzbekistan, the Civil Code, the Tax Code, the Law on Public Associations, Law on Nongovernmental Noncommercial Organizations, and other laws related to NGOs, and resolved that it will be necessary to create a Glossary for lawyers on legal terminology related to NGOs.

At the present time, ICNL is supporting a group of local experts from NGOs and government bodies who are developing this Glossary. Presently implemented by LIRC, this project will result in the creation of a common glossary of terms used in legislative acts on nongovernmental noncommercial organizations. The glossary will be discussed and evaluated by the Oliy Majlis committees and will obtain “semi-official” status. It will then be used in the development of the normative-legal acts governing NGOs as well as a tool for the Ministry of Justice, the Cabinet of Ministers, judges, and other government agencies to help them interpret legislative provisions governing NGOs.

ICNL’s Assistance with the Draft Law on Charitable Activity

In January 2002, a group of NGOs from Karakalpakstan prepared a draft law on charitable organizations. ICNL assisted this initiative group by providing consultations and sharing comparative materials demonstrating good practices in the regulation of charities in various countries. At request of the initiative group, ICNL prepared recommendations to the first draft prepared by the group. As a follow-up

to the January discussions of the draft in Nukus, the next roundtable discussion of the draft was organized in Tashkent in February.

In February 2002, ICNL Regional Coordinator Dinara Mirzakarimova made a presentation and distributed ICNL comments and other handouts at the two-day seminar on charitable activity that was organized in Tashkent by the Network of Uzbekistan's NGOs "Khamkor" and USAID/Global Training for Development Project in collaboration with ICNL and the Committee of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies. The Tashkent seminar was the follow-up to a similar seminar that was held in Nukus in January.

The seminar was opened by Akmal Saidov, the Chairman of the Committee of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies who spoke about the trends in the development of Uzbek NGO legislation. According to Mr. Saidov, the law "On Charitable Organizations" and law "On Public Foundations" were entered in the agenda of Oliy Majlis and adoption of the law "On Charitable Organizations" is expected during 2002. In addition, a new version of the law "On Public Associations" is being drafted. Mr. Saidov also reiterated Uzbek President Karimov's statement that the state should enhance the role of NGOs in public control and provide financial support to NGOs.

Dinara Mirzakarimova then made a presentation on the international good practices in the regulation of charitable activities which noted the necessity of establishing well-defined criteria for determining which organizations can be certified as "charitable" and developing functional certification process. It is also important to clarify which privileges the state will provide to donor companies and natural persons. Finally, protections must be made to prevent abuse of power and avoid creating unfair competition between the economic activities of charities and commercial organizations.

At Dinara Mirzakarimova's suggestion, a working group was established under the aegis of the Committee on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies to develop the law on charitable organizations which would incorporate the results of this seminar. The members of the proposed working group include the Ministry of Justice, the Tax Committee, key NGOs, the Committee on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies, LIRC, the Institute for the Monitoring of Current Legislation, and ICNL.

ICNL Assistance with Improving Registration Practices for Human Rights NGOs

On February 8, 2002, at the request of Jennifer Brick from USAID, ICNL Regional Coordinator Dinara Mirzakarimova and ICNL Representative in Uzbekistan Alexander Galaganov met with the U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan John Edward Herbst on the issue of registering Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan (HRSU), a human rights NGO led by Talib Yakubov.

The Ambassador requested ICNL to examine HRSU's constituent documents and provide an expert opinion on whether the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)'s refusal to register this NGO was justifiable. The Uzbek government refusal to register human rights NGOs was a major sticking point in the U.S.-Uzbek relations and in the Embassy's view it would be important for the Uzbek government to show willingness to register human rights NGOs in advance of Uzbek President Karimov's scheduled visit to the U.S. in March.

Upon examination of HRSU's constituent documents, ICNL determined that MoJ's refusal to register this NGO was indeed justifiable since the HRSU's charter contained a number of provisions that were inconsistent with Uzbek legislation. At the Embassy and USAID's request, ICNL provided commentaries suggesting that appropriate revisions to the charter be made. ICNL also participated in the meeting with U.S. Embassy, USAID, HRSU, and the Deputy Justice Minister Samadov on the issue of HRSU

registration.

While the HRSU proved uncooperative in changing its documents, the Ministry of Justice did end up registering another human rights NGO, Independent Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan that is led by Mikhail Ardzinov. ICNL is proud to were able to use its legal expertise and its honest broker status with the Uzbek government and the NGOs and assist in improving the human rights situation in the country.

ICNL Trainings on Social Partnership Issues

In 2002 the government of Uzbekistan plans to issue a concept, strategy, or a law that will regulate the issues of social partnership and interaction of three sectors: the state, business entities, and NGOs. It is also intended that a new Uzbek law on Social Contracting will be adopted in 2003. This law would regulate the provision of financial support from the state for the social projects of public organizations.

The development of community-level collaboration and partnerships among NGOs, government, and business entities is critical to NGO sustainability. In order to improve the effective regulation of social partnership between the three sectors (state, business, and NGOs), ICNL has planned a series of 14 round table discussions on social partnership issues all over the Republic of Uzbekistan. Each round table will bring together state officials, senior executives from state- and privately-owned companies, international and local NGOs and legal practitioners. The round table will be organized jointly by National Human Rights Center (Akmal Saidov, Director), ICNL, Open Society Institute, Counterpart Consortium, and INTRAC, with financial assistance from DFID (British Embassy). These round tables will be held during April-June and will cover the 12 oblasts of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the City of Tashkent.

The goals of these round tables include:

- a) discussion of the existing experience with social partnerships in each region of Uzbekistan,
- b) assessment of needs and obstacles to a more effective partnership,
- c) development of common recommendations from the three sectors, and finally
- d) preparation of materials for development and adoption of either a Concept on Social Partnerships or an appropriate law.

It is expected that as a result of these round tables sufficient public input will be accumulated in an open and transparent manner that would raise public awareness on social partnership issues and develop recommendations for the development of social partnership legislation in Uzbekistan.

In connection with the planned round tables, on March 15-16, 2002, ICNL conducted a training of trainers (TOT) on social partnership issues. This training was conducted by ICNL Program Advisor Caroline Newman. As the result of the TOT, participants learned about the principal types of social partnerships (grants, subsidies, state contracting, public participation in government decision making process) and a module on social partnership was developed.

The first trainings on social partnership will take place April 8-10 in Namangan, Andijan, and Fergana.

ICNL Hires a New Representative in Uzbekistan

On January 21, ICNL hired Alexander Galaganov as its new Representative in Uzbekistan. He has a Law Bachelor degree of Tashkent State Institute of Law (Diploma with honors) and has an extensive experience as a legal advisor. Alexander will advise ICNL on new developments in Uzbek legislation and provide consultations and trainings to NGOs.

D. COODINATION AND COOPERATION

REGIONAL

US and International Organizations

ICNL worked in close cooperation with Counterpart International and its in-country offices. All ICNL activities were coordinated with the USAID regional and in-country offices.

ICNL provided regular updates to other USAID grantees on its activities and plans and developments in the NGO legislation around the region.

KAZAKHSTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL provided consultations and monitoring to the Central Asian Institute for Development (CAID) on issues related to the development of social procurement legislation in Kazakhstan. ICNL expert Vadim Nee is a member of the working group organized by the CAID that is developing a draft of this legislation.

ICNL also provided consultations and technical assistance to ANNOK, a local NGO, on issues pertaining to procedures governing open parliamentary hearings. At the request of ANNOK, ICNL has prepared a series of commentaries to draft regulations developed by this NGO that would regulate open hearings in Parliament and participated in several meetings and discussions on this issue. ICNL will continue to facilitate the participatory process of drafting appropriate legislation governing public participation in parliamentary and government decision-making process.

ICNL was cooperating with NDI, ICMA, and their partner organizations on their campaign to amend legislation governing housing associations (known by their Russian acronym as “KSK”) in Kazakhstan.

ICNL has also assisted USAID/Pragma’s SME Development Project in Central Asia in their work to support the development of business and professional associations in Central Asia that provide member services and advocate for the interests of their members. At Pragma’s request, ICNL expert Vadim Nee made a presentation in March at the business advocacy conference titled “Improving the Environment for Small and Medium Enterprises Through Business Associations” and participated on the legal reform panel for conference participants.

NGOs

Valentina Sivrukova, President of NGO umbrella organization -- Confederation of Non-Commercial Organizations of Kazakhstan; Zhanna Nauryzbaeva, Executive Director, Central Asian Institute For Development; Sholpan Baibolova, CAID governing board member; Vice-President of the Central Asian Foundation for Systemic Research; Natalia Yantsen, President, Tax Standards 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; Zhumabek Basurmanov, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights with the President; Victor Nikolaevich Vesnin, 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 Irina Alexandrovna Kubasova, the Director of the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Justice.

KYRGYZSTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL's local partner Yuri Khvan has become well-known among NGOs and donors who consider him an expert on issues concerning the noncommercial sector. These NGOs invite Yuri to numerous trainings and seminars and seek ICNL's services if a legal issue is involved.

ICNL's partner maintains constructive and cooperative relations with the following organizations: USIS; ABA; NDI; Barents group; GTD; Soros Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Asian Developing Bank, OSCE, UNHCR, and UNDP.

NGOs

Marat Kaiypov, President of the Association of Attorneys of Kyrgyzstan; Irina Ryzhykh, NGO - Chamber of Tax Consultants; Nina Petrovna Vekua, Foundation for the Research of Legal Problems; Ainura Orosolieva, Chairman of the Fund of Legal Initiatives; International Center Interbilim; Tolekan Ismailova, Leader of the Coalition of NGOs for a Civil Society; Svetlana Bashtovenko, Leader of NGO "UMUT", Olga Djanaeva, Leader of NGO "Alga"; Akhmad Madiev, Leader of NGO "Center for Public Policy"; Elvira Elibezova, Leader of NGO "Center of Public Opinion Study and Forecasts".

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Kabai Karabekov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Public Associations Committee; Akylbek Japarov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Tax Committee; Oksana Malevannaya, Parliamentarian and Chairwoman of Human Rights Committee; Alefina Pronenko, Parliamentarian and Chairwoman of the Committee on Competition and Protection of Entrepreneurial Rights; Alisher Sabirov, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Religion; Murat Ismailov, First Deputy Director of the State Tax Inspection; Adylbek Kasymaliev, Head of Tax and Customs Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance; Arstan Beraldiev, expert of Social Policy Department of the President's Office

TAJIKISTAN

US and International Organizations

ICNL's partner met with numerous representatives of local NGOs, government bodies and international donor organizations in managing on-going law reform projects and developing possibilities for future activities. OSCE, UNDP and UNHCR offices in Tajikistan have planned their own projects for the development of the NGO sector, which include NGO legislation development as one of the projects components. These projects will provide numerous opportunities for mutual cooperation and cost-share joint activities. Such activities cover a range of topics: NGO legislation development, self-sustainability and self-regulation of NGOs, and social partnerships. Muatar Khaidarova also continued to provide legal consultations through the Internet and update the Tajik web site www.infotaj.com.

NGOs

Muatar Khaidarova, ICNL's partner and Chairman of Society and Law; Bureau on Human Rights; Association of Young Lawyers; Intelcom; League of Women Lawyers; Association of Lawyers of Tajikistan; Union of Lawyers; Fidokor; Association of women with Higher Education.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Sanovbar Khamidova, Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee on Budget, Finance, and Taxation of the Majilisi Namoyandagon of Majilisi Oli; Shavkat Makmudovich Ismailov, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Law and Order and Defense; Abdumanon Kholikov, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Legislation and Human Rights; Tatiana Bozrikova, Advisor to the President; Bakhtiar Sultanov, Vice-Minister of State Revenue and Fees; Tojeniso Azizova, Deputy Minister of Justice; Sumangul Tagaeva, Head of the Department on Registration of Public Associations of the Ministry of Justice;

TURKMENISTAN

NGOs

Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan; Tim Nader, ABA/CEELI; Bess Brown, OSCE project; Fraser Wilson, British Ambassador; Gerd-Michael Triller, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; and Michael Wilson of TACIS; Joe Dale of Winrock Foundation.

Government Officials and Deputies of the Parliaments

Abram Mogilevsky, Scientific Secretary of the National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights.

UZBEKISTAN

US and International Organizations

The new ICNL Partner Alexander Galaganov established 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, the Soros Foundation, Eurasia, and other organizations that have an active interest in ICNL's legislative projects.

In addition, ICNL together with the OSCE Center in Tashkent and the Legal Issues Research Center (LIRC), a legal NGO, organized as a joint project a "Round Table Discussion for Lawyers on Unification of Legal Terminology Related to NGO." Held in January 2002, the round table was designed to bring together law scholars and practitioners to identify and discuss terminological inconsistencies in Uzbekistan legislation that governs NGOs and their activities. At the present time ICNL is supporting a project by LIRC that involves the development of a common glossary by a group of local experts from NGOs and government bodies. It is anticipated that the glossary will obtain "semi-official" status and will be used by parliamentarians, government officials, and judges in developing and interpreting normative-legal acts governing NGOs.

ICNL has also cooperated with the Network of Uzbekistani NGOs "Khamkor" and USAID/Global Training for Development Project as well as the Committee of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies in conducting two day-long seminars "On Law "On Charity: The Basis for the Steady Development of NGOs." The seminars were designed to discuss the draft law on charitable organizations. At ICNL's suggestion, a working group was established under the aegis of the Committee on Democratic Institutes, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-regulating Bodies to develop the law on charitable organizations, which would incorporate the results of this seminar.

In cooperation with the National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan, the Open Society Institute, Counterpart Consortium, and INTRAC, and with the financial assistance from DFID (British Embassy), ICNL organized a joint project to conduct a series of 14 round table discussions on social partnership issues all over the Republic of Uzbekistan. Each round table will bring together state officials, senior executives from state- and privately-owned companies, international and local NGOs, and legal

practitioners. These round tables will be held during April-June and will cover the 12 oblasts of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the City of Tashkent. The purpose of the round tables is the development and adoption of either the Conception on Social Partnership or an appropriate law.

NGOs

Gulnara Dosumova, Head of the NGO “Renessans”, Nukus, Karakalpakstan Region; Shamil Asyanov, Chairman of the Legal NGO Legal Issues Research Center; 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

Akmal 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 Mikhail Yusupovich Gasanov, Deputy Director of the Institute of Monitoring of the Current Legislation of Olyi Majilis (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

KAZAKHSTAN

- In March ICNL released 2000 copies of the ICNL book *The Legal Status of Noncommercial Organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan (a Practical Guide)*. The book is designed to serve as a practical guide for Kazakhstani NGOs and covers various issues that arise in the course of their activities. The publication was funded by the Global Development Project (GTD) – *information on the exact amount of money spent on publication can be found at USAID.*

UZBEKISTAN

- OSCE financial assistance in the organization of the Round Table Discussion for Lawyers on Unification of Legal Terminology related to NGOs. In January 2002, ICNL together with the OSCE Center in Tashkent and the Legal Issues Research Center (LIRC), a legal NGO, organized this round table with the purpose of bringing together law scholars and practitioners to identify and discuss terminological inconsistencies in Uzbekistan legislation regulating NGOs. As a result of this round table, it was decided to develop a common tri-language glossary (Uzbek, Russian, and English) that will be used by parliamentarians, government officials, and judges in developing and interpreting normative-legal acts governing NGOs. (*Estimated cost of the project: USD 510*).
- DFID financial assistance in the organization of the round tables on social partnership. ICNL also obtained financial assistance from DFID in organizing a series of 14 round table discussions on social partnership issues all over the Republic of Uzbekistan. These round tables will be held during April-June and will cover the 12 oblasts of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the City of Tashkent. *DFID contribution is estimated at USD 1304,30, and will cover expenses related to the work of 2 trainers on each round table, including honorariums, per-diem, lodging and transportation, as well as pay for organizing a TOT on social partnership on March 15-16, 2002 (expenses for premises, coffee breaks, lunches, badges, pens, notebooks, etc.)*